

Long Lake Conservation Center 2009 Phenology

- 12.19.09
Approximately 20+ Cedar Waxwings in Palisade feeding on leftover fruit on Ornamental crabapple trees.
- 12.12.09
Ice on Long Lake approximately 5"-6" thick.
- 12.11.09
5:55 am. Barred Owl on LLCC sign at front gate.
- 12.09.09
Mississippi River at Palisade has ice from one bank to another.
LLCC receives about 2 inches of snow.
- 12.07.09
Two male Harriers hunting in fields outside of Aitkin.
Afternoon. Mail & female cardinals at feeders in Palisade.
- 12.6.09
Male Cardinal at Pat's House
- 12.05.09
Long Lake is 100% frozen
- 11.17.09
11:00 a.m. A Bald Eagle "plays hide & seek" with a small diving duck (Grebe?) on Long Lake.
Presumably the Eagle was looking for lunch.
- 11.12.09
12:12 p.m. Ring-necked duck (drake) near beach area on Long Lake.
Afternoon Male & female Cardinal at feeder in Palisade
- 11.11.09
10:15 a.m. Three otters are seen on Long Lake.
Canada geese (100+) are still "hanging out" on Long Lake.
- 11.9.09
9:00 a.m. 15 (or so) Tundra Swans flying over County Road 5
Mid-day 3 female Hooded Mergansers as well as 100+ Canada geese on Long Lake.
- 11.6.2009
10:00 a.m. Male Cardinal 4 miles north of Aitkin
- 11.4.2009
9:45 a.m. A 10 point buck was seen during the orienteering race
- 11.2.2009
11:30 a.m. Harrier (male) on the flats. Snow buntings are back in Aitkin County.
12:45 p.m. The otters are back (all 3 of them).
- 11.1.2009
7:00 a.m. 5-6 Deer on campus. A fawn was trying to nurse.
3:30 p.m. 3 otters swimming near beach area on Long Lake
- 10.27.09
8:30 a.m. Otter seen on Long Lake
- 10.26.09

9:30 a.m. Kingfisher near beach area looking for breakfast!
10.22.09
7:20 a.m. Wolf heard howling at LLCC
10.21.09
All day LLCC receives approximately 2.5 inches of snow
10.19.09
Evening - A Barred owl answered us on the night hike.
10.12.09
Morning - Thin sheet of ice on the east end of Long Lake. At least 5 Wood ducks near west end of Long Lake.
Day - Snow at LLCC
10..10.09
Overnight - Hill City area receives 2.5 inches of snow
10.9.09
Morning - Overnight low of 23 at LLCC. Hard freeze!
10.8.09
2:45 p.m. 3 Otters were seen near the beach on Long Lake
10.1.09-10.4.09
LLCC receives 1.35" of rain
10.3.09
11:20 a.m. 2 Swans on east end of Long Lake
9.30.09 First frost
7:48 a.m. Bald eagle flies over dining hall
8:10 a.m. 7 Blue jays at platform feeder
8:30 a.m. Juncos are back
9.27.09
8:00 a.m. Wendy H. encountered a young (baby) Moose on South Long Lake Road near Glen, MN. She was able to get close enough to it to pet it.
9.14.09
6:00 a.m. Long Lake covered with geese & ducks (100+ birds)
8.14.09
All Day. Hottest day of summer so far. Very humid and 94 degrees. LLCF Golf Tournament held today. Golfers very warm!!
8.13.09
7:23 a.m. 3 Sand hill cranes on the "flats"
8.10.09
7:50 a.m. 3 Grouse still playing "chicken" on Highway 210
8.5.09
7:45 a.m. 3 Grouse playing "chicken" on Highway 210
8.1.09
All Day. Family Fun Day. Loons on Lake while canoers circled around. Frogs joined guests at campfire picnic. Several Canada Geese still hanging around ...been here all summer.
7.20.09
Afternoon. Juvenile Woodpeckers (Red Belly & Hairy) and Orioles at Meagan's.
7.19.09
9:30 am. Hill Lake adult Loon with 2 babies - good size.
7.15.09
9:30 am. Baby loon visited LBO class while mom/dad watched from near the raft.

