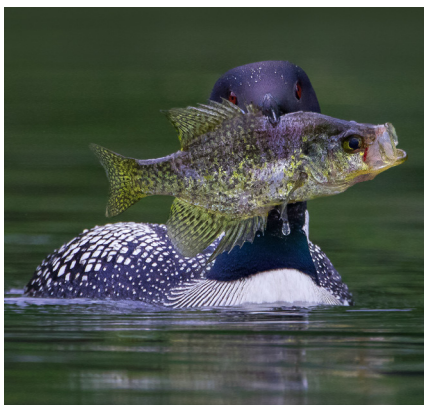




SEPTEMBER

OUTDOOR ALMANAC



03 **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.

06 **Red-tailed Hawks**, our most common raptor, can be found soaring over cities, suburbs and fields. If you see a soaring or perched bird that is the right size and shape, but it has a brown banded tail that is one of this year's juveniles. They will not grow their distinctive brick-red tail until next year.

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 Raptors, including Broad-winged and Red-shouldered Hawks, 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.

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.

24 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.

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

26 Full Moon

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

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.

PHOTOS

Common Whitetail • Red-tailed Hawk
Common Loon © Peter Christoph
Jewelweed • Woodchuck