



# JUNE PHENOLOGY

*A reflective look at 2015*

by Jim Gilbert, Naturalist

*June skies often sprout showers*, bringing relief on occasional above 95° F days. Yet, frost is still possible in the north and in low areas. Listed below are 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.

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**Mourning doves build nests.  
Common tree frogs are vociferant.  
Green frogs call for the first time  
at Kelzer Pond in Victoria.**



**June 3** \* Blue Jay young fledge and Tree Swallows feed their nestlings. Juvenile eastern chipmunks are out and exploring. Baltimore Orioles are involved in nesting and have ceased visits to feeding stations in the last week. Eastern cottonwood trees shed myriads of seeds on cotton carriers.

**June 6** \* Many Purple Martin nests now have eggs. It's great being near an active martin colony, listening to their gurgling chatter and watching their aerial displays. The showy pink and white lady's-slipper, our state flower, starts blooming in the U of MN Landscape Arboretum.

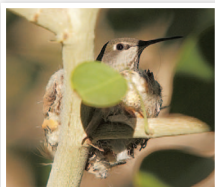
**June 7** \* White water lilies start to bloom. Both snapping and painted turtles come up on dry land to lay their eggs.

**June 9** \* It's the first 90°F day this year. Lakes warm to 70°F, the cut-off for safe swimming. Today and lately many clutches of Wood Duck young jump from nest boxes, mostly between 8 and 10am.

**June 13** \* Dragonflies feast on a bounty of mosquitoes. Northern catalpa trees start blooming and Japanese tree lilacs have foot-wide clusters of tiny creamy-white flowers.

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**Ruby-throated Hummingbirds  
begin incubating eggs. Eastern  
tiger swallowtails are plentiful  
and a few luna moths  
occasionally appear.**



**June 20** \* Tree Swallow young fledge from nests. Downy Woodpecker young visit suet feeders with their parents.

**June 21** \* Birds begin singing close to 4:20am, with American Robins first. Baltimore Orioles bring fledglings to feeding stations for grape jelly. In central and northern MN, newly hatched Common Loon chicks swim with their parents.

**June 22** \* Tonight there's a beautiful display of the aurora borealis across the state.

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**The first garden raspberries ripen.  
Garden roses hit peak bloom at the  
U of MN Landscape Arboretum.**



**June 25** \* We lose our first minute of daylight today. Blooming crown vetch, bird's-foot trefoil and white sweet clover decorate highway ditches.

**June 27** \* Molting waterfowl are mostly in a flightless condition right now. Juneberries and red mulberries are ripe and being relished by birds like American Robins, Gray Catbirds, and Cedar Waxwings.

**June 28** \* Far into the night, those moving specks of light and life called lightning bugs or fireflies blink in skies from southern to northern MN.

**June 29** \* Honey bees and other pollinators visit native basswood flowers. The second cutting of alfalfa is in full swing. Field corn is 5-7 ft. tall in southern MN.

**June 30** \* Garden blueberry shrubs burst with ripe and ripening fruit.