

May Phenology

a reflective look at 2007 Jim Gilbert



1 - First ruby-throated hummingbird and the first morel mushrooms found. Thickets of wild plum in bloom. The normal high temperature is 65 degrees and the low is 42 degrees F, with a record high of 91 degrees set in 1959. On May 1, 1935 the Twin Cities received 3 inches of snow.

2 - First Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Warbling Vireos and Chimney Swifts.

3 - Jack-in-the-pulpits are open. Apple orchards in bloom.

4 - Influx of Baltimore Orioles (first one returned April 29). Eastern Bluebird eggs hatching. Ohio buckeye trees at bloom peak. Up north, common ravens are feeding young nestlings, black-capped chickadees are incubating eggs, the first leaves are out on quaking aspens, grouse continue drumming, and winter wrens sing. Ice-out date for Saganaga Lake at the end of the Gunflint Trail, and Rainy Lake near International Falls.

5 - Bleeding-heart is blooming nicely. Tulips, late Daffodils and Hyacinths also have showy flowers. Newly-hatched Canada Goose goslings are out grazing with their parents. Newly hatched mallard ducklings seen at Lake Calhoun.

7 - First White-crowned Sparrows and Gray Catbird. May Beetles (Junebugs) hitting lighted windows tonight.

8 - Common Purple Lilac shrubs at bloom peak from the Twin Cities to St. Peter.

9 - Bald eagles are feeding young nestlings. Barn Swallows observed collecting mud for their nests. Warbler migration is reaching its peak with about 20 different species passing through. First Bobolink and Indigo Bunting.

10 - Bridal Wreath spires just starting to bloom. Fire still very much of out control in forests of the Gunflint Trail area. An estimated 30,000 acres burned so far.

12 - First migrating Common Nighthawks return. Very dry along the North Shore, and Lake Superior water level is down 18 inches.

15 - First Monarch Butterfly returns. European Mountain Ash at bloom peak. In Carver County, most field corn is up 2 to 4."

16 - Red-eyed Vireos have returned and are calling. Northern Lights azaleas at bloom peak.

20 - Among the birds feeding nestlings are Screech Owls, Black-capped Chickadees, Eastern Bluebirds, Northern Cardinals and Common Grackles. Eastern Bluebird young fledged. Baltimore Orioles are in the process of nest building. White-tailed Deer fawns are being born.

23 - First Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly. Painted Turtles have begun laying eggs.

26 - Eastern Cottonwood seeds are floating through the air on cotton carriers.

27 - First Lightning bugs.

29 - Snapping turtles are up on dry land, laying eggs.

30 - Osprey feeding young nestlings. Yellow Warbler nest has 4 eggs.

31 - Ox-eye Daisy at bloom peak. Double peonies now blooming. House wrens sing over and over.



An All Seasons
Bird Brain Project
WildBirdStore.com

June Phenology

a reflective look at 2007

Jim Gilbert

© photo by Stan Tekiela



1 – Honey bees forage on white Dutch Clover blossoms in lawns. Ten-spot Skimmer Dragonflies on the wing. For the Twin Cities, the normal high temperature is 75 degrees and the low is 54 degrees F, with a record high of 96 degrees set in 1852.

2 – Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is feeding young. Eastern Kingbird is incubating.

3 – Tree Swallow young fledged. Young Gray Squirrels and Eastern Chipmunks are out exploring.

5 – Baltimore Oriole pairs are feeding young nestlings.

9 – Lake Waconia, Green Lake at Spicer and other lakes had surface temperatures reach 70 degrees F for the first time this year. 70 degrees is the cut-off point for safe swimming.

11 – Last Canada Geese heard and seen in the air. The adults are molting flight feathers and will be grounded until about July 20.

12 – Gardeners are picking buckets of ripe strawberries. Stag-horn sumac is blooming. Brown Thrashers, Song Sparrows, Yellow Warblers and Barn Swallows are among the many bird species busy feeding young nestlings.

13 – Garden roses at overall bloom peak.

15 – Fifth consecutive day of 90 degrees or above. The wild lupine, a native species of the western states, is blooming in a dazzling array of pinks, purples and blues in the Grand Marais and Lutsen area.

18 – Annual Cicada first heard buzzing. Common Nighthawks are incubating.

23 – First of the new generation of Monarch Butterflies now flying. Their mothers, no doubt, are migrants that arrived in the middle of May. Young Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrels out and about. Harvest of the second crop of alfalfa began in the Waconia area.

30 – Baltimore Orioles return to grape jelly and mealworm feeders and bring their young. The surface temperature of Lake Waconia hit a warm 80 degrees F this afternoon. Field corn in Waconia area is as tall as 6 feet. This June ended up being the fifth warmest in history for the Twin Cities.

Information on Birds Shown

Indigo Buntings are fairly common in the Twin Cities and love Nyjer® seed (and bugs). They'll use finch feeders with perches - they don't seem to prefer to cling to mesh bags the way goldfinches do.

Baltimore Orioles love nectar, jelly, oranges and mealworms. Check out our new Oriole Bird Brain Fact Sheet for more info on how to keep these birds coming to your feeders all summer.

Nyjer® is a registered trademark of the Wild Bird Feeding Industry.



An All Seasons
Bird Brain Project
WildBirdStore.com