

November Phenology

a reflective look at 2007

Jim Gilbert



1 Frosty morning. Low of 32 degrees in the Twin Cities, 24 degrees at St. Cloud and 18 degrees F at Embarrass. Pin Oaks and Northern Red Oaks show beautiful red and brown foliage. Tamaracks continue to display smoky-gold needles.

3 Indian summer day with a high of 55 degrees F. River Birches are displaying golden-yellow foliage.

5 First snow flurries of the season. Wind gusts at 45 mph recorded at MSP Airport. Alyssum, geraniums and pansies still blooming.

6 Numbers of American Coots on Lake Waconia are down from yesterday. Big influx of migrating Canada Geese are observed on fields in Brooklyn Park. Tundra Swans are migrating and thousands can be seen in the Brownsville area, on the Mississippi River.

7 First ice on ponds. Low of 24 degrees in Twin Cities and 21 degrees F in Mankato. Snow is being made at Spirit Mountain and at Lutsen Mountains.

9 Last flock of Red-winged Blackbirds.

11 Common Golden Eye Ducks seen on French Lake in northern Hennepin County. Flock of Eastern Bluebirds visits birdbath at Red Wing. Flocks of Snow Buntings seen in the Lutsen/Tofte area.

14 This is the average date for the top layer of ground to freeze. Gadwall, Canvasback, Redhead and Lesser Scaup are some of the migrating duck species being seen. Three Golden Eagles are spotted near Little Rick Lake in Rice.

17 First snowfall; just one-tenth inch on decks. Last flock of Franklin's Gulls on Lake Waconia.

20 Last raft of American Coots on Lake Waconia. Bald Eagles feed on fish and wounded waterfowl at lakes in central and southern Minnesota. The mating (rutting) season of the White-tailed Deer reaches its peak during the last two weeks of November.

21 Small ponds froze over. Lawns still look green. Late Osprey sighting in Victoria.

22 Cold, cloudy Thanksgiving Day. Low of 16 degrees and high of 29 degrees F. Last migrating flocks of tundra swans. Low of -1 degree F at International Falls this morning.

24 Red Cedar trees have taken on their maroon-brown look for winter. Hyland Hills Ski Area opened today. About 4-6" of ice covers Sawbill Lake located near Tofte.

27 Low of 5 degrees F in Twin Cities this morning, and below zero across northern half of Minnesota. The last tug and barges of the season coming from St. Paul went through Hastings today; this marked the closing of the Upper Mississippi River shipping season.

30 Lawns still quite green. Feeding stations were busy places on this cold day (high of 19 degrees). Northern Cardinals, Black-capped Chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers and at least 10 more species came for seeds and suet.



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1 Many of us observed a feeding frenzy at seed and suet feeders. First snowstorm of the season: 5-7" fell across the Metro, 10.3" at Duluth and about 20" of snow arrived in the Grand Marais area. Freeze-up date for Lake Waconia.

3 Official freeze-up for Lake Minnetonka, Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet in Minneapolis, and Lake MinnieBelle near Litchfield.

4 Second snowstorm of the season. Northern Cardinals, Mourning Doves, juncos and more came to feeding stations as the snow fell. Waconia received about 6" and Duluth about a foot.

5 Below normal temperatures started 11 days ago. Beautiful frost patterns on windows this morning.

8 First ice fishing houses on Lake Waconia. Always keep in mind, it takes 4" of new solid ice in contact with stationary fresh water for safe skating and fishing; 8-12" is needed for a car or small truck.

12 White-tailed Deer bucks begin shedding antlers. American Tree Sparrows visit feeding stations.

15 Results from the 39th annual Bloomington Audubon Christmas Bird Count include 58 species of birds observed including

thousands of Canada Geese and Mallards, hundreds of Common Mergansers, a few dozen American Robins, a couple Snowy Owls and Great Blue Herons, and one Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

17 Flock of 100+ Bohemian Waxwings seen feeding on Mountain Ash fruit in Grand Marais.

19 Fantastic white frost covers trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses.

20 Pair of Great Horned Owls heard duet hooting about 9:30 pm in Brooklyn Park.

25 Close to 3" of new snow fell, making a total of about 9" on the landscape. Nice white Christmas! About 9" of ice covers Lake Waconia.

31 We continue to see snow on evergreen boughs, one of the most beautiful sights in nature. At Lutsen, a heated birdbath attracts deer, Red Squirrels, Canada Jays, Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees and more.

Available at the All Seasons Wild Bird Store are immersion heaters designed to keep birdbaths ice-free. Birds like and need water year-round. Other wildlife will come for water too.



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