

# September Phenology

a reflective look at 2007

Jim Gilbert



1 Most of the Baltimore Orioles have left for Central America. Migrating birds observed include Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ovenbird and Northern Waterthrush.

2 The wild rice harvest is underway in northern Minn. Along the North Shore of Lake Superior migrants moving through include White-throated Sparrows, and Magnolia and Tennessee warblers, and flocks of Cedar Waxwings feeding on the fruit of the native mountain ash trees.

4 Both common and great ragweeds continue shedding pollen. Wild grapes are being eaten by American Robins, American Crows, Wood Ducks, Wild Turkeys and other birds.

5 High of 91 degrees F. Our 27<sup>th</sup> 90+ degree day this year. New England Aster begins blooming (same date as last year). Migrating Monarch Butterflies sure like these flowers.

6 Giant puffball mushrooms being found. Orange and red can be seen on Sugar Maples and Sumacs.

9 First Common Milkweed pods open and shedding seeds on parachutes. Several thousand raptors passed over Hawk Ridge in Duluth today.

10 Southern Minnesota farmers now cutting their fourth crop of alfalfa.

12 First scattered frost (the average first frost for the Twin Cities is Oct. 3). First American Coots arrive on Lake Waconia. First widespread frost in northern Minnesota.

14 Ohio Buckeye fruit has begun falling. Last Baltimore Oriole reported. Wood Ducks feeding on acorns.

15 Frosty over much of Minnesota this morning. Pumpkin vines killed: 18 degrees F at Embarrass, 21 degrees at Hibbing and 36 degrees at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. McIntosh, Wealthy and Honeycrisp apples are ripe. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds left feeders at Lutsen. Most hummingbirds leave northern Minn. by Sept. 15, and southern Minn. by Sept. 25. Keep those sugar water feeders up for late migrating hummingbirds.

16 Last migrating Common Nighthawks. Black walnuts are falling from trees.

17 First Dark-eyed Junco arrived in the U of MN Landscape Arboretum.

22 First White-throated Sparrows make appearance at feeding stations in Metro. Some gardeners still picking fall-bearing raspberries, green peppers and tomatoes. Fall colors have come on fast.

23 Big patches of red and burnt-orange fall colors on native sugar maples. Many sumac shrub colonies at fall color peak and displaying red.

27 Virginia creeper vines at overall fall color peak. Foliage is mostly in reds.

28 Still some Monarch Butterflies migrating through. Expect good flights of hawks over Hawk Ridge in Duluth on days with clear skies and NW winds.



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1 Big influx of American Coots and Dark-eyed Juncos. Migrating warblers include Yellow-rumped, Palm and Magnolia.

6 Record high of 87 degrees F in the Twin Cities. Lawns lush green. Honey locusts, green ashes and lindens have golden-yellow foliage. Late Ruby-throated Hummingbird seen in Waconia. Blue Jays migrating through.

7 The Twin Cities area now has 11 hours and 25 minutes of daylight. We have lost 3 minutes of daylight since yesterday and 4 hours and 11 minutes since the summer solstice on June 21.

9 Ruby-crowned Kinglets and flocks of migrating American Robins moving through. About 2- 3" of snow fell over parts of the northern Minn.

10 Big migration of American Crows and Turkey Vultures along the North Shore.

12 White-throated Sparrows and Juncos feed on the ground below feeders. American Goldfinches feed on coneflower seed heads in gardens.

13 Apple growers now picking Haralson, Regent and Fireside. American Wigeons, Blue-winged Teal and Northern Pintails are among the migrating waterfowl.

18 Hundreds or even thousands of American Coots cover some southern Minn. lakes. Migrating Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles can be seen in long river-like flocks.

19 It's the overall fall color peak considering the many trees, shrubs and vines that provide the fantastic show. This peak includes St. Peter, Spicer, Excelsior, the Twin Cities and Lake Pepin area.

20 American Tree Sparrows and Fox Sparrows arrive.

21 Mushroom watching is great because of above normal rainfall. Very late sighting of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

23 Still some pockets of nice fall colors. Native Tamaracks have smoky-gold needles. Flocks of Snow Buntings have arrived in the Lutsen/Tofte area.

27 Juncos are the most numerous of the birdfeeder birds. Migrating waterfowl include Canvasbacks and Redhead Ducks, plus Lesser Scaup and Buffleheads. Dahlias and mums still blooming.

28 Official first freeze of the season in the Twin Cities. 31 degrees F was recorded at the Airport. Frost seen on lawns, rooftops and windshields. Low temperature of 12 degrees at Embarrass and 25 degrees at Hutchinson.

30 High of 70 degrees (that's 20 degrees above normal). Norway Maples at peak of fall color and showing golden-yellow leaves.

31 Month ended up being the warmest October in 25 years, and third wettest on record. Leopard Frogs head for lakes. Geraniums, petunias and mums still blooming in gardens.



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