

DECEMBER 1- 14, 2020 NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

By Dick Harlow

ARACHNIDS

I know this is not everyone's favorite view of what is in your garden, but I'm a retired biology teacher and feel you can save this information and pictures so that you can identify these critters next summer!



1. Black and Yellow Garden Spider, *Argiope aurantia*,
© Dick Harlow

I know spiders are not everyone's favorite creature or favorite arachnid, but they do live in our environment and we do see them, and we should learn something about them even if it makes us uneasy looking at the images.

I prefer not to take this up during the summer when there are so many interesting and nice-looking shots of nature. December is the first month of winter and rather than have an image of the first snows or some drab picture, I decided to provide a clue as to what some of these eight-legged terrors might be.

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2. Golden Silk Spider *Nephila clavipes*,
© Dick Harlow

These three spiders are ones we might see when either walking or sitting down outside. The Black and Yellow Garden Spider is very colorful and usually builds her web in the garden with her characteristic white zigzag long patch in the center of her web.

The Golden Silk Spider on the other hand is found in a place that is shaded between shrubs or trees, wherever it can find a secure spot.



3. Daring Jumping Spider *Phidippus audax*,
© Dick Harlow

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I have to admit, although I don't get involved in spiders, I tend to like jumping spiders. Don't ask me why, for I can't come up with a good reason, I just like them.

Maybe, it is the fact that they are very small and fierce and will challenge organisms that are twice to three times their size!

OBSERVATIONS

MAMMALS

- Gray Squirrel
- Eastern Cottontail Rabbit
- Meadow Vole

Weather Tidbits

Month of **SEPTEMBER 01-14, 2020**

[All Measurements taken at solar noon \(1230 EST\).](#)

PRECIPITATION

Average December Precipitation for Vermont = 2.36 inches.

Two Weeks Precipitation = 32.4 mm or 1.3 inches. 1.06-inch deficit so far this month.

Overcast Days: 13 out of 14 days.