

2008 LLCC Phenology:

12.22.08

8:00 am. -29 degrees at LLCC. Brrrrr! Thankfully, only light winds. Got an additional 5-6 inches of snow over the weekend. With all the snow in December, we will definitely have a white Christmas this year!!

12.16.08

5:30 am. Hill City is -26 degrees with wind chill to -45 degrees.

7:15 am. Six deer seen near campus, all trying to survive the -20 degree temp outside today.

12.15.08

Weekend. Hill City gets 13 inches of snow with 15 degree temp and winds N-NW at 50 MPH gusts. Brrrrr!

3:00 pm. Barred Owl near junction of the ER and Hill Ski trail at LLCC.

12.07.08

All weekend. Accumulated 4 inches of snow.

12.01.08

8:40 am. Common red polls back at LLCC feeders.

11.30.08

All Day. Thornton Lake booming and singing all day.

11.18.08

12:50 pm. On Wilderness Meal with Guardian Angel's students, spotted 2 large Fisher tracks on snow covered rocks on the bog ski trail.

11.17.08

7:02 am. Northern Shrike stalking feeders at Meagan's home.

8:00 am. Little white Ermine runs across County Rd 88 just outside of LLCC.

11.16.08

Morning. Ice on Long Lake... completely across at the center section.. and covered with snow.

11.15.08

WQE retreat members observed a Red-Bellied Woodpecker at the bird feeder outside the dining hall.

11.14.08

8:45 am. Fifteen Trumpeter swans fly over LLCC.

Morning & afternoon. Deer on LLCC campus taunt those who'd like to be hunting.

11.8.08

Overnight. Wind chill of 12 degrees, light dusting of snow.

11.4.08 – 11.6.08

Over two days got .75 inch of rain!

11.3.08

Afternoon. High of 70 degrees!

10.29.08

3:00 pm Bald eagle behind the North Star Lodge flying above us during Thicket activity.

10.28.08

7:00 am Grey fox standing and playing by the flag pole... no more than 10 feet away!

10.26.08

8:00 am. "White out" conditions south of Aitkin and toward Brainerd. Heavy snow for 2 hours at Meagan's.. tenth of an inch total.

Afternoon. Mosquitoes still hanging around – GIVE UP ALREADY!!

4:35 pm. Hummingbird must have late travel plans. (I hope soon!!)

Daytime. Discovered the remains of a deer the wolves killed on LLCC property.

9:00 pm. Two deer run out in front of Carol on Highway 5, 2 miles from LLCC. The second one runs into her car but got up and kept running; Took out the driver side mirror and left a small dent.

10.15.08

Morning. Large bald eagle attacks Canada Goose on Lake.. does NOT come away with dinner.

10.12.08

Daytime. A few mosquitoes still hanging around.

10.11.08

Overnight. Bear raids Meagan's feeders, hind track measures 9.5 inches claws to heel.

9.19.08

12:30 pm. Two Otters in the lake near the office.

9.12.08

8:30 am. Two juvenile hummingbirds still coming to the feeder.

9.9.08

Noon. Five Ruffed Grouse in the woods by Ryan's house at LLCC.

9.8.08

Daytime? Fawn's spots are fading.

9.3.08

6:50 am. Male Oriole still at feeders at Meagan's.

8.26.08

7:35 am. Loon adults & young all take flight at the same time.

8.21.08

Daytime. 58 Monarch caterpillars (1 "J" stage & 1 Crysallis) in the Butterfly garden.

8.11.08

8:00 am. Doe with fawn on County Road 88.

7.22.08

5:30 pm. Heard Broad-winged Hawk along archery trail.

7.15.08

7:40 am. 8 juvenile crows in dead tree on County Road 5.

7.12.08

Evening. LLCC received 1.7 inches of rain.

7.10.08

5:50 am. Red fox across Highway 5.

Morning. Pam watches adult loons teach 2 young how to dive (1 is very unsure!)

7.9.08

Morning. Loon parents teaching the 2 young loons how to dive in the swimming area on Long Lake.

7.7.08

11:00 am. Porcupine comes to check out the new fence at the North Star Lodge.

6.24.08

11:00 am. Steve Hart sees 3 wolves chasing a fawn in the field northwest of town (Aitkin).

1:15 pm. Large snapping turtle tries to go to school!.. it walked up the ramp to the schoolhouse.

6.08.08

Daytime. Three Monarch butterflies in Meagan's yard.

6.22.08

Daytime. Snapping turtle in a window well at the IC's house.

6.17.08

1:30 pm. LLCC's first 2 "loonlets" make their lake debut!!

3:45 pm. Four phoebes in luggage shed nest fledged.

6.16.08

Daytime. Fledgling robins harassing Dad.

6.12.08

Evening. Lightning bugs dancing in the wind before a storm.

6.01.08

Daytime. 81 degrees. First 80+ day since September 24, 2007. Tiger Swallowtails out at Meagan's.

5.29.08

Daytime. Jack-in-the-Pulpit in bloom.

