



JUNE PHENOLOGY

A reflective look at 2014

by Jim Gilbert, Naturalist

June sprinkles us with showers. Temperatures above 95° F may occur, yet frost is still possible in low areas and in northern Minnesota. Listed below are a few observations from a year ago in the Twin Cities Metro area, Waconia and areas beyond when indicated. These events can be used to anticipate upcoming happenings and will help you compare this year with last.

June 1 * Meteorologists consider today to be the first day of summer, because it marks the beginning of the 92 warmest days of the year.

JUNE

2

Black-capped Chickadee young are fledging. Gardeners are harvesting rhubarb, radishes, leaf lettuce, and green onions. Blooming bridal wreath spirea shrubs look like white fountains.



June 4 * The first alfalfa field is cut in Waconia area. Wild geranium and columbine are among the showy blooming wildflowers.

June 5 * Tall bearded irises and Northern Lights azaleas display colorful flowers. Eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies take flight. Mosquitoes are bothersome. American Robins sing and call until 9:30 p.m.

JUNE

7

In the Lutsen area, Black-throated Green Warblers and Chestnut-sided Warblers are building nests. Tree Swallows incubate eggs, while pairs of Eastern Bluebirds feed young nestlings. Hooded Merganser young leave nest boxes. Gray Catbirds come to grape jelly feeders, but not Baltimore Orioles, as they're busy nesting and eating insects.



June 10 * The first fireflies flash their lights tonight.

June 14 * Purple Martin nests contain eggs, and Baltimore Orioles are feeding nestlings. In the BWCA and area, black flies are bothersome, White-throated Sparrows and Veeries are very vocal, and Pileated Woodpeckers feed nestlings.

JUNE

15

At the U of MN Landscape Arboretum, our state flower, the showy pink and white lady's-slipper, is in dramatic bloom. Double peony flowers are also very attractive.



June 19 * The first half of June was very wet, and today the Twin Cities and area receives over 4 inches of rain, while 5-7 inches falls between Belle Plaine and St. Peter. All this extra rain results in flash flooding, mudslides, water in basements, and ponds forming in fields.

June 21 * Gardeners pick buckets of ripe strawberries. Orioles are coming back to grape jelly feeders. Red-bellied Woodpeckers bring juveniles to suet feeders.

JUNE

26

Warbling Vireos and Mourning Doves enchant us with their vocalizations. A trained listener can pick out two-dozen or more different bird species in a June morning chorus of singers. Northern catalpa trees are beautiful as they reach their bloom peak.



June 27 * On summer evenings, Common Nighthawks fly over many of our cities, calling and stopping to feed. They nest on rooftops.

June 30 * Eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies decorate gardens in search of pollen.