- 7.13.09
5:45 am. Mom and 5 baby raccoons out for morning walk on Highway 5.
- 7.5.09
Afternoon. Monarchs laying eggs on milkweed.
- 7.3.09
Daytime. Green Herons on the floating bog.
- 7.2.09
All Day. Four baby black squirrels join parents under bird feeders.
- 7.1.09
5:30 am. Fox walking side of road along Highway 169 with a crow in its mouth.
Afternoon. Three baby fox kits on North side of Long Lake.
- 6.30.09
5:45 pm Four coyotes cross Highway 8 before Palisade.
- 6.24.09
2:10 pm. Doe with 2 fawns by the pump house.
5:35 pm. Doe with very small fawn along Highway 169.
- 6.23.09
11:00 am. 1.5 foot diameter snapper visits Tadpole LBO class.
7:15 pm. Gray Fox on road near wood lot.
- 6.17.09
4:00 pm. Wild turkey on ski trail south of lake.
- 6.16.09
All Day. Blueberries in full bloom.
- 6.15.09
Noon. Eastern Bluebird in house at Butterfly Garden.
- 6.11.09
5.25 am. Busy morning mother bear with 3 little cubs cross Highway 169 2 miles south of Corner Club. Mother skunk with 4 babies along Highway 5. Two foxes, one with large bird in mouth.
- 6.10.09
7:40 pm. 48 "single" geese staging on Thornton Lake on their way to Canada.
- 6.8.09
5:45 pm. Monarchs and newly fledged robins at Meagan's.
- 6.4.09
All Day. Yellow Swallowtail, Black Swallowtail, May flies out.
Night. Lightning bugs - lots and lots!
- 6.3.09
10:00 am. Proud Loon parents at beach with 1 baby.
- 6.2.09
7:00 pm. Bog in full bloom. Laurel, Rosemary, Lady Slippers, Labrador Tea, and Pitcher Plants.
- 5.16.09
1:00 pm. American Red start. Flicker nesting in tree by Admin building.
- 5.14.09
3:30 pm. Pair of Canada Greese with 8-9 goslings on Long Lake.
8:45 pm. Seven deer behind the North Start Lodge.

- 5.13.09
All Day. Wild strawberries, horsetail, and wild ginger are blooming.
5:00 pm. Pair of Canada Geese with 2 goslings SW of Palisade on Great River Road.
Evening. Indigo Bunting at feeder in Aitkin.
- 5.12.09
All Day. Windflower blooming. Grey tree frogs calling.
8:30 pm. Marsh marigolds blooming in the bog.
10:30 pm. Tanger flying through the campus.
- 5.11.09
Noon. 2 male & 1 female goldfinches at the dining hall feeder.
2:53 pm. Loons are on the nesting platform.
- 5.09.09
All day. High temp for the fishing opener averaged in upper 50's for the area.
- 5.08.09
All day. Dragonflies out and about eating bugs.
- 5.07.09
10:00 am. Pair of rose-breasted grosbeaks at LLCC feeder.
3:00 pm. Clay colored sparrow and red-eyed Vireo calling from overflow parking lot.
- 5.06.09
7:30 am. Trumpeter swans (2 pair) establishing territory on Ross Lake in Aitkin.
Morning. Marsh Marigold, Windflower, Hepatica, & Orioles at Meagan's home.
Afternoon. Trilliums in bloom and Rose-breasted grosbeak at Chris' house.
- 5.05.09
Morning. Green & Great Blue Herons, Canada Mayflower at Meagan's home.
- 5.04.09
3:35 pm. Bloodroot in bloom in N. Aitkin County.
4:30 pm. Hummingbirds back in Aitkin.
- 5.02.09
8:00 pm. Coyote crossed Highway 169 near Swatera (Hill City).
- 5.01.09
All day. Trees are showing buds and grass is green... nature is starting to color up for Spring! Warmer temps coming.
- 4.29.09
5:50 am. 41 deer 3 miles on Highway 5 & 2 coyotes in field west of Palisade.
7:50 am. Wild turkey north of Jenkins Lake (North of LLCC).
11:00 am. 4 turkey vultures circling west of Orientation field.
4:30 pm. Very small (last summer's baby!) snapping turtle on sidewalk by admin building.
- 4.28.09
3:45 pm. Pair of trumpeter swans in Moose River.
- 4.27.09
8:00 am. Otter "fishing" near beach area on Long Lake.
- 4.25.09

