

Nature Notes and Phenology Archive 2010

12/31/10: Still raining-Z

12/30/10: With these warm temps, some of our not-so-true hibernators can be woken up and become active-proven today by a distinct skunk smell on Hwy W -L

12/30/10: 40 degrees and raining.-Z

12/21/10: This years Christmas bird count survey broke new records with a total of 31 bird species. White winged crossbills,White Crowed Sparrow,Northern Cardinal,and Evening Grosbeak were some of the new additions.-Z

12/20/10: Set your alarms! Early tomorrow morning, which also happens to be the Winter Solstice, we will have the only lunar eclipse of 2010. A lunar eclipse takes place when the sun, Earth and moon are all perfectly aligned with the Earth in the middle. When the moon passes behind the Earth, the sun's rays are blocked from striking the moon. This can only occur when the moon is full. It will last about 3.5 hours-approx. 2:17 am will be the peak of the eclipse- get up and enjoy it!! ~L

12/15/10: Our first really cold morning here: ~-15 F! Brrrr! -L 12/14/10: While out snowshoeing on our trail two flying squirrels glided in next to me...in the middle of the day! They are normally nocturnal. -L 12/7/10: Flash the ferret has his winter coat- it almost seems that overnight he becomes this fluffy beast with thick fur! -L 12/6/10: First skiers arrived at the Center today, snow is a bit "fluffy" to pack and get a good base, but it's still fun to play in! -L 12/6/10: Saw a gray fox just east of the Center on Hwy W-no matter what color phase the fox is in, the gray fox will always have a black tipped tail, and the red fox will always have a white tipped tail. The black tip on this animal's tail told me right away it was a gray fox- this is the animal's "fieldmark" -L

11/24/10: Statehouse Lake is frozen over. -L

11/23/10: Half of Statehouse Lake is frozen today. Last year the lake froze on 12/5/09 and 11/18 in 2008.-z

11/22/10:Thunder and Lightning during a snowstorm. Unusual weather once again.-z

11/22/10: Dark-eyed junco's are still hanging around. Also I have noticed lots of gold finches. I predict a big finch year.-z

11/22/10: We still have just a light dusting of snow, no major falls yet this year. Statehouse Lake is about 60% covered with ice as of today. ~L

11/19/10: Black bear spotted by County Road O east of the Center. Bear was a bit drowsy looking and it's face was covered with porkie quills. Most bears go into hibernation early to mid November. We wonder if this bear will be able to hibernate normally this winter. ~L

11/4/10: Snow buntings are here! -L

11/3/10: Monarch Butterfly seen flying around Eagle River. Most likely one of the last ones still in the Northwoods. ~L

10/26-28/10: Record wind tore through the Lakeland area. Gusts over 60 MPH left over 62,000 people without power at the height of the storm. Air pressure got down to 28.31 inches, what you might see in a category three hurricane. Clean up is still going on a week later.... ~L

10/18/10: 3-point Buck at the bird feeders last night.

10/16/10: Swans still with us - beautiful looks for visitors all day long!

10/12/10: 5 swans were on Statehouse lake tonight after work. They were also seen there last week, two adults and three young. -L

7/27/10: Severe storms hit area. Tornado damage on Turtle-Flambeau Flowage -K

6/31/10: Blue bead lily blooming -K

6/29/10: Saw albino deer near hwy 51 -K

6/16/10: Turkey at center...chased a crow -K

6/14/10: Two weeks of rain, water levels on Statehouse Lake increased by 8 cm. -Z

6/3/10: First monarch caterpillar found. -L

5/30/10: White-tailed Deer fawns are born. -H

5/28/10: Lake water temperatures above 80 degrees fahrenheit -Z

5/16/10: 93 species of birds counted at Bird Fest -Z

4/30/10: Black-throated green warbler, black and white warbler, and wood anemone are out -L

4/22/10: Early morning bird survey and Lac du Flambeau's Powell Marsh came up with Sharp-tailed grouse, Sandhill Cranes, Lincoln Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Myrtle Warbler, Song and Swamp Sparrows.-Z

4/12/10: Pine Warblers are here.-Z

4/11/10: Completed our Owl survey. Heard several woodcock and two Barred Owls. Also, the Northern Lights made an appearance, so awesome! -L

4/10/10: Woke up to the sound of loons calling...ahhhhh... -L

4/7/10: First bear reported to us- see across from Marywood Spirituality Center, off of HWY 51 in the state forest -L

4/5/10: the phoebes and merlins are back at the Center-also the hepaticas are blooming and the shooting stars are emerging -L

3/31/10: On a hike around Zach's house we heard spring peepers and saw June bug's flying around. Also the lack of bugs and 70 degree weather was awesome! But I did get my first mosquito bite :(-L

3/23/10: Woodcocks and woodfrogs out tonight for the first time. -L

3/22/10: Ice out on Statehouse Lake- earliest date on our records- L

3/22/10: Ruffed Grouse heard drumming all last week. Also, Dark eyed juncos have returned to the Center today. -L

3/19/10: Two year old beavers are leaving their winter lodge and heading down rivers to find a new mate and new territories.-Z

3/18/10: Canada Goose siting on a nest near Rhinelander. -Z

3/17/10: Also, red-winged blackbirds, robins, killdeer, belted kingfisher, wood duck, mallard, bluebird, sandhill cranes are back (seen on the WI river today) -L

3/17/10: Just saw a mourning cloak butterfly on my lunch hike. They are one of the few butterflies that hibernate as adults in the winter- they stay under the bark of trees and when the spring sun warms up the tree they come out. -L

3/15/10: Saw whet owl heard calling in Arbor Vitae. -L

3/15/10: On a recent bird club outing, in N.Iron County, we saw 4 gray jays and 15-20 evening grosbeaks.-Z

3/10/10: The forecast is for rain today. Also, the first road weight limit sign went up today in Manitowish Waters.-Z

3/6/10: The first evening grosbeaks and a chipmunk at my feeder today.-Z

3/5/10: Reports of bear scat filled with bird seed at a home near Lac du Flambeau- it is possible with these warm temps that male bears may come out and explore early (most bears come out mid-April)-L

3/5/10: When the temperature is in the 40's during the day and below freezing at night, this is the best time for maple syruping. -Z

3/4/10: Reports of skunks wondering the roadside. Temperatures in the upper 30's during the day.-Z

3/3/10: Warm day, reached 40 degrees. Ed also reports mourning doves at his house in Lac du Flambeau, first he has seen there this year -L

2/23/10: I noticed that the black-capped chickadees have changed to their spring time call.-Z

2/23/10: Feels like spring with a few snow showers. Cold nights and in the upper 30's during the day.-Z

2/22/10: There is hard crust of snow covering the Northwoods. Many critters take advantage of these snow conditions.-Z

2/20/10: A barred owl was seen mid day at the Discovery Center. It appeared to be hunting for squirrels.-Z

1/15/10: January thaw. Unseasonably warm temperatures. If I'm not mistaken this seems to be fairly common for January.-Z

1/1/10: Great walleye bite over the new years weekend.-Z