

February Phenology

a reflective look at 2010

by Jim Gilbert



1 Some goldfinches are displaying new yellow feathers. Another subtle signs of spring.

4 Ring-necked Pheasants and Wild Turkeys can be seen in crabapple trees, feeding on the fruit.

6 About 10" of snow covers the Twin Cities, with 2' - 3' along the Gunflint trail. There is very little snow close to Lake Superior's shoreline.

8 Nine bald eagles are observed along Hwy. 61 near Grand Marais.

11 Over the years, Fred Struck from St. Peter has noticed that on February 11 plants in the greenhouse begin to come out of dormancy and start growing. It happened again today! The sun has reached the right angle to stimulate plant growth.

13 First big ice sheets formed on Lake Superior.

15 House Finches began singing their spring songs.

16 Many flocks of Horned Larks are seen along country roads near Faribault.

18 Over 2,000 robins roost each night in an evergreen plantation on Grey Cloud Island in Washington County. Saw-whet Owls are

heard singing near Wrenshall in Carlton County.

19 Common Redpolls, White-winged Crossbills and Pine Grosbeaks seen in Lutsen area.

21 First male Mourning Dove heard cooing. Common Raven are carrying nesting materials in northern Mille Lacs County.

22 Courting male pheasants are starting to crow. Their loud double squawks can be heard for quite a distance.

23 A wintering Belted Kingfisher was spotted near Black Dog in Dakota County, and two Common Snipe near the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge.

25 This ends up being the last day this winter to remain below freezing all day. The next below-freezing day doesn't occur until November 18.

28 Snow depth is about 15". We have gained 2 hours and 20 minutes of daylight since the winter solstice last December 21. First Eastern Chipmunks are out and about. Bald Eagles hunt fish where open water is found along the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers.



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