

Nature Notes and Phenology Archive 2009

12/31/09: Once in a blue moon there is one on New Year's Eve. A blue moon is the second full moon in a month.

12/21/09: Winter Solstice - Cold temperatures with lots of good snow -Z

12/17/09: 200+ Bohemian waxwings were seen in a tree in the Minocqua area -L

12/14/09: 6 more inches of snow today. -Z

12/7/09: Tom Joseph went for a lunch time ski and came across 15 trumpeter swans down on the river trail.-Z

12/5/09: Statehouse Lake finally froze today: I believe that this is the latest in the 9 or so years that I have been watching.-Z

11/24/09: Preliminary reports show a sharp decline in deer harvest this year. Maybe weather, maybe, lack of deer.-Z

11/24/09: Unusually warm weather. This time last year I was walking across the Turtle Flambeau Flowage.

11/18/09: Bryan Hoover of Lac du Flambeau called me the other day to report 13 Tundra Swans on Little Trout. Tundra Swans have a yellow spot at the base of the beak. - Z

11/16/09: First significant ice cover of the year was on Statehouse Lake this morning- about 2/3 covered- went away with the afternoon sun. -L

11/7/09: Imagine you're a white snowshoe hare living in a brown forest. Would you be terrified if just about every predator in the Northwood's wants to eat you? This is the scenario I saw today. Climate Change is and will have a major impact on our local environment. -Z

10/24/09: First significant snowfall this winter, required plowing, small snowbanks lasted about three days. Also, Troy had his first ski of the season! -L

10/12/09: I found moose tracks in N. Iron County today. Keep a look out for bull moose in our area. This is the time of year when young bulls are looking for cows. - Z

9/29/09: First hard frost of the year. 1/2 in. of ice in a bucket with water.-Z

9/29/09: First snow flakes of the year fell here at the Center this morning- only lasted a few minutes. Also, I saw a wolf south of Island Lake Road last night, not a phenological event, but a pretty cool sighting. :) -L

9/26/09: Dark eyed juncos are migrating through. -Z

9/25/09: I've been hearing a strange screeching noise at night near my house in Manitowish Waters. At first, it had me baffled but through process of elimination I figured out the mysterious sound. It was a long eared owl. They must be migrating through our area. -Z

9/14/09: Monarch butterflies are now on their way to Mexico- about a 3,000 mile trip! I have tagged 23 of them. This summer we successfully raised and released 22 male and 22 female monarch butterflies!!!

9/11/09: The deciduous trees have started changing colors. It seems like the color change is early this year. My guess is that peak will be the last week in September or first week in October.-Z

9/1/09: Lake Surgeon have been seen jumping out of the water on Benson Lake, and the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. -Z

8/22/09: I picked my first batch of apples today near the Steven's Point area. -Z

7/20/09: 3 Female and 1 Male Monarch emerged today. -L

7/15/09: First monarch emergence of the year! Two monarchs I am raising emerged from the chrysalis today, one male and one female- we released them here at the Center. -L

6/22/09: I'm feeling "Hot.. Hot.. Hot" .. 90 degree temperatures today.-z

6/18/09: Lots of bear sightings this year.-z

6/17/09: Eagle chicks are quite large. -z

6/16/09: First attempt Loon chicks hatching. So far it appears to be a good year.-z

6/16/09: Monarch Butterfly in Eagle River. -L

6/14/09: Painted and Snapping turtles laying eggs on Hwy K. -L

6/9/09: four baby Eastern Phoebes hatched at the Center. -L

5/26/09: White-tailed deer are dropping their fawns.-z

5/15/09: Watch for the warblers.-z

4/30/09: Leopard frogs calling at Powell Marsh. -Z

4/28/09: First frog eggs at Deer Lake near Mercer. - Z

4/26/09: Blue spotted salamander in salamander survey traps. -Z

4/23/09: Saw my first Morning Cloak butterfly today- saw a butterfly last Tuesday that I couldn't identify- looked tortoise-like... -L

4/18/09: Crane Count Day- Ice is completely off of Statehouse Lake! -L

4/13-4/17/09: Many new things this week: spring peepers, chorus frogs, wood frogs, sandhill cranes, loons up in Mercer and at Sherman Lake (many other areas as well, song sparrow. -L

4/17/09: I came back to the cabin to see a medium sized black bear standing next to the porch... -L

4/13/09: Phoebe calling outside the Center -L

3/31/09: 12-15 eagle seen 1 1/2 miles from the intersection of Hwy M and 51 near sayner.-Ann Swift

3/28/09: First woodcock heard at my house near Manitowish Waters.-z

3/28/09: First Sandhill crane call of the year near Mercer.-z

3/25/09: Woodcock heard in Eagle River, also chipmunks are now out here at the Center. -L

3/23/09: First chipmunk of the year seen in Minocqua.-z

3/23/09: 3 female white winged crossbills at the feeders at the Center -Z&L

3/17/09: First Robin singing at the Discovery Center for 2009~ -L

3/16/09: Mourning Dove cooing this morning at my house near Manitowish Waters. -Z

3/15/09: Today, I saw a flock of snow buntings just off of Hwy 182 near springstead. -Z

3/9/09: Bear tracks seen at birdfeeder near Winchester. -L

3/8/09: Saw a skunk on the side of the road- must be warm enough for them to come out now! -L

3/6/09: Woodcock peenting and bluebirds singing in SE Milwaukee County...they are on their way! -L

3/6/09: Cardinals singing in Eagle River -L

3/5/09: Cougar sighting near Spooner, Wisconsin and its official. The DNR now has some hard evidence of a wild cougar in Wisconsin. Probably, a male looking for a mate. -Z

3/3/09: Saw-whet owls calling in Arbor Vitae -L

2/9/09: While snowshoeing at Langley Lake, near Star Lake, this weekend, Troy and I saw a lot of great animal sign. All along the trail there were urination spots with blood- telling us that wild canine females are in estrus, and mating will begin soon. There was also an active beaver out and about, cutting trees down and dragging them to the lodge. -L

2/3/09: Approx. 20 Pine siskins and one redpoll were at our feeders today! -L

1/31/09: Bird Club members went to Rhinelander to see a Varied Thrush. -L

1/30/09: Trumpeter swans (2) were down on the Manitowish River along the ski trail. -L

1/27/09: Black bears are giving birth in their dens this time of year. Baby black bears weigh less than a pound at birth and are naked, blind and deaf. -L

1/26/09: -25 degrees this morning. Radio collared American Pine Martens were found in ground holes under the snow. Snow is a great insulation layer and many animals go under the snow to keep warm.

1/15/09: A Townsend's Solitaire was seen and photographed near Phelps, WI -L

1/14/09: Zach reports seeing crossbills all over the area

1/7/09: We caught a marten near Carey that turned out to be a reintroduced marten from Winter, WI!-L ..