

July Phenology

a reflective look at 2007 *Jim Gilbert*

Photo by Eagan Customer Karen Arrigoni



1 Wild gooseberries are perfect for picking. Field corn in southern Minnesota is up 5-7'. Black-capped Chickadee parents select oilers to feed their young perched nearby.

4 Spring Peeper Meadow at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum was the place to be tonight to watch fireworks of the natural kind. Thousands of fireflies flashed their miniature lights.

5 It's dry! Lots of brown lawns are indicators. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds sip nectar on new hosta blossoms.

7 High of 98 degrees F. American Robins and other birds seen using birdbaths and panting with open bills. Birds have no sweat glands so panting is their way to get rid of excess body heat. Baltimore Orioles continue to feed fledglings at feeding stations. Northern Cardinals are feeding second broods. Second generation of Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterflies on the wing.

8 Fourteenth time the Twin Cities reached 90 degrees or above this year. Very welcome rain fell. Gardeners have begun picking the first ripe tomatoes and digging the first potatoes. In SW Minnesota, and into South Dakota, the combining of wheat is starting.

10 First locally-grown sweet corn is available. Garden raspberry picking is good. Barn Swallow young are leaving nests. On southern and western Minnesota prairies, there is a profusion of blooming wildflowers, including Purple Coneflower, Leadplant and Wild Bergamot. In the Arrowhead region, both dewberries and wild strawberries are ripe, and White-throated Sparrows and Red-breasted Nuthatches are busy feeding their young.

12 Red Admiral Butterflies have been numerous. Overall bloom peak for clematis and daylily varieties at the U of M Landscape Arboretum.

15 The early morning bird chorus has dropped off considerably because there are not as many males singing on nesting territories. Annual Cicadas buzz on these warm days. The first Canada Geese can fly again. The adults have been flightless since mid-June when they molted.

18 First Snowy Tree Crickets begin singing.

19 First Purple Martin young fledged. Gray Squirrels are having their second litters.

20 House Wrens continue to be vocal. White Water Lily blooms nicely in big ponds and sheltered lake spots. Along the North Shore of Lake Superior, showy blooming roadside plants include: Fireweed and Common Evening Primrose; the Great Spangled Fritillary Butterflies are on the wing.

25 Temperature rose to 92 degrees. Great Ragweed began shedding pollen. On these warm evenings, snowy tree crickets sound like sleighbells.

29 Black Walnut and Butternut fruit is full-size but green. Lake surface temperatures have reached their peak, as high as 80 degrees F.

31 Joe-pye Weed and Boneset are showy blooming wetland wildflowers. Wild rice is in full bloom; by very early autumn the grains of rice will be ripe.



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1 Baltimore Orioles come readily to feeders offering grape jelly, nectar or mealworms. There is drought over Minnesota. The water level of Lake Minnetonka is down 15" from just three months ago. The Mississippi River at Anoka has only 25 percent of its normal flow.

5 Sandpipers, Yellowlegs and Dowitchers already have begun migration. Eastern Bluebirds and American Goldfinches are feeding young nestlings. It's the second brood for bluebirds, first and only for goldfinches.

6 Acorns from both Bur and Red Oaks are falling, providing food for Raccoons, squirrels, Wild Turkeys and even Wood Ducks.

8 Along the North Shore of Lake Superior, wild red raspberries and thimbleberries are being picked, and in some spots blueberry picking is good.

9 Wild choke cherries are ripe. Garden roses bloom in profusion. At Park Point in Duluth, 16 migrating warbler species, including Nashville, Yellow and Golden-winged are observed. Lake Superior water level is down 18".

11 Our 25th 90 degree or above day this year. Beekeepers have begun extracting honey. Migrating flocks of Common Nighthawks are seen at Castle Danger and Two Harbors.

16 - Wild and backyard plums are ripe. Early season apples can be picked. First migrating Common Nighthawks observed over the Twin Cities. Carver County farmers have begun chopping corn for silage. In the Lutsen/Grand Marais area, Large-leaved Asters bloom, wild red raspberry and Juneberry

picking is good, and there is some sunny-yellow fall color on Paper Birches.

18 We notice an increase in numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in the Twin Cities and across southern Minnesota as the early migrants from up north come to feeders.

19 First Red-breasted Nuthatches return to the Metro area for their winter vacation. There is much damage from flash flooding in SE Minnesota and SW Wisconsin resulting from heavy rains of 10-17."

21 Snapping Turtle eggs hatch. First Franklin's Gulls return for the fall season.

25 Monarch Butterflies seen flying south, one-by-one. Barn Swallows line up on wires in family groups. Giant Puffball Mushrooms can be found.

27 European Mountain Ash fruit is bright orange.

28 In the Duluth area, 24 warbler species are observed. There has been exceptional songbird and shorebird sightings in the Duluth area the last few days as migrants begin moving through.

29 Dahlias and garden roses bloom nicely in the U of M Landscape Arboretum.

31 American Robins, American Crows, Wood Ducks and Wild Turkeys feed on ripe wild grapes. Jack-in-the-pulpits show bright red seed clusters. The wild rice harvest is beginning in central and northern Minnesota.



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