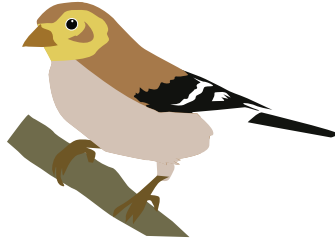


OUTDOOR ALMANAC

1

With its molt nearly complete, the **American Goldfinch** has only a few remaining yellow breeding feathers. Its new wing feathers sport broad, pale edges and wing bars that, by next August, will be worn away almost completely, leaving an all-black wing.



2

Bumble Bees are foraging on asters and goldenrods. The bright orangey yellow pollen of these late-blooming flowers makes their pollen baskets almost glow.

3

Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Blue Jays can both be seen gathering acorns to eat now and also to cache for the winter.

5

If you come across puffball mushrooms that look a little collapsed, give them a gentle poke with your finger or a stick. You may be rewarded with a puff of spores.

8

Tonight is the peak of the **Draconid meteor shower**, where meteors plummet from a comet called Giacobini-Zinner.



9

Full moon.



13

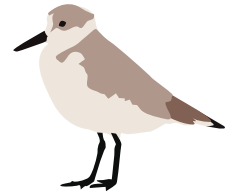
Look closely at rotting logs to see the tiny fruiting bodies of wolf's milk slime mold, which are bright pink to purplish gray. Slime molds are not fungi but single-celled organisms that feed on fungi, bacteria, and other microorganisms.

15

Northern Saw-whet Owls migrate through for the next few weeks. Look in cedar trees or dense thickets for roosting owls during the day and listen for their hoot, which sounds like a backing truck's safety beeps.

18

Most shorebirds have already migrated but it's still possible to find Semi-palmated Plovers, **Semi-palmated Sandpipers**, and Greater Yellowlegs resting on their way south. During migration, they can be found inland as well as along the coast.



19

Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets are migrating from northern forests to their wintering areas. Tiny and fast moving, the crowns for which they are named are often hidden.

20

Eastern Chipmunks are busy storing nuts and seeds for winter. Instead of hibernating continuously through winter, chipmunks are sleepers, waking every few weeks to eat the food they stored.



23

Black Racers migrate from the field habitats they live in most of the year to forested slopes to overwinter in dens with other snakes.

26

Look for Harlequin Ducks and Common Goldeneyes arriving to spend the winter along the coast.

31

Happy Halloween! Don't worry about any vampire bats in Massachusetts. Species that we do have, like Large Brown Bats and Eastern Red Bats, are preparing for hibernation in caves and cavities or traveling south.

