



JUNE PHENOLOGY



A reflective look at 2012

by Jim Gilbert, Naturalist

Summer blossoms in June, between bursts of rain. Temperatures above 95°F may occur on any June day over most of Minnesota, yet frost is possible in low areas and in the north. Listed below are a few 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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Bald Eagles feed fish to offspring. Scores of Semipalmated, White-rumped and Pectoral Sandpipers pass through the area. Spotters also record Dickcissels and Black-billed Cuckoos.



June 3 * Mourning Doves incubate eggs on loose platforms of twigs. Northern Cardinal fledglings leave the safety of their nests.

June 5 * In central and northern Minnesota, baby Common Loons are hatching and some have been seen riding on the backs of their parents, who catch fish and floating insects for them. Large mint-green luna moths seek mates tonight, one of seven nights in their adult lifespan.

June 7 * Northern catalpa and Japanese tree lilac burst with showy clusters of blossoms.

June 10 * Adult Canada Geese continue losing their flight feathers and soon will be grounded until new feathers grow in.

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Gardeners pick ripe raspberries and dig the first new potatoes. Usually the first garden raspberries are ripe on July 1.



June 15 * The first annual cicada buzzes. Garden roses at the U of MN Landscape Arboretum are at peak bloom. In the Victoria area, green frogs and common tree frogs call throughout the night.

June 14 * Baltimore Orioles feed their nestlings.

June 16 * Broods of Wood Duck ducklings tag along with their mothers. Wild lupines reach their peak bloom along the North Shore of Lake Superior.

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Indigo Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks delight us with their presence at our seed feeders. Baltimore Oriole parents are busy feeding young nestlings, and some have just begun bringing their new fledglings to feeding stations.



June 21 * Wild blackcap raspberries are ripe. Common milkweed blooms with fragrant flowers.

June 24 * Red mulberry fruit is ripe. It's a delicious snack for hikers, and a very popular songbird food.

June 26 * On summer evenings, Common Nighthawks fly over many of our cities, calling and stopping to feed. They nest on rooftops.

June 27 * Over two dozen different bird species contribute to this morning's chorus. Singing begins at about 4:28 a.m. CDT, starting with American Robins.

June 28 * It's a great time to see fireflies now. Spy their tiny lights over meadows and grassy ditches, not far from woodlands. Purple Martins and Chipping Sparrows are among the birds busy feeding young nestlings.

June 30 * This is our tenth day of 90°F or above this year in the Twin Cities.