

The Naturalist's Winter Almanac

December

7 **EVENING GROSBEAK** populations are increasing thanks to Spruce Budworm. Look for these large yellow finches at your feeders this winter.

14 First day of the final year of the Winter Bird Atlas. Learn more at maine.gov/birdatlas.



Photo: Arthur Haines

18 **PARTRIDGEBERRY** (*Mitchella repens*) can hold its bright red fruit well into the winter.

21 **HAPPY WINTER SOLSTICE!** It only gets brighter from here!

30 The first sighting of the **STELLER'S SEA-EAGLE** in Maine was on this date last year. Have you seen it?



Photo: Zachary Holderby

January

1 Set a nature-focused New Year's Resolution! Pick a new park to visit, or try to see 100 species of birds this year.



Photo: Fyn Kynd

6 Coastal Maine has the largest wintering population of **RED-NECKED GREBES** in the U.S. Reid State Park is a great place to see them in large numbers.

8 **WHITE-TAILED DEER** bucks are shedding their antlers.

15 Winter is a good time to cut **BROWNTAIL MOTH** nests from trees. More: maine.gov/dacf/knockoutbtm



Photo: Ryan Poplin

20 **SEA URCHINS** are getting ready to spawn, which is why they are in season: so you can eat their gonads!



EVENING GROSBEAK

Photo: Doug Hitchcox

February

2 **RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS** were previously only a summer resident in Maine, but now overwinter in small numbers.



Photo: John Mosseso, Jr./USGS-NBII

5 Seeing any **BEECH TREES** with dead leaves? Botanists call this retaining of plant organs marcescence. Say that five times fast!

10 One of the most commonly encountered insects in Maine during the winter is the **WESTERN CONIFER SEED BUG**. They've spread east and increase their survival rates by sneaking indoors when it gets cold.

15 Warmer days means sap will begin flowing—get your spiles and buckets ready.

17 Thick-billed **MURRES** and **DOVEKIES** are the only Atlantic alcids (cousins to puffins) that don't nest in Maine. Now is the best time to look for them offshore.