5.22.08

All day. Indigo bunting on dining hall feeder.

Afternoon. Grey tree frogs calling all night.

1:00 pm. Loon sitting on nest platform!

5.20.08

All Day. Trilliums, marsh marigolds, and wild ginger all in bloom.

5.19.08

8:00 am Red fox on Highway 5 just south of County Rd 88 (LLCC's road).

Night Bear destroys Chris' feeding station (3 feeders).

5.18.08

Daytime Fox kit on Tanya's road.

5.16.08

6:45 am Spotted sandpiper on LLCC beach.

5.15.08

6:30 am Coyote walking down 3rd Street in Aitkin.

3:50 pm Old peat plant on Hwy 169 - Proud Canada Geese parents w/3 goslings.

5.13.08

2.:25 pm Pair of Orioles at feeder at LLCC.

5.12.08

5:00 pm Rosebreasted Grosbeak at Carol's feeder.

6:00 pm Pair of Cardinals at Carol's feeder.

5.11.08

Morning A pair of red-headed woodpeckers at Meagan's.

5.05.08

8:00 am. 3 deer on LLCC's road by the parking lot. They stopped to watch me drive in.

All Day. Chorus of frogs in the marsh by the energy center. Variety of song birds singing on campus.

5.1.08

Evening. Woodcock very active.

4.30.08

Morning. 51 deer spotted along 10 miles on Highways 3 and 5.

Afternoon. 2 Sandhill Cranes in field North of LLCC along County Rd 5.

4.29.08

6:00 am. 3 deer laying under bird feeder.

2:30 pm. Common snipe in watery field on Highway 3.

5:25 pm. Brown Thrush spotted in North Aitkin County.

4.26.08

6:00 am. 3+ inches of snow overnight. Cold 28° with strong wind and sleet/snow. Photographers on retreat at LLCC, watched Sharptail Grouse do their ritual drumming/dance at the DNR's Gun Lake blind off County 5. They (the grouse... and the photographers??) did not mind the cold, wind, or sleeting snow!

All Day. Snow falling. Did not get warmer than 38° with gusty winds.

4.24.08

Daytime. Mosquito was sighted!

4.23.08

Morning. Ice out on Long Lake. Warm and sunny.

4.22.08

Morning. Loons calling on Long Lake. - SWEET Music!

9:40 am. Bluebird sitting on the Butterfly Garden sign. Possibly using the bluebird house there??

4.21.08

6:30 am Green winged Teal on Long Lake.

All day. Pair of Hooded Mergansers, a Common Goldeneye, and a pair of Loons all on Long Lake. High temp today of 73°.

9:00 am Loon yodeling. Pair of Buffalo Head ducks spotted. Woodchuck (not Stevie) in the dirt mound by the archery field.

4.20.08

8:00 am Mallard walking along Highway 210.. (??confused about the lack of water??)

All day Mallards on Long Lake in open water along shoreline. Hooded Merganser also on the lake. Frog chorus going all day.

4.19.08

10:00 pm Spring Peepers calling south of the NSL.

4.18.08

10 am Tree swallow on sign in front of NSL.

3:00 pm. Chorus of frogs in marsh by the Energy Center.

4:00 pm. Woodpeckers (2) hammering away by the admin building.

Late Afternoon Snow starting to fall mixed with some sleet.

4.17.08

9:30 pm Chorus of wood frogs calling south of the NSL (in direction of Kettlehole)

4.15.08

Day Most of the snow fall has melted away. More birds arriving.

4.12.08

Noon Accumulated over 12" snow. Wet and heavy. Trees are budding in spite of the cold and snow.

4.11.08

All Day Snow falling and blowing all day.

4.10.08

Late afternoon: Snow starting to fall, mixed with some sleet.

4.9.08

8:00 am A Woodpecker's "jackhammer" sound fills the air on LLCC campus between the dining hall and the administration building.

All day. More trees are showing their buds. Spring is still coming despite the snow.

4.8.08

7:40 am Turkey Vulture in the Osprey nest on Highway 169 on the flats.

10:00 am Redtail Hawk seen sitting in a tree along Highway 169 east of the flats. A Ringneck Pheasant rooster seen in the field along Highway 169 flats.

Morning. Mississippi River at Palisade is open from bank to bank; the ice is gone.

4.07.08

7:30 am 3 swans in Moose River on Highway 169 N.

Daytime. Otter seen feeding on Long Lake.

4.6.08

All Day 19 inches snow fell in North Aitkin County. (LLCC received 6" of snow)

4.4.08

7:15 am Robins on the campus.

7:18 am 3 Great Blue Herons fly over 169 toward the Mississippi.

7:40 am 6 Turkey vultures watching over deer remains along County Rd 5 north of LLCC.

8:15 am Purple finches at the dining hall feeder.

4.3.08

9:30 am 3 Goldeneyes flying over the campus. Snow is still on the ground at about 40% coverage at LLCC. Long Lake ice is about 12" thick near the shoreline. Temperatures are rising. High today of 48 degrees.

