

**From the North Shore of Little Rock Lake in Benton Co.
SEPTEMBER 2016 WEATHER AND PHENOLOGY IN REVIEW**

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WEATHER: The wet weather continues. A lot more rain than last year when we only received 1.56 inches of rain. (No snow) Temperature wise nothing unusual with the low temperature of 37 degrees on the 14th and the high of 82 on the 19th. The average temperatures were 53.7 and 71.5 degrees for the low and high respectively.

Rain fell on fifteen days, the most rain on the 21st when I recorded .73 of an inch in the gage. Rain fell off and on all month keeping the grass green. Total for the month was 3.38 inches and for the calendar year 29.56 inches, nearly five inches more than last year at this time.

LOCAL WEATHER RECORDS FOR SEPTEMBER: The coldest occurred in 1942 when the mercury dipped to a warm jacket day of 18 degrees. (Lots of ice in the bird bath) On the positive side, 106 degrees in 1931, uncomfortable! In 1926 we received 10.72 inches of rain while in 1995, and .2 of snow fell marking the start of the snow season.

PHENOLOGY: With fall approaching, the Northern Orioles left in mass on the 1st with numbers falling to zero on the 8th. Ruby-throated hummingbirds were mostly gone by the 16th with just a few stragglers after that. Common at the feeder were: Blue Jays, an occasional Red Cardinal, Mourning Doves, White-breasted Nuthatch, Goldfinch, a few gulls and most notable, the appearance of a Red-headed Woodpecker. This was a rare sighting as I've only seen two or three in the past ten years.

With the fall flowers in full bloom I sighted these butterflies: A Painted Lady, two Monarchs, a Pearl Crescent and a Silvery Checkerspot all attracted to Asters not to mention all the pollinators present. Sedum and mums were in full bloom too.

A few "critters" present were: One garter snake in the buffer strip, lots of chipmunks, a couple of flying squirrels and at least two bunnies that come at night to ear cracked corn.

LITTLE ROCK LAKE: Lake level has remained stable. A lot of algae mid-month and surface algae the last ten days. Water temperature was 70 degrees on the 1st and 60 degrees on the 23rd. Secchi disk readings remained at about 16 inches. (Disappointing) When the water temperature drops things will improve.

WHAT'S AHEAD: Almost for sure, our first killing frost and MAYBE snow. It's time to check out the snow blower and clean out the bird houses.