

OUTDOOR ALMANAC

1

Dragonflies and damselflies can be found hunting over fields and wetlands. Dragonflies are stout-bodied and land with wings out flat. Damselflies have long, slender abdomens, eyes out on the sides of their heads, and most sit with wings together over their backs.

4

Look for male **Ospreys** tending to their young. Females migrated last month; peak migration for males and their young is later this month.



7

American Goldfinch is almost exclusively a seedeater, even when feeding nestlings. They are also a late nester, which gives them access to the very nutritious seeds of thistle for their young. Look for thistle heads and other composites and watch for the goldfinch's acrobatic seed harvesting.

9

Mushrooms seem to pop up overnight with the first cooler rains—puffballs, stinkhorns, hen of the woods, and more appear throughout the fall. Stinkhorns usually live up to their name, having a slimy, elongated body and vile smell.

10

Full moon



11

On clear days with a northerly breeze look for kettles of Broad-winged Hawks circling high in the sky on their way to South America.

14

Blackpoll Warblers, along with many other warbler species, migrate through on their way south.

15

Not all migrating orange butterflies are Monarchs; American and **Painted Ladies** also migrate this time of year. The dorsal (upper) surface of their wings is orange but when closed the wings are spotted gray-brown on their ventral (lower) surface.

18

Find strikingly colored hooded owlet moth caterpillars feeding on asters and goldenrods: green or purple with yellow stripes on goldenrod, and black with red and yellow stripes on both asters and goldenrod.

23

Today is the Fall Equinox, or the first day of fall. Day and night are both 12 hours long.

25

Bumblebees are the most common pollinators seen when temperatures are 55°F or lower, as they not only have more insulation than other insects, but they can also warm themselves by shivering their wing muscles.

28

Dark-eyed Juncos can be found year-round, but their population increases in the fall as many return from the north to overwinter here. Look for their distinctive white breast and dark hood plumage and listen for their sweet bell-like trills.



29

Woodchucks are out eating as much as they can to add fat equal to 30 to 40 percent of their body weight before they begin hibernation. If they can't accumulate enough fat reserves, they will not survive the winter.

30

Last day to enter the **Mass Audubon Photo Contest**. If you have taken photos of any of the wonderful things listed in the almanac, enter them at massaudubon.org/picturethis.

