



JULY PHENOLOGY

A reflective look at 2010

by Jim Gilbert, Naturalist

Historically, July is our warmest and sunniest month.

Listed below are a few observations from a year ago in the Twin Cities Metro area, Waconia and beyond. These events can be used to anticipate upcoming summer occurrences and will help you compare this year with last.

July

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As of today, young Baltimore orioles feed with their parents at grape jelly feeders. Rose-breasted grosbeaks, orchard orioles, gray catbirds, house finches and red-bellied woodpeckers also eat from jelly feeders.

July 4 * Osprey young have grown quite large but remain in their nests. Lake surface temperatures are now in the mid-70s. Deerflies and mosquitoes are bothersome. Field corn in the Waconia area is about 5 or 6 feet tall. Fireflies light up the night.

July 6 * At 4:34 am birds begin to sing—American robins first. Bird songs decrease dramatically after July 4 since the nesting season is over for many species and there is no further need to attract a mate or defend territory. The first field corn detasseling begins, and the first ripe apples are ready to be picked—very early!

July 9 * Wild gooseberries are ripe and ripening. Spotted touch-me-nots start to bloom.

First locally grown sweet corn is ready to eat. Eastern bluebirds check out nesting boxes for their third broods.



July 14 * High of 93°F. Dew point high of 79°F. Annual cicadas buzz loudly. Birds do not have sweat glands, so on hot days expect to see American robins and others perched quietly in the shade with their bills open, panting.

July 17 * In Hector, a field of sunflowers is in full bloom; all of the flowers are facing east.

July 20 * By now, the last tree swallows fledge. Young purple martins leave their nests, and snowy tree crickets start chirping. In northern Minnesota, fireweed is blooming nicely, and wild blueberry picking is good in jack pine forests.

July 23 * The surface temperature of Lake Waconia is a warm 82°F. Ruby-throated hummingbirds sip nectar from hosta flowers. Pileated woodpeckers bring juveniles to suet feeders.

July

26

Canada geese fly again after their spring molting.



July 27 * Long lines of tree swallows gather on utility wires. The second broods of barn swallows are hatching.

July

27

With the breeding season winding down, significant southbound migration begins. Tennessee Nashville warblers are among the migrants.