- 5:30 am. Pair of wood ducks on hill in front of hte office (male & female). Male hooded Merganser and beaver on NW shoreline of Long Lake.
- 4.24.09
5:10 am. Snipe winnowing like crazy in the dark.
- 4.22.09
10:00 am. Ruby Crowned Kinglet, double crested cormorant & yellow-rumped warbler at Meagan's home.
3:00 pm. Two pairs of yellow-bellied sapsuckers and hairy woodpeckers were courting at the dining hall feeders.
- 4.20.09
5:00 am. Snow light rain mixed and 26 degrees.
- 4.17.09
5:00 am. Lots of moths, high temp hatch yesterday.
9:00 am. Pair of Loons (hope they will make this their home). Lake is 95% open. Lot of water birds. High of 74 degrees - Ryan wins the staff "ice out" contest.
2:30 pm. Loons on Lake. Pair on far end and a solo near shore.
- 4.16.09
Daytime. High of 68 degrees.
11:30 am. Dozen dead lizard frogs in water near shore.
- 4.14.09
8:00 am. Loon pair back on Thornton Lake by Meagan's home.
Morning. Wolf scat on Orienteering race course by Orange Control #4.
3:45 pm. Swans on small lake 2 miles from N. Aitkin County Line Road.
8:25 pm. Woodcocks seen peenting and flying at the archery field at LLCC.
- 4.13.09
Evening. Chorus of frogs heard at Carol's house at Knief Lake.
- 4.12.09
2:30 pm. Osprey in the nest on the flats of Hwy 169.
All day. Sunshine and some trees are budding! Great signs of spring!!
- 4.10.09
7:30 pm. Five swans "swimming" on the flats along Hwy 169.
- 4.9.09
Early am. Bear raids Meagan's feeder.
8:45 am. Sound of Loons at the east end of Long Lake.
10:30 pm. Three western chorus frogs calling at Meagan's.
- 4.7.09
5:45 am. Weasel (white) across path on County 88.
3:15 pm. Black bear on the north side of the flats of Hwy 169.
4:30 pm. Otter on the ice near the lake level gauge having "dinner". (Long Lake)
- 4.1.09
NO APRIL FOOL!...Long Lake receives 8-11 inches of snow!!
7:50 am. Killdeer looks very out of place on the flats.
- 3.31.09
5:00 am. SNOW SNOW SNOW!!
- 3.30.09
6:45 am Sandhill Cranes calling near Meagan's.

- 7:00 am. Woodchucks digging several holes under Carol's house.
8:00 am. Purple finches at Long Lake bird feeder.
- 3.29.09
All Day. Abby and Meagan flushed a woodcock, saw a pair of red-tailed hawks and bald eagle in courtship flights, and watched a sharp skinned hawk stalk some chickadees.
1:00 pm. Juvenile red-tailed hawk spotted over County Rd 11 near Pequot Lakes.
- 3.27.09
2:00 am. Heard a saw-whet owl outside of the apartment.
All Day. Several people commented that they saw trumpeter swans flying overhead.
- 3.25.09
5:30 pm. Male Harrier flying over field on County Rd. 5 near Fleming Town Hall.
- 3.24.09
Morning. Common grackle, chipping sparrow, and immature eagle at Meagan's
- 3.23.09
All Day. 1.41 inches rain in less than 12 hours.
- 3.22.09
8:30 am. Eleven Junco's at Chris' feeder in North Aitkin County.
11:45 am. Both male and female Goldfinch at Chris' feeder.
- 3.20.09
11:30 am. One Junco behind dining hall... Spring is here!!
- 3.19.09
3:00 pm. Barred Owl heard on CCC course near Lava River.
10:00 pm. Barred Owl heard right outside apartment at North Star Lodge.
- 3.18.09
11:30 am. Two male bluebirds at Meagan's house.
Morning. Robins (10) flying over dining hall.
- 3.17.09
9:00 am. Two Canada Geese check out Long Lake.
- 3.15.09
8:00 am. Three robins and two redwing blackbirds at Meagan's home.
1:00 pm. Geese seen in Central Minnesota.
- 3.11.09
Morning. First chipmunk spotted outside of Lakeside Lab. Spring is near!
- 3.10.09
9:15 am. Redtail Hawk soaring over County 5 north of LLCC.
1:00 pm. Started snowing at LLCC. Blizzard in the Dakotas. Hwy 94 closed from Fargo to Alexandria. End of snow fall at 8:00 pm. 8.5 inches at Chris' house near Hill City.
- 3.9.08
1:30 pm. Large eagle over field on County 5 south of LLCC.
4:30 pm. Four deer crossed Long Lake at the center span of the lake.
- 3.8.09