10:10 am Couple of Mourning Cloak butterflies flying around the front of the dining hall at LLCC.

11:55 am Large group of crows feeding on the deer carcass along County Road 5 N.

2:30 pm Grouse drumming - off the double birch trail.

4:30 pm Stevie is back! Stevie is LLCC's resident blind woodchuck. He ran behind the energy center.

4.2.08

8:20 am Robin calling at LLCC.

4.1.08

4:20 pm Holly (Chris' dog) gets up a covey of Pine Grouse at Chris' house.

3.31.08

9:00 am Male Kestrel spotted on Highway 5. Large coyote and 3 bald eagles at fresh deer carcass on Highway 5 N.

10:00 am Two Canadian Geese observed flying over the lake.

11:00 am Sandhill Cranes calling over Farm Island Lake.

5:00 pm One white-throated sparrow at the bird feeder.

3.29.08

Mldday. Robin at Blind Lake (west of Long Lake).

3.27.08

9:00 am Two red-winged blackbirds at Meagans.

3.26.08

8:55 am Coyote on CR5.

10:35 am Male robin at Meagan's house.

2:45 pm Two Groshawks in the field along Highway 169.

2:30 pm Woodchuck on County Rd 3 by River bridge.

2:15 pm Large Eagles feeding on deer in ditch along Co Rd 5 N.

3.24.08

Morning. Office chipmunks are out and about. Raccoon tracks near school house.

3.21.08

12:15 pm Marsh hawk hunting along Highway 5.

Eve & Overnight. 4" snow fell at Meagan's.

3.20.08

5:45 pm Two Canada Geese on Farm Island Lake.

3.19.08

7:48 am Five Deer - Two does and three yearlings head out onto the lake past the Dining Hall.

3.17.08

Morning. Lightly snowing. 31° F.

3.15.08

7:30 am Mourning Dove in Meagan's yard.

3.12.08

5:45 am Red fox out on Highway 5.

4:15 pm Rain showers during cross-country skiing.

3.11.08

5:45 am Skunk out for morning walk along Highway 5.

Afternoon. Daily high of 49° F.

3.10.08

8:12 am Large coyote trotting by on County Rd 28 near Rom Egg Farm.

3.7.08

4:45 pm Two does at the bird feeder to the east of the dining hall.

5:30 pm Doe comes up to dining hall window, on south side, to watch the quilters group gathering inside.

6:30 pm Doe returns to the bird feeder at east end of dining hall.

3.6.08

7:50 am Huge gray wolf crossed Highway 210.

3.5.08

7:15 am Red polls at the feeder, rainbow sundogs at sunrise.

2.29.08

8:40 am 3 male and 2 female Pine Grosbeaks on the feeders at LLCC.

2.23.08

8:00 am Signs of a rabbit getting taken out by an owl are found by the Energy Center.

2.22.08

7:15 am Crows are harassing a Barred owl in a tree by the Director's house.

Evening Skunk out and about on LLCC campus.

2.20.08

11:00 am Wolf tracks and scat are found on the County's ski trail on LLCC.

2.12.08

12:30 pm Two porcupines spotted in a tree at LLCC.

5:00 pm Large Barred owl spotted in a tree at LLCC.

5:30 pm Three deer eating out of the dining hall bird feeder.

2.11.08

7:55 am. -25 degrees at LLCC.

2.5.08

Morning Skunk tracks at the Director's home while out on a stroll.

2.4.08

Morning Snow flurries - approximately 1.5 inches. Three pileated woodpeckers battle over suet at Meagans.

2.3.08

Morning. Snowy owl on flats on highway 169 near Aitkin.

1.31.08

5:36 pm Snowy owl on the flats near Aitkin.

1.30.08

6:00 am -19 derees.. Windchill at -46 degrees. Wearing lots of layers!

1.29.08

10:00 pm - -24 degrees. Wind chill at --29 dregrees.

01.28.08

5:00 am -27 degrees at Hill City. - Chris' house.

2:00 pm - 42 Dregrees high at LLCC.

6:00 pm - Pair of Barred owls behind the apartments.

7:00 pm Barred owls behind the apartment feeder.

1.26.08

3:00 pm Large flock of Red polls at Chris' house.

1.24.08

5:00 pm. -32 degrees in Hill City this morning, 35 north of LLDD.

1.11.08

Morning. Fresh weasel tracks by the directors garage.

1.10.08

7:30 am. Juvenile snowy owl on the telephone pole on the flats (Hwy 169).

Evening. Large Barred Owl in Director's yard, in a tree.

1.9.08

8:30 am Two Redpoles on the feeder.

1.6.08

Daytime. THAW! Sunny and 43 degrees...YES... 43 degrees in January!!

1.4.08

6:20 am. Venus very bright in SE sky. International space station flies over.

1.2.08

7:40 am. Happy New Year! -12 degrees this morning. Skunk on Highway 5.