



JUNE PHENOLOGY

A reflective look at 2011

by Jim Gilbert, Naturalist

Arrivals of nestlings brighten an often-rainy June. Temperatures above 95 °F may occur, yet frost is still possible in low areas and in northern Minnesota. 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.

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In central and northern Minnesota, baby Common Loons hatch and ride on the backs of their parents. Scarlet Tanagers and Indigo Buntings relish sunflower seeds at feeders. Young Northern Cardinals fledge.



June 6 * High of 97°F. Wild grapes bloom and the first fireflies take wing.

June 7 * Today is a record high of 103°F in the Twin Cities. Kentucky coffee trees bloom.

June 8 * The first pink-and-white showy lady's-slipper, Minnesota's state flower, blooms at the U of MN Landscape Arboretum.

June 9 * The surface temperature of area lakes hits 70°F, the cut-off temperature for safe swimming.

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In the Lutsen area, Chestnut-sided Warblers and Chipping Sparrows incubate eggs, Both snapping and painted turtles lay eggs. Watch for and protect female turtles as they seek a proper place on dry land to dig a hole and deposit eggs.



June 12 * The morning bird chorus is exceptional as songsters like House Wrens, Baltimore Orioles, Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warblers and Purple Martins contribute their songs to the composition.

June 14 * Double peonies are at overall peak bloom. Baltimore Orioles feed their nestlings.

June 15 * The first garden strawberries ripen.

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Pink-and-white showy lady's-slippers are at peak bloom. Staghorn sumac blooms. Gardeners pick buckets of ripe strawberries. Common tree frogs and green frogs vocalize enthusiastically.



June 17 * Dutchman's-breeches, forsythia and vernal witchhazel shrubs bloom. It's the last day of skiing this season at Lutsen Mountains.

June 22 * The first Baltimore Oriole young fledge.

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Tree Swallow young fledge. Northern catalpa trees display showy blooms.



June 26 * Garden roses at the U of MN Landscape Arboretum are at peak bloom. Red mulberry fruit is ripe and continues to ripen.

June 30 * Eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies decorate gardens in search of pollen.