- 1:00 pm. Skunk carousing around the parking lot, keeping the quilters on retreat hostage!
- 3.5.09
High of 45 degrees today.
- 2.26.09
9:25 am. Over 45 pine siskins and over 25 common redpolls at the dining hall feeders.
- 2.25.09
Afternoon. Birding class saw Downy and Hairy woodpeckers, common redpolls, pine siskins, chickadees, and white breasted nuthatches.
- 2.24.09
10:30 am. Two young deer at sunflower feeder by dining hall... also snacking on pancakes.
11:00 am. Male pileated woodpecker looking for a buggy snack at the dining hall trees.
- 2.19.09
7:00 am. Still below zero this morning, but should start warming this weekend.
7:15 am. More than 35 Red Polls at the feeder at LLCC.
11:00 am. Two deer under the bird feeders.
- 2.18.09
Two crows carrying nest material off of County Rd 24. Cold temps hit the area again.
8:00 am -10 degrees below zero this morning.
- 2.13.09
9:15 am. Downy woodpecker is eating at the feeder, upside down.
- 2.10.09
Morning. Heavy rain at 5 am. 40 degrees. 1/2 inch at Meagans.
Afternoon. Saw 2 skunks by the overflow lot.
- 2.9.09
Raining off and on. High of 37 degrees F. Saw a porcupine in the evening.
- 2.7.09
All Day Porcupine sleeping in tree near the thicket area. Caught on photo!
Porcupines have eaten off a lot of tender bark from the tree tops around this spot on the campus.
- 2.5.09
11:45 am Two Robins on County Road 28
- 2.4.09
3:15 pm Four Wolves on the flats going to Aitkin, stalking 3 deer.
Low of 18 below zero.
- 2.3.09
Low of 13 below zero.
- 2.2.09
2:45 pm Fisher tracks on South Road - past the Double Birch Trail.
- 2.1.09
2:20 pm Two muskrats across swamp.
3:10 pm Barred Owl grabs a rodent in field on County Line Rd near Hill City.

1.31.09

4:15 pm Three Sharp-tail Grouse in plum tree by Chris' house.

3:00 pm Temp at Hill City reaches 43 degrees F.

1.30.09

6:50 am High speed pursuit on Thronton Lake... Abby chases red fox, Meagan chases Abby.

2:00 pm Ref Fox along Highway 5.

1.17.09

8:00 am 10 degrees above zero... "We're having a Heat Wave!!"

1.12.09-1.16.09

Very cold period, night temps more than 20 degrees below zero. Several mornings reaching 30 or more degrees BELOW zero. Wind chills in the 40's below zero. Daytime highs only reaching single digits below zero.. mostly 'teens' below zero. Many schools in the area closed or starting late due to school bus fuel gelling.

1.12.09

8:00 am 32 degrees below zero at LLCC.

Evening Evening Grosbeaks at Chris' feeder.

1.8.09

Morning Chickadees singing Spring "Fee-Bee" song. Downy woodpeckers drumming. Great Gray Owl calling at Meagan's house.

1.5.09

7:48 am Minus 27 degrees at LLCC

4:00 pm Porcupine scat on Lake trail.