



JUNE PHENOLOGY

A reflective look at 2013

by Jim Gilbert, Naturalist

June rains may swamp picnics, but Minnesotans aren't deterred as they enjoy the month's warmer temperatures and longer days. Listed below are a few observations from a year ago in the Twin Cities Metro area, Waconia and areas beyond when indicated. These events can be used to anticipate upcoming happenings and will help you compare this year with last.

June 1 * The small young of Wild Turkeys, called *poults*, follow close to hens. White-tailed deer fawns continue to arrive. Juvenile eastern chipmunks are out and about. Whip-poor-Wills are vocal near Frontenac.

June 2 * The first alfalfa is harvested in the Waconia area. Morel mushroom hunters delight in this year's crop. Statewide, 55% of soybeans and 87% of corn is planted. On the north shore, the leaves on quaking aspens and paper birches are still tiny.

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Baltimore and Orchard Orioles visit feeding stations, as do Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers and Gray Catbirds enjoy grape jelly.



June 6 * Tall bearded irises and black locust trees have showy flowers. Red pines shed pollen liberally. Baltimore Orioles build nests. Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks relish sunflower seeds at feeding stations.

June 8 * Eastern cottonweed trees shed seeds on cotton carriers. American Robins work on second nests. Painted and snapping turtles cross roads in search of suitable dry areas to lay their eggs. Deciduous trees about two-thirds leafed out in Lutsen area.

June 10 * Mosquitoes are bothersome! Lawns, trees, shrubs and whole forests are lush green. New cattail leaves are up two to five feet, causing marshes to look green again. Canada Geese begin molting their flight feathers. They'll be flightless until new ones grow in.

June 13 * By now, about 200 species of birds are nesting. The first fireflies dot the skies tonight.

June 15 * A pink-and-white lady's-slipper begins blooming at the U of MN Landscape Arboretum. Wood Duck young jump from their nest boxes today. Six Trumpeter Swan cygnets hatch from a nest on a farm pond platform near Cambridge. The surface temperature of Leech Lake is 66°F and walleye fishing is good.

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American Robins initiate the dawn chorus at 4:20 am. A trained observer can pick out about two dozen different bird species in the morning chorus.



June 21 * Japanese tree lilacs begin to flower.

June 23 * Area lakes finally reach 70°F, the cut-off for safe swimming. Northern catalpa trees begin blooming. Baltimore Oriole young fledge.

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Cecropia moths take flight. Honey bees visit patches of blooming white Dutch clover in lawns.



June 27 * Garden roses at the U of MN Landscape Arboretum reach their peak of blooming. Lake Waconia reaches 78°F.

June 28 * Our MN state flower, the pink-and-white lady's-slipper (also referred to as the *showy lady's slipper*), is blooming in the Grand Rapids and Itasca State Park areas. Thousands of fireflies flicker over Spring Peeper Meadow in the U of MN Landscape Arboretum.

June 29 * A Hooded Merganser hen calls for her eleven young to jump from their nest box. Hollyhocks and common milkweeds are just starting to bloom.

June 30 * This is our tenth day of 90°F or above this year in the Twin Cities.