

# August Phenology

a reflective look at 2009

by Jim Gilbert



**1** The surface temperature of Lake Waconia is just 71 degrees and Gladstone Lake, near Nisswa, is a cool 68 degrees. Antlers of White-tailed Deer are three-fourths grown. Blueberry pickers are successful in parts of northern Minnesota.

**2** Great ragweed begins shedding pollen. In Lutsen/Tofte area, wild red raspberry picking is good, and blooming fireweed, pearly everlasting and evening primrose are vivid.

**3** First ripe Mantel apples and Centennial crabapples. Snowy tree crickets began singing this evening.

**5** Purple loosestrife is blooming. Joe-Pye weed and boneset are showy in wet roadsides and wetlands.

**8** Five inches of rain (total from yesterday and today) brings the level of Lake Waconia up 7 inches. Along the North Shore at Lutsen and Grand Marais, blueberries, red raspberries, thimbleberries and serviceberries are ripe.

**9** Some Eastern Bluebirds are incubating their second clutches of eggs. Fields of goldenrods have radiant flowers. Goldenrods do not cause hayfever as their pollen is heavy and sticky and is carried by insects.

**10** Wood Ducks feed on fallen acorns. Thousands of Purple Martins are roosting and staging for migration in Todd County at the southwest corner of Big Swan Lake.

**12** Blooming wild cucumber vines are eye-catching on fences and in shrubs and trees. Spring wheat is being harvested in the Plato area.

**16** Beekeepers have begun extracting honey. Tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini and other vegetables continue to produce well. Indian-pipe is appearing in woodlands..

**17** The first Franklin's Gulls return to Lake Waconia for the fall season. Common Nighthawks began migrating over Hawk Ridge in Duluth.

**21** Red-eyed Vireos continue to call over and over. Zig-zag goldenrod and white snakeroot are blooming on forest edges.

**23** Wild grapes are ripe. Monarch Butterflies have begun aggregating as they stage for migration. First migrating Common Nighthawks observed over the Twin Cities. The surface temperature of Lake Waconia is 74 degrees.

**25** Lawns are a lush green. Mosquitoes are bothersome. A couple thousand migrating nighthawks are moving in a southerly direction over Anoka County. An amazing 13,154 nighthawks are counted over Hawk Ridge in Duluth.

**27** Yellowjackets join us when we eat outdoors. Families of Barn Swallows line up on wires. Highbush cranberry fruit is bright red.

**30** As of today, the majority of the Baltimore Orioles have left to over-winter in Central America.

**31** Large numbers of bur oak acorns fell the last few days. Jerusalem artichoke is blooming.



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