

# July

## PHENOLOGY & CHECKLIST

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

JUL

01

The first juvenile **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** visit a feeding station near Waconia. From the Iowa border to far northern MN, on these summer evenings look for the tiny flashing lights of fireflies over meadows and grassy ditches near woodlands.

JUL

02

Only about 10 percent of **Wood Ducks** continue to nest. Much of the field corn reaches 4- to 5-feet tall. Garden and wild blackcap raspberries ripen.



JUL

03

Still many farmers harvest their second crop of alfalfa. **Baltimore Orioles** continue to bring their fledglings to feeding stations for mealworms and grape jelly.

JUL

04



The first juvenile **Purple Martins** fledge. Common milkweed flaunt showy, fragrant flowers. Wild gooseberry fruit is ripe and ripening. Some yellow leaflets appear on butternut trees; they're the first to display autumn color. Green frogs call day and night with their banjo-strumming sounds.

JUL

06

At 4:34am birds begin to sing, **American Robins** first.

JUL

10

Garden perennials including hydrangeas, daylilies and hollyhocks display attractive blossoms.

JUL

11

**Baltimore Orioles, Eastern Bluebirds, Chipping Sparrows, Northern Cardinals, Black-capped Chickadees, and Gray Catbirds** continue to come to feeding stations for mealworm treats.



JUL

15



The first **Canada Geese** can fly again after their June molt. Among the showy garden perennials blooming now are phlox, purple coneflowers and Russian sage. In Carver County, the small grain harvest commences, and more than half of the cornfields tassel.

☐ Avoid mess and seed germination in your garden and patio areas by using **Kracker Jax** or **Medium Chips** (sunflower out of the shell). Both work great in window feeders as well.

☐ Plant additional sunflowers from seed July 1st to provide blooms into the fall. Goldfinches, House Finches and chickadees will eat from the mature seed heads.

☐ Bluebirds may nest 2-3 times in the same birdhouse. Check **bluebird boxes** and remove the old nest and debris between nestings.

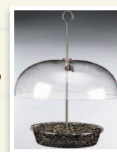
☐ Bluebirds seem to prefer **live mealworms**. Our stores have **mealworm feeders** and live mealworms in stock to feed your blue beauties.



☐ Goldfinches are our latest nesting songbird, nesting in July and fledging young in August. Attract more goldfinches with **Best Nest Builder™** nesting material.

☐ 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.

☐ Use a **Vista Dome** and lower the lid to provide **suet pellets, dried or live mealworms** to cardinals and chickadees while excluding grackles and starlings.



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



# July

## PHENOLOGY & CHECKLIST

(Continued from front)

JUL  
16

We enjoy the first available locally grown sweet corn. A **Scarlet Tanager**, **Gray Catbird** and several newly fledged **Baltimore Orioles** visit a grape jelly feeder in Wabasha. Knee-high southern MN soybeans bloom and some set pods. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** dine on the nectar of cardinal flowers and blossoms of salvia, monarda and hosts. Wild blueberry picking is good in northern MN jack pine forests.

JUL  
17



Common sunflowers begin blooming along highways, and giant sunflowers in gardens. Southern and western MN prairies burst with blooming wildflowers including: ox-eye, gray-headed and purple coneflowers, compass plant, blazing star liatris (shown), monarda, and both purple and white prairie clovers.

JUL  
20

The first full-size garden tomatoes ripen. It's the overall bloom peak for the daylily collection at the U of MN Landscape Arboretum. **Eastern Bluebirds** will build nests and lay eggs up to about now and in rare cases to the end of this month.

JUL  
22

With very warm air temperatures now, many lakes have water temperatures in the low 80°Fs. High air temperature was 97°F in the Twin Cities today. This evening the first snowy tree crickets call with their tuneful "chee-chee-chee" chirps.

JUL  
24



Third crop of alfalfa harvest is starting. Deer flies continue to be bothersome.

JUL  
25

Indian grass, Canada goldenrod and wild cucumber began blooming.

JUL  
29

**Chimney Swift** nesting season is ending so they gather in communal chimney roosts as they stage for their migration to South America.



JUL  
30

The second generation of eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies is now on the wing. Mexican sunflower blooms; this is a favorite for butterflies like monarchs to nectar on.

JUL  
31



Both great and common ragweeds begin to shed pollen into the air. Wild chokecherry fruit is ripe. These berries are popular for jelly-making, and very important food for wildlife such as black bears, chipmunks, **Cedar Waxwings** and other birds.

❑ Additional **birdbaths** will help birds beat the heat in your backyard. Use a **Water Wiggler™** in your bath, as 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.

❑ 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.

❑ Add a **tray** to the bottom of **tube feeders** to attract Northern Cardinals.



❑ Because smaller birds fly off a feeding station when Blue Jays fly in, create a feeding area just for Blue Jays. Hang an **in-shell peanut feeder** under a **baffle** from a tree branch or on a pole with a squirrel baffle and place the feeder well away from other feeders. Blue Jays are beneficial because they sound the alarm and alert songbirds to the presence of hawks and other predators.

❑ 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.

