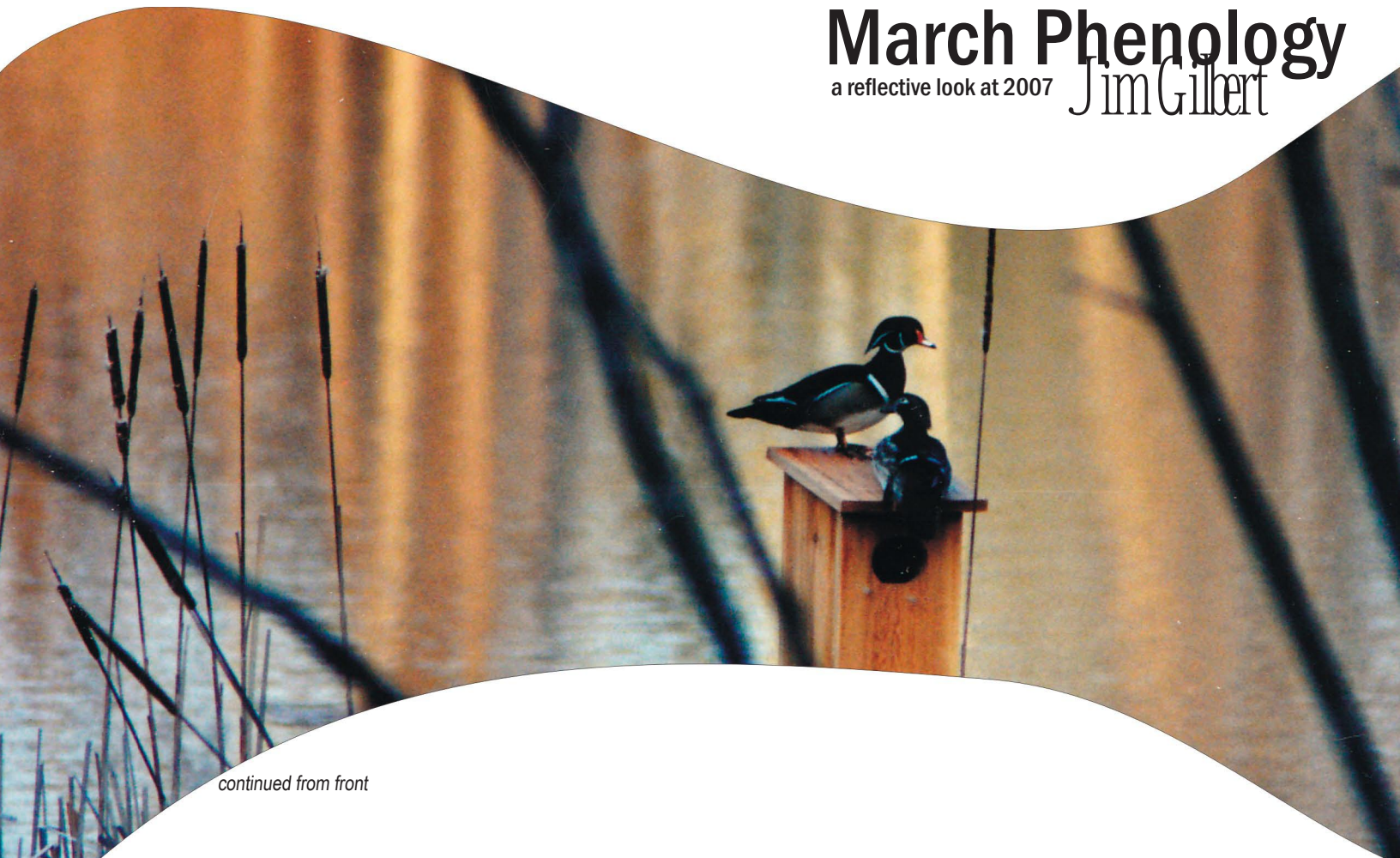


# March Phenology

a reflective look at 2007

Jim Gilbert



*continued from front*

Excelsior. Pollen probably comes from Silver Maples. American Woodcocks heard in Steele County.

**24** Wood Duck female seen inspecting a nest box.

**25** First 70 degree day this year. New green grass blades seen next to buildings and on south-facing slopes.

**26** High of 81 degrees in Twin Cities. Only traces of snow left. Many garden crocuses blooming. First Sharp-lobed Hepatica flowers open in woodlands. First Painted Turtles sunning on logs in ponds. Dandelions blooming next to buildings. Pussy Willow twigs are perfect for cutting to bring indoors for a touch of spring.

**27** Maple syrup season ending. First Common Loons passing through.

**28** Eastern Screech Owl nest has first egg. Ice-out date for Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet in Minneapolis.

**29** First Wood Frogs calling.

**30** Good soaking rains. Ice-out date for Lake Minnewashta near Excelsior. Eastern Bluebirds gathering nesting material. Northern Sun Forsythia begins blooming in St. Peter.

**31** More good soaking rains. Over 2" of rain fell yesterday and today. Canada Geese begin laying eggs. Ice-out date for Forest Lake in Washington County.

## Monthly Reminders from All Seasons:

Wood Duck boxes: should be cleaned, opened and filled with fresh wood shavings (to encourage nesting) by March 1st.

Erect any new bluebird houses by March 10th. They begin house hunting early! We carry informative books on beginning and maintaining bluebird trails.

Baby Grey Squirrels are being born in early March. If you have squirrels in your attic, check for a nest before removing. Parents move the young a few weeks after birth.

Migratory birds are more liable to strike your windows than resident birds who are familiar with your yard. We recommend the clear Window Alert decals to help prevent window strikes.



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**1** Ice-out for Lake Waconia, and first raft of American Coots arrived.

**3** Official ice-out for Lake Minnetonka. First Great Egrets returned. A foot of snow fell at Lutsen and Duluth, and close to that in Brainerd.

**4** Low of 17 degrees F. Small ponds, which had been open since March 25, froze over again. Osprey are on nests incubating eggs.

**6** Canada Geese on nest, incubating eggs. High of 29 degrees and a low of only 16 degrees in Twin Cities. Negative 4 was the low at Babbitt. Cold weather is tough on the insectivores that returned early to southern Minnesota this year. (phoebes, swallows in particular)

**7** High of 35 degrees is the first above-freezing temperature we've registered in five days.

**23** First rhubarb pulled for sauce. Lawns have greened-up.

**24** Ice-out for Lake Roosevelt near Outing.

**25** House Wrens first return.

**26** Lawn mowing begins. Magnolias and rhododendron at bloom peak.

**27** First leaves out on Sugar Maples and Bur Oaks.

**28** First leaves out on native Basswood trees. First Common Tree Frogs calling.

**29** First Baltimore Orioles return.

**30** First Canada Goose goslings are seen following parents. First Crabapple trees and Common Purple Lilac shrubs begin to flower.

## Monthly Reminders from All Seasons:

Purple Martins return in early April. Get your homes opened and ready for the scouts!

Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets will begin returning the first week of April.

Robins are incubating first broods, they'll hatch by end of April.

This is a great time of year to offer mealworms to your feathered friends. Cool temperatures can deplete the natural insect supply at this critical time of year. You'll be amazed at all the birds who enjoy this treat. Offer them in shallow plastic or glass dishes, or a feeder like Droll Yankees' X-1.



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