

# May Phenology

a reflective look at 2008 *Jim Gilbert*



In May, warm temperatures and showers continue the greening-up process. It's a month of woodland wildflowers and delightful weather, neither too hot nor too cold.

**1** First reports of returning Baltimore Orioles. Woodland wildflowers that began flowering today include large-flowered bellwort, white trout-lily and cut-leaved toothwort.

**2** American Robin young fledged. Female Wood Ducks, Mallards and Hooded Mergansers are incubating eggs. First Green Heron. Due to cold, wet weather, statewide only 1 percent of the corn is planted. In 2007 at this time 20 percent was seeded.

**3** By now "the big three" are back, so those who feed birds are thrilled to see Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds visiting their feeding stations.

**4** Ice-out date for Mille Lacs Lake and Otter Tail Lake.

**5** First Canada Goose goslings. While here in the Twin Cities we notice a green tinge in the forest canopy and hear American Toads calling, today the ice left Gull Lake in Nisswa and Detroit Lake in Becker County.

**8** First leaves on Sugar Maples. First Gray Catbird returns.

**9** Indigo Buntings arrives

**12** Ice-out date for Lake Bemidji, Lake of the Woods, and both Sea Gull Lake and Gunflint Lake in northwest Cook County.

**14** First Scarlet Tanager. First Common Tree Frogs calling. White-tailed Deer fawns being born.

**15** Peak of warbler migration: 21 species seen. Thickets of wild plum trees in bloom. First new shade in forests.

**16** Common Purple Lilac blooms are opening.

**17** Morel Mushrooms up. First Ruby-throated Hummingbird returns to Lutsen.

**18** First Columbine blooming in forest. Masses of dandelions blooming. While eastern redbud and Ohio buckeye trees have showy flowers in the Twin Cities area, and quaking aspens have new bright green leaves in Cloquet and Duluth, it's the ice-out date for Greenwood Lake in Cook County.

**19** Statewide, 67 percent of Minnesota's field corn is planted (seeded); 92 percent is the 5-year average.

**20** First Common Nighthawks.

**21** First Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterfly on the wing.

**22** Apple orchards now in bloom. Cedar Waxwings feed on the blossoms.

**23** In Waconia, first alfalfa hay is cut, and field corn is up 2."

**24** Morels continue to be found. Common Purple Lilac shrubs at bloom peak. Hairy Woodpeckers are feeding nestlings. Crabapple bloom peak in the U of MN Landscape Arboretum. First fireflies on the wing in Lanesboro area.

**27** Gardeners are cutting asparagus.

**28** First migratory Monarch butterfly spotted.

**30** Late crabapple trees and tulips still have showy flowers.

**31** European Mountain Ash and Northern Lights Azaleas blooming nicely. The morning bird chorus is great. Some of the singers include House Wrens, Baltimore Orioles and Warbling Vireos.



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# June Phenology

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June can be the month of rains. Temperatures above 95 degrees F many occur on any June day over most of Minnesota, and yet frost is always possible in low areas and in the north.

**1** Meteorologists consider June 1 to be the first day of summer. Astronomers wait until the June solstice (12:46 am on June 21, 2009) for summer to begin. Juvenile chipmunks seen out and about. First black field crickets chirping.

**4** Both young Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers jumped from their respective nest boxes. Baltimore Orioles and Gray Catbirds come to feeders for grape jelly.

**7** Tall Bearded Irises now showy in gardens. Eastern Phoebe young fledged. In the Lutsen area, Lung Moths and the first Canadian Tiger Swallowtail butterflies are on the wing, black flies are out, wild blueberry shrubs are in bloom, and White-throated Sparrows and Ovenbirds are very vocal.

**11** White Pines are shedding yellow pollen. Four Song Sparrow eggs in a nest hatched. Heavy rains this evening.

**13** Minnesota's state flower, the showy Pink-and-white Lady's Slipper began blooming in the U of MN Landscape Arboretum, where beds of peonies are at their showiest and Russian Olive Tree flowers are opening.

**14** First ripe garden strawberries. Trumpeter Swans seen with newly-hatched cygnets.

**19** House Wrens, Baltimore Orioles and Ospreys are among the birds feeding nestlings.

**20** High of 85 degrees F. The sixth time this year we reached 80 degrees or above. Many clutches of newly hatched Wood Duck young have jumped in the last few days (about 90 percent jump in the morning between 8 and 8:30).

**21** With our longest days of the year, birds start singing at 4:20 am.

**23** In Lutsen/Tofte area, Common Purple Lilacs and crabapple trees plus wild Lupines are blooming nicely, and Black-throated Green Warblers and Veerys are singing.

**25** Serviceberry fruit is ripening and has been discovered by Cedar Waxwings. Scarlet Elderberry shrubs have ripe fruit that is relished by many birds. Japanese Tree Lilacs and Northern Catalpa Trees are loaded with showy flowers.

**26** Lightning bugs numerous.

**28** At West Battle Lake in Otter Tail County, the surface water temperature is 70 degrees F, and a mayfly hatch is on. Purple Martins and Common Loons, Green and Common Tree Frogs are all calling.

**29** At Blue Mounds State Park, the prickly-pear cactus has just begun blooming. Bobolinks, Dickcissels and Savannah Sparrows are numerous; both Eastern and Western Meadowlarks sing, and the rare Blue Grosbeaks are present.

**30** Staghorn Sumac at bloom peak and very fragrant. Tree Swallow young fledged. Field corn averages 20"; the 5-year average is 33".



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