

# SEPTEMBER

## OUTDOOR ALMANAC



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

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

**07** Full moon

**09** Mushrooms seem to pop up overnight with the first cooler rains—puffballs, stinkhorns, hen of the woods, and more appear throughout the fall.

**11** Hawks, including Broad-winged and **Red-shouldered**, are beginning their migration south. They take advantage of thermal soaring, where they effortlessly glide between bubbles of warm, rising air.

**13** Although rarely seen because of their nocturnal behavior, Ring-necked Snakes are common throughout New England. Snake eggs are hatching, giving the young snakes a few weeks before the temperature drops, and hibernation begins.

**15** Not all migrating orange butterflies are Monarchs; Painted and **American Ladies** also migrate this time of year. Monarch wings are orange on both the dorsal (upper) and ventral (lower) surfaces.

**17** Yellowjackets often build their nests in vacant underground rodent tunnels. However, these hidden nests are no match for the skunks, raccoons, and black bears that dig into the ground for a nutritious yellowjacket snack.

**18** Look for Owlet moth caterpillars on goldenrod. Golden-hooded Owlet caterpillars have a bright yellow stripe down their backs with sides that are usually green but can be purple.

**20** Before migrating, Common Loons feed in groups, also known as rafts. Experts believe rafting helps the loons feed more efficiently by spending less time defending territories and more time eating.

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

**25** Look for Jewelweed, also known as spotted touch-me-not, on wet roadsides and other damp, shady areas. If you gently touch their seed pod, the tightly wound seeds will suddenly burst, dispersing the seeds widely.

**26** **Woodchucks** are eating as much as they can to add 30 to 40 percent to their body weight before hibernation.

**28** Although squirrels are well known for gathering acorns, **Blue Jays** are exceptional seed and nut collectors. Throughout the fall, a Blue Jay can cache up to 5,000 acorns, up to a mile away from the tree.

**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](http://massaudubon.org/picturethis).

### PHOTOS

Azure Bluet  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
American Lady  
Woodchuck © Amy Severino  
Blue Jay