



ALL SEASONS  
WILD BIRD  
STORE

# APRIL PHENOLOGY

*A reflective look at 2010*

by Jim Gilbert, Naturalist



**April 1** \* First 80°F day. High of 81°F in Twin Cities; normal high is 49°F. Western chorus frogs very vocal. Fox sparrows numerous. First ospreys return. Pileated woodpeckers and black-capped chickadees are excavating nest cavities.

**April 2** \* Golden-crowned kinglets arrive. American crows are nest building. Ice cover leaves Lake Waconia, and flocks of white pelicans and American coots return. Ice-out date for Lake Minnetonka, Green Lake at Spicer, and Roosevelt Lake at Outing.



**First purple martin, a male, arrived this morning near White Bear Lake.**

**April 5** \* Mourning doves and American robins are collecting nesting materials. Official ice-out for Mille Lacs Lake (average ice-out date is April 24).

**April 9** \* Double-crested cormorants and great egrets are back. A dozen species of migrating ducks—such as canvasbacks and northern shovelers—seen on lakes. Osprey pairs are adding sticks to old nests. Wood ducks are laying eggs.

**April 14** \* Chipping sparrows return to sing. Merrill magnolia trees are loaded with big white flowers. Sugar maples and eastern cottonwood trees have small leaves.

**April 15** \* Lawn mowing begins. First barn swallow. Very early sighting of a ruby-throated hummingbird in Bloomington.

**April 16** \* Some southern Minnesota farmers have planted field corn, sweet corn, spring wheat, oats and green peas.

**April 17** \* We notice bright tinges of green in deciduous forests such as native basswoods, burr oaks and other trees begin leafing out (what we would expect on May 1). More than a dozen species of blooming woodland wildflowers such as white trout-lily, wild ginger and large-flowered bellwort cover forest floors.

**April 19** \* The blooming daffodils, tulips and hyacinths are spectacular in gardens. First newly hatched eastern bluebird chicks. Some bird species first returning include: black-crowned night heron, American bittern, sora, Virginia rail, brown thrasher and yellow-headed blackbird.

**April 20** \* House wren arrives.

**April 23** \* Green herons are back. First eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly seen on the wing.

**April 28** \* Flocks of yellow-rumped warblers are moving through. Male rose-breasted grosbeak is spotted near Faribault.



**First newly hatched Canada goose goslings. First chimney swifts return.**

**April 30** \* Apple orchards in bloom. In the Twin Cities, this April was the second warmest on record—back to 1891—following the fourth warmest March.

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