The Naturalist’s Summer Almanac

**June**

10 As we head into baby bird season, keep in mind that most fledglings don’t need your help. The first few days out of the nest are awkward, and **GIVING BABIES SPACE WILL HELP KEEP THEM SAFE.**

18 **ATLANTIC PUFFIN CHICKS** are hatching! Watch the Puffin Cam on explore.org to see inside a burrow on Seal Island.

21 **Summer Solstice!**

24 **IT’S BIG ATLAS WEEKEND!** Get involved with the Maine Bird Atlas (maine.gov/birdatlas) this weekend to help Maine defend its title in this multistate competition.

**July**

1 **PECK’S SKIPPER**, one of our most common species of this uniquely shaped family (*Hesperiidae*) of butterflies, is in the peak of its flight period and easy to find right now.

4 **SKIP THE FIREWORKS** this year! These explosions cause birds to prematurely fledge which can be fatal.

17 **SPREADING DOGBANE** is in bloom and can attract all sorts of butterflies, but keep your dogs away as the sap of this plant is toxic (both to dogs and to humans as well!).

23 It is the start of **INTERNATIONAL MOTH WEEK!** Hang out a sheet with a light on it and see what comes in at night.

30 Now is a great time (depending on weather) to look for the delicious **CHICKEN OF THE WOODS** (*Laetiporus sulphureus*) mushroom.

**August**

3 Noticing big swarms of ants? Neighboring **PAVEMENT ANT** colonies are at war as they establish their territories.

10 Many species of elaborately ornamented **TUSSOCK MOTH CATERPILLARS** (*Erebidae*) are on the move. The beautiful hairs on these caterpillars are neither venomous nor poisonous, but can cause some skin irritation.

14 **SHOREBIRD MIGRATION** is ramping up. Visit hotspots like Hills Beach in Biddeford or the Lubec Sandbar and you may see thousands of southbound sandpipers and plovers.

22 **MONARCH CATERPILLARS** are eating all the milkweed they can find before pupating. Make sure you don’t accidentally mow any down!

30 **THE ROARING BROOK MAYFLY**, an endangered species found only at the base of Mt Katahdin, is emerging in its adult stage at this time of the year.

**Credit:** Dan Jaffe

**BUNCHBERRIES** (*Cornus canadensis*) are in bloom with their whitish flowers. This common trailside wildflower will later produce its namesake reddish bunch of berries.