

## PHENOLOGY & CHECKLIST

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

JUNE

01

Along the North Shore of Lake Superior, the newly emerged light-green leaves of paper birches, aspens and other deciduous trees contrast beautifully against the dark green of pines, spruces and balsam firs. Pin cherry and many serviceberry trees and shrubs flourish with white flowers. Black flies become bothersome. Blueberry shrubs bloom. Spring peepers become vocal at night.

JUNE

02

It's the first 90°F reading at MSP Int'l Airport for 2017. **Black-capped Chickadee** and **Eastern Bluebird** young fledge.

JUNE

03

It's a second 90°F degree day for the Twin Cities. Gardeners harvest radishes and leaf lettuce. Green frogs, "the banjo twangers," begin calling from ponds. Fireflies take flight in southeastern MN.

JUNE

06

The showy pink and white lady's-slipper, our MN state flower, begins to bloom at the U of MN Landscape Arboretum. Russian olive trees burst with fragrant blossoms.

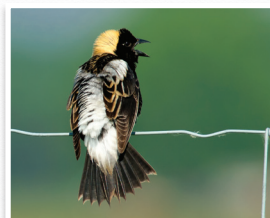
JUNE

10

It's our fourth day with 90°F or above (high of 96°F in the Twin Cities) this year. Japanese tree lilacs begin to bloom. Many lakes warm to 70°F, the cut-off temperature for safe swimming. Numerous birds come to drink and bathe at birdbaths. Pairs of **Baltimore Orioles** busily feed young nestlings. **American Robins** continue singing and calling until 9:46 p.m., 47 minutes after sunset.

JUNE

11



In grasslands, **Bobolinks**, **Eastern Meadowlarks**, **Dickcissels**, and **Clay-colored Sparrows** are vocal. Northern catalpa trees bloom. Gardeners pick buckets of ripe strawberries. Honey bees forage on blooming white clover in our lawns.

JUNE

14

Keep your feeding station going in the summer or you will miss seeing some great summer bird activities, like **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpecker** parents bringing their young to suet feeders. Many garden roses open. Prairie phlox, ox-eye, and the first black-eyed Susans bloom in prairies.

JUNE

16

**Eastern Bluebirds** sit on their second nests while **Tree Swallow** young now fledge. A peanut feeder attracts **White-breasted Nuthatches**, **Pileated**, **Downy**, **Hairy** and **Red-bellied Woodpeckers**. Northern catalpa trees and Japanese tree lilacs have bountiful clusters of flowers. Buckeye, viceroy, hackberry, and great spangled fritillary are among a dozen butterfly species on the wing.



☐ Hang the **The Best Nest Builder™**, nesting material made of cotton fibers, from a tree, shrub or shepherd's hook.

☐ Put out at least two **birdhouses**, one for wrens and one for chickadees. Best practice is to hang them from a pole and hang a **squirrel baffle** on it, 4-1/4' to 5' off the ground. Place the chickadee house out of direct sight line from nesting wrens to reduce conflicts.

☐ Attract orioles with **nectar** (change every three days), oranges, **mealworms** and grape jelly. Orioles feed their young caterpillars and are especially attracted to **mealworm feeders** while young are in the nest.

☐ Download a pdf of our **Attracting Orioles** hand-out from our website for an oriole nectar recipe, oriole feeder tips, and more: [wildbirdstore.com/resources/attracting-baltimore-orioles/](http://wildbirdstore.com/resources/attracting-baltimore-orioles/)

☐ Cardinals have difficulty eating from a suet cage but will feed their young **suet pellets** and **dried** or **live mealworms** offered from a **dish style feeder**.

☐ Use an **in-shell peanut feeder** to draw Blue Jays away from the other feeders, because smaller birds and new fledglings fly off when Blue Jays fly in.

Place it in a tree under a hanging squirrel baffle well or on a shepherd's hook with a baffle well away from other feeders. Blue Jays are beneficial because they alert other birds to the presence of predators such as hawks and cats.





# June

## PHENOLOGY & CHECKLIST

(Continued from front)

JUNE

17

Dragonflies of several species abound. Serviceberries and red mulberries ripen; birds like **American Robins** and **Cedar Waxwings**, plus outdoor enthusiasts enjoy these juicy wild fruits.

JUNE

18

The second cutting of alfalfa hay begins in southern MN. **American Goldfinches** dine at feeding stations with black oilers and sunflower chips and **Baltimore Orioles** and **Gray Catbirds** come to grape jelly feeders. Wild lupine and lilacs bloom along the North Shore of Lake Superior.



JUNE

21

On these summer evenings, watch for **Common Nighthawks** flying, calling and feeding over most of our cities and towns. They nest on flat rooftops.

JUNE

23

Garden roses at the U of MN Landscape Arboretum reach overall bloom peak. About 80 percent of **Wood Duck** egg clutches have hatched and the young have jumped. Much of the southern MN field corn is knee-high or taller.

JUNE

25



**Bald Eagles** and **Ospreys** feed their offspring fish from nearby waters. **Purple Martins**, **Barn Swallows** and **House Wrens** are among over a hundred bird species that are busy feeding their nestlings.

JUNE

26

Now and into early July are the peak times to see fireflies. Look for their tiny lights over meadows and grassy ditches not far from woodlands, starting about 35 minutes after sunset.

JUNE

28

Many common milkweed plants reach their fragrant bloom peak.

JUNE

30

Garden raspberry and strawberry picking is good. Showy blooming garden perennials include delphinium, liliun and daylilies.



- ☐ Scrub birdbaths with 9 parts water to 1 part bleach. Rinse well. **Add Birdbath Protector** to fresh water.



- ☐ Use a **Water Wiggler™** to attract birds and keep water moving to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs in birdbaths.
- ☐ Store seed in the freezer or outside the house to avoid moths. Hang a **moth trap**, available in our stores, near seed containers in the garage.
- ☐ Use **Golden Safflower** to avoid attracting grackles and starlings while still attracting cardinals, goldfinches, chickadees and House Finches.
- ☐ Serve **Bye, Bye Starling** to avoid attracting starlings while still providing a bird seed mix.
- ☐ Discourage a bird from repeatedly fighting its reflection on your window by tacking landscaping cloth over the window.

- ☐ Prevent just-fledged juvenile birds from hitting your windows by applying **Window Alerts**.



- ☐ Found a baby bird? Learn how to help it on our website: **wildbirdstore.com/2016/05/babybird**
- ☐ Found an injured bird? Contact the **Wildlife Rehab Center** at 651-486-9453. **www.wrcmn.org**
- ☐ Purchase our **Feed-and-Fill service** before you leave on vacation to keep your feeders full and fresh while you are gone. Call our Wayzata store at 952-473-4283 to arrange service.