



August

PHENOLOGY & CHECKLIST

Naturalist Jim Gilbert's observations from this time last year, plus a seasonal checklist of backyard tasks.

AUG

01



We hear eastern chipmunks "chipping" and "munking." Both chipmunks and squirrels greedily take and eat still-green bur oak acorns.

AUG

02

Lawns are drying out—an indication we need rain. Garden tomatoes ripen quickly now.

AUG

04

Both common and great ragweeds start to shed pollen. **American Goldfinches** are the most abundant species at many feeding stations now.

AUG

05

There's an increase in numbers of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** in last few days. It's time to put up another feeder for them! Early season apples such as Mantet, Lodi and Quinte are ready to pick. More than 100 varieties of apples grow in MN; each has its own special texture and flavor.

AUG

08

Purple loosestrife, a European species that became naturalized, is at bloom peak and is showy in wetlands and wet ditches. **Tree Swallows** form long lines on utility wires, staging for migration.

AUG

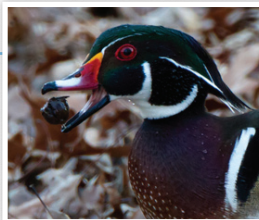
10

Locally grown sweet corn is sweet, delicious and abundant. The state of MN is number one in sweet corn production.

AUG

12

As acorns fall, more **Wood Ducks** come ashore to feed on them. **Common Loons** socialize in groups of a couple dozen on some northern MN lakes. Throughout most of MN, lake surface temperatures are in the mid-70°Fs and perfect for swimming. A Lake Superior lake trout fisherman reports that the surface water temperature four miles out from Duluth is 64°F. 105 feet below the surface, the temperature is only 42°F.



AUG

14

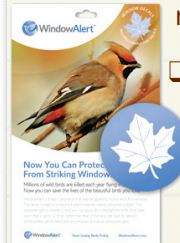
The first wild grapes are ripe and relished by **American Robins**, **Northern Cardinals**, **Gray Catbirds**, **Cedar Waxwings**, **Ring-necked Pheasants**, **Wild Turkeys**, and other birds, plus raccoons and other wildlife, and us outdoor enthusiasts.

AUG

15

Close to a dozen species of migrating shorebirds, and several warblers such as **Tennessee** and **Black-and-White** pass through the area.

- ☐ Orioles visit backyard feeders through the first week of September for mealworms, nectar, grape jelly, oranges or dark grapes.
- ☐ Add a **24" coil mount branch-shaped arm** to your pole system as a perch and for additional places to hang feeders.
- ☐ Divert squirrels from bird feeders with the **Deluxe Squeezy**—a bungee jumper for squirrels. Fill it with **cob corn** or **Nut'n Sweet Corn Squirrellogs®**.
- ☐ **Mint extract** on nectar ports helps to repel bees, wasps and bald-faced hornets. Hanging the feeder from an **ant trap** prevents ants from reaching the nectar.
- ☐ Migration begins in August for some birds. Replace your **Window Alert** decals every six month to prevent window strikes.



- ☐ Add **Brown's® Fire Mix** powder to bird seed to deter squirrels. One package treats 40 pounds of bird seed with cayenne and ground pepper seeds. Birds have few taste buds and don't react to the powder.



- ☐ As birds gather in pre-migration flocks, avoid attracting large numbers of grackles and starlings at feeders by serving **golden safflower** or **white safflower**. Use **Bye, Bye Starling** to provide a sunflower mix while discouraging European Starlings.

August

PHENOLOGY & CHECKLIST

(Continued from front)



AUG
16

Stiff goldenrod, prairie dock and cup plant are blooming in prairies.

AUG
17

Hazen, Viking and State Fair apples are ripe. Boneset, jewelweed, blue vervain, and Joe-Pye weed bloom in wetlands.

AUG
19



Young **Eastern Towhees**, **Song Sparrows**, **Gray Catbirds**, and **Northern Cardinals** frequent feeding stations for sunflower, cracked corn and other seeds on the ground. Numerous **Common Nighthawks** migrate south through central MN. **Pine Siskins** dominate in numbers at feeding stations in Lutsen.

AUG
20

Golden-winged, **Chestnut-sided** and **Canada** are some of the migrating **warblers** passing through. Foragers find giant puffballs, some as large as volleyballs.

AUG
22

The first wild American plums ripen. They are delicious! Today is the beginning of the "feeding frenzy" for the numerous **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at a feeding station near Waconia.

AUG
25

Colonies of Canada goldenrod reach bloom peak. These bright golden-yellow flowers do not shed pollen into the air, nor do they cause hay fever symptoms. Giant sunflowers bloom down on gardens.

AUG
27

This is the peak time for beekeepers to extract honey. **Baltimore Orioles** continue to come off and on each day to grape jelly feeders. Nearly all these orioles will be leaving to winter in Central America by the first few days of September. **Gray Catbirds**, **House Finches** and **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** also visit grape jelly feeders.

AUG
30

American Goldfinches are abundant at feeding stations, dining on Nyjer and sunflower chips. Lawns are a lush green after good August rains. Southern MN soybean and cornfields flourish; farmers cut a fourth crop of alfalfa. Observers count more than 1,000 **warblers** and 2,238 **Cedar Waxwings** migrating over Hawk Ridge in Duluth.

AUG
31

Both common and great ragweeds continue to shed pollen. Across the state, the "green prime" is ending and we see tinges and patches of fall foliage colors.



❑ Our **Feed and Fill service** will take care of your birds while you are on vacation. Call our Wayzata store at 952-473-4283 for more details.

❑ Goldfinches are our latest nesting songbird, nesting in July and fledging young in August. Unlike most songbirds, goldfinches feed their young a slurry of seed such as **Nyjer™ and Chips**. Keep your feeders clean and full to attract them.

❑ Remember—most fledglings do not need human assistance. Adult birds are nearby and will return to feed the young after you leave the area.

❑ Additional birdbaths will help birds beat the heat in your backyard. Use a **Layered Rock Waterfall** or a battery-operated **Water Wiggler™** in your bath because moving water attracts more birds and prevents mosquitoes from laying eggs in stagnant water.

❑ Clean baths with 9 parts water to 1 part bleach; rinse well; then add **Birdbath Protector™** to keep the bath clean.

❑ Hummingbirds are active at nectar feeders and flowers into October with the females and juveniles staying the latest in the fall. Try a **Nectar Dot™ feeder** to feed hummingbirds by hand!



❑ Use **Nectar Defender™** to keep nectar fresh longer.

