From the North Shore of Little Rock Lake in Benton Co. MN
June 2013 WEATHER & PHENOLOGY IN REVIEW

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WEATHER: Temperatures not far off the averages at 54.35 and 76.20 degrees (F) for this June. The low reading was a chilly 39.9 degrees on the 3rd while the warm reading was a short sleeved day on the 28th when the digital thermometer topped out at 89.2 degrees. Temperatures about the same as last year.

More rain than last month when we thought it was wet with an even five inches of rain. This month I recorded 8.74 inches. Rainfall of more than one inch occurred on three occasions with the most rain falling on the 21st when I measured 3.77 inches. It rained on fifteen days. Total for the year is 21.37 inches compared to 20.10 inches last year.

LOCAL WEATHER RECORDS IN JUNE: The low and high records were 32 degrees (F) in 1993 and 102 degrees (F) in 1931. We didn't even come close to breaking the precipitation record of 10.56 inches that occurred in 1920. We entered the three month period of NO SNOW. There were two records that were State-wide so I will enter them as local were about tornadoes. The most tornadoes in one day, 27 on the 16th in 1992 and the most tornadoes in one month, 38 in 2001.

PHENOLOGY: Some general observations: No additional purple martins (only three pair compared to twelve pair last year) and very few bees and butterflies. Lots of orioles, blue jays, brown-headed cow birds, gray catbirds and more wrens than last year. Evie Kirchner of Rice is the second person to report the appearance of the Eurasian Collared-Dove. She has had several at her bird feeder. I'm still waiting for them to appear at our feeders. A first, at least three pair of Brown Thrashers slowing the bug population growth here. They are really working over our gardens.

Some odds and ends to report: The sighting of a black bear with a cub only a mile or two from Little Rock Lake was big news. A couple of additional sightings have also been made. Flowers are now coming into bloom. Yes it is late, but at least some color is emerging from all the green. Maple seeds coming down like rain on the 12th along with tons of mosquitoes. American Cranberry in full bloom on the 13th and the first fire-fly on the 27th.

LITTLE ROCK LAKE ISSES: Lake water temperature on the 1st was 60 degrees (F) and ended the month with a reading of 71 degrees (F). Heavy rains caused the lake levels to rise causing some docks to be submerged. Some boats had to be moved. The high water peaked on the 24th bringing a sigh of relief to many lake residents. At the end of the month algae was coming on strong and will be a concern in July. On July 25th, THE DAYS STARTED GETTING SHORTER...

NATURE NOTE: Purple Martins are loyal to their homes; once they have nested successfully at a site, they usually return year after year. The young fledged from the colony site will return to the same vicinity the next year. (With the loss of so many martins, three of my houses remain empty.)