



JUNE PHENOLOGY

A reflective look at 2010

by Jim Gilbert, Naturalist

June can be the month of rains. Throughout most of Minnesota, temperatures above 95°F may occur, yet frost is still possible in low areas and in the north. But whether we're headed for the beach or bundling up by a bonfire, June is a time when we're sure to see life blossoming all around. Here's a look at the happenings around the Twin Cities Metro Area, Waconia and outstate from June a year ago.

June 1 * At the U of MN Landscape Arboretum, the peony collection is at overall bloom peak and is spectacular. Our Minnesota state flower, the showy pink and white lady's slipper, is in bloom.



Both yellow-headed and red-winged blackbirds feed nestlings.

June 6 * Juvenile eastern chipmunks and gray squirrels dart about, exploring their new environment. Painted turtles come up on dry land to lay eggs.

June 8 * Japanese tree lilacs, with their huge clusters of white flowers, are at peak bloom. First deer flies arrive. In Carver County, much field corn is up about 1 foot.

June 11 * Adult Canada geese lose their flight feathers and will soon be flightless.

June 13 * Baltimore orioles, gray catbirds, chipping sparrows and tree swallows feed nestlings. Black-capped chickadees and American robins feed fledglings. Adult birds and their young visit backyard feeders and birdbaths.

June 18 * In the Lutsen/Tofte area, wild lupines and prickly wild rose are at peak bloom and very showy. Red-eyed vireos, veeries, white-throated sparrows and black-throated green warblers display their singing ability.

June 20 * It's the overall bloom peak for garden roses at the U of MN Landscape Arboretum and Lake Harriet Rose Garden. Gardeners pull green onions, snip leaf lettuce, pick pea pods and cut broccoli from their plots. Young house wrens, song sparrows, blue jays, northern cardinals and Baltimore orioles begin to fledge.

June 24 * Soybeans begin to bloom. Purple martins busily feed nestlings. Tree swallow young fledge.



On summer evenings like this, common nighthawks call and feed over Minnesota cities. They nest on rooftops.

June 27 * Wild blueberry picking begins in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin; also, young common loons swim with their parents on many of the lakes.

June 30 * Giant sunflowers and morning glories begin to bloom in gardens. In Carver County, field corn is up 4 to 6 feet.



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Myriads of fireflies dot meadows near woodlands this evening. Green and common tree frogs vocalize in wetlands.

