

June

PHENOLOGY & CHECKLIST

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

JUNE

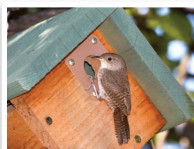
01

Meteorologists consider today to be the first day of summer because it marks the beginning of the 92 warmest days of the year. The showy pink and white lady's slipper, our state flower, blooms at the U of MN Landscape Arboretum.

JUNE

02

A **House Wren** nest has 8 eggs, and a **Baltimore Oriole** pair feed their nestlings. **Eastern Bluebird** young are fledging. Tall bearded irises and peonies bloom.



JUNE

05

There is captivating bird music in the air. A few of the songsters include: **Song Sparrows**, **Warbling Vireos** and **Common Yellowthroats**. A good share of the singing is done by males, as they use vocalizations to set nesting territories.

JUNE

11

Tree Swallow eggs are hatching. Fireflies add their magic to the evening.



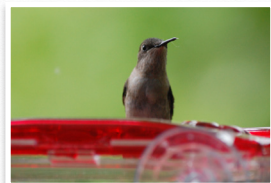
JUNE

12

Northern catalpa and Japanese tree lilacs are full of magnificent clusters of flowers. Gardeners pick buckets of ripe strawberries.

JUNE

14



Almost 2 inches of rain fall. **Hummingbirds**, **Red-wing Blackbirds**, **Mourning Doves**, and more come to our feeding stations in the rain.

JUNE

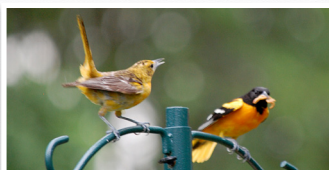
15

Much of the field corn is knee high in the Waconia area (Carver County). Canada serviceberry trees, loaded with sweet, juicy fruit, nourish **American Robins**, **Gray Catbirds**, **Cedar Waxwings**, and many other songbirds.

JUNE

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Baltimore Oriole young fledge. **Tree Swallows** and **House Wrens** busily feed their nestlings.



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

☐ 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.



☐ Use calcium-rich suet during egg-laying time such as **Pacific Bird and Supply Co** suet cakes and **Attractor nutritional suet plugs** in various flavors.

☐ Place suet pellets and dried or live mealworms in a dish-style feeder so they're accessible to cardinals.

☐ Use liquid or powder nectar with **Nectar Defender** added to keep your nectar fresh longer. Great for use at the cabin when larger capacity nectar feeders will be unattended for a week. Do not use Kool-Aid®, honey, or artificial sweeteners in nectar feeders.

☐ Keep ants out of nectar by hanging a feeder from an ant moat filled with water or an **Antguard**, which repels ants.

☐ Deter bees from nectar feeders by rubbing mint leaves or mint extract on the nectar ports.

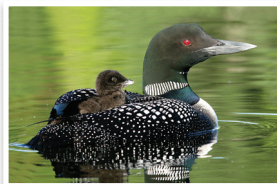
June

PHENOLOGY & CHECKLIST

(Continued from front)

JUNE

17



Common milkweed and Canada thistle begin flowering. Tall meadow rue and cow parsnip bloom nicely. In northern MN and WI, young **Common Loons** are seen with their parents on many of the lakes.

JUNE

19

Red mulberries are ripe and ripening, and birds and outdoor enthusiasts enjoy these juicy wild fruits. Farmers harvest the second crop of alfalfa and the first green peas in southern MN. Wild lupine, an introduced plant from Washington and Oregon, is blooming with a dazzling display of purple, pink and white at Lutsen and the whole North Shore area.

JUNE

20

Astronomical summer begins. Birds start singing close to 4:20am, with **American Robins** first. **Baltimore Orioles** bring fledglings to feeding stations for grape jelly. It's the overall June peak of bloom for garden roses at the U of MN Landscape Arboretum.

JUNE

21

The peak time to see fireflies is now in early summer. Look for these tiny lights over meadows and grassy ditches not far from woodlands.



JUNE

22

On these warm evenings watch for **Common Nighthawks** flying, calling and feeding over most of our cities and towns. They nest on rooftops. By 9:40pm nearly all **Chimney Swifts** are in their chimney roosting sites.

JUNE

25

Wild blackcap raspberries offer hikers a refreshing snack. Native basswood trees have clusters of fragrant flowers being visited by honey bees and other pollinators.

JUNE

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The second clutches of **Eastern Bluebird** eggs are hatching.

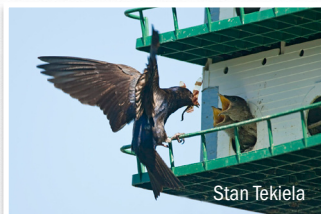
JUNE

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The first juvenile **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** come to sugar water feeders. Green frogs are "banjo playing" day and night.

JUNE

30



Purple Martins feed young nestlings. **Downy Woodpeckers** bring fledglings to suet feeders. No **ducks** or **Canada Geese** are flying, as they have molted their flight feathers.

Stan Tekiela

- ☐ Scrub birdbaths with 9 parts water to 1 part bleach. Rinse well. **Add Birdbath Protector** to cleaned bath.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Avoid attracting starlings while still providing a bird seed mix by serving **Bye, Bye Starling**.
- ☐ Tack landscaping cloth over a window to discourage a bird from repeatedly fighting its reflection
- ☐ Apply **Window Alerts** to prevent window strikes by newly fledged juvenile birds.
- ☐ 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**
- ☐ Book 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.

