

# The Naturalist's Fall Almanac

## September

**10** Watch for large **GREEN DARNERS** (*Anax junius*) that are beginning their fall migration. Some will travel 900 miles to reach their wintering destinations.



Photo: Dan Jaffe

**12** The blue fruit on **VIBURNUM DENTATUM** (Arrowwood Viburnum) is a great food source for birds right now. Find a patch and watch the feast!

**15** **MONARCH BUTTERFLY** numbers will peak in September and we'll continue to see migrants heading south to Mexico for the next month.

**23** The first day of Fall and **AUTUMNAL EQUINOX**

**26** Step outside a couple of hours after sunset and listen for **MIGRATING BIRDS** passing overhead. Also look for Jupiter (and its moons, using binoculars) as it makes its closest approach to Earth.

## October

**1** Keep those feeders up! Late **RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS** are passing through, and through November you may help feed a wandering western hummingbird.



**3** **FRINGED GENTIANAS** (*Gentianopsis*) are late bloomers; look for their showy purple flowers in woods or stream banks.

**10** **QUESTION MARKS**, a butterfly named for the ? shape on their hindwing, are late fliers and are often seen into early October.



Photo: BJ Wetherbee

**15** **BALD-FACED HORNETS'** large paper nests are easy to spot when the leaves fall, but beware, some may have lingering residents.

**22** Watch for large flocks of **CANADA GEESE** flying south in a V-formation, known as a skein.



AMERICAN COOTS

Photo: Peter Pearsall, USFWS

## November

**1** **AMERICAN COOTS** are rare breeders in Maine, but can be quite abundant in freshwater ponds during this time of their fall migration.



**3** Watch for **WINTERBERRY** patches along the roadside. These red clustered berries are easy to spot as their leaves fall, and they'll be an important source for a variety of wildlife readying for winter.

**7** The **AUTUMN MEADOWHAWK** (*Sympetrum vicinum*) is one of the few dragonflies you can see in November.

**15** **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS** are moving out of the state for the winter, when their larger cousins from the north, Great Cormorants, are more likely to be seen.



**29** On this day, four years ago, the **GREAT BLACK HAWK** was found in Portland's Deering Oaks park, where it would awe thousands of spectators.