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JULY PHENOLOGY

Jim Gilbert's Nature Notes

First week of July

Lately, we've been seeing several species of dragonflies, mosquito eaters that rival butterflies in beauty, form and color. The first Carolina grasshoppers are now on the wing and the first pods are forming on common milkweed, with honeybees visiting their fragrant flowers. Gray-headed coneflower and wild bergamot are two prairie wildflowers blooming nicely this month. Fledgling tree swallows perch on utility lines with adults. American robins sing and call until 9:40 p.m. After dark, you may notice that fireflies have become quite numerous.

Second week of July

Wild currants and gooseberries are ripe and tasty. Rhubarb is still being pulled for sauce and pies. Gardeners dig their first new potatoes and try to beat birds to the ripe raspberries. Deer flies and mosquitoes continue to be bothersome. At Lutsen and Grand Marais, the surface temperature of Lake Superior is normally still in the 40s, and rugosa roses, double peonies and lupines are in bloom.

Third week of July

On dewy mornings, orb spider webs are showy in the low-angle sunlight. Gardeners are enjoying their first ripe tomatoes. In colonies of nesting great blue herons, great egrets and black-crowned night herons, the young are quite large; it's a full-time job for parents to keep their nestlings fed. Around this time, the first locally-grown sweet corn becomes available. Many of us look forward to this each season and expect to enjoy the delicious vegetable fresh from fields until about September 20.

Fourth week of July

Watch for numerous flying Carolina grasshoppers on bicycle trails and along country roads. The second generation of eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies is on the wing. Common sunflowers start blooming along highways.

On July 26, 2023, Lake Waconia water temperature was a warm 82 degrees; the reading was taken a foot down over deep water.

Fifth week of July

Morning glories are blooming in gardens, and the wheat harvest is underway. Snowy tree crickets are calling in the evening, and this familiar sound will be heard until into October. They chirp with a tuneful sound; count the number of chirps in 15 seconds, add 40, and you will have a good approximation of the air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

Canada geese start honking again, a sound we haven't heard since mid-June when the adults shed their flight feathers and became flightless for about six weeks.

LOOK FOR ...



First field corn silking (Carver County)

2023	July 10
2022	July 15
2021	July 8
2020	July 5
2019	July 18
2018	July 6
2017	July 13
2016	July 7
2015	July 10
2014	July 16



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