

## 2011 LLCC Phenology

12.31.11

2011 ends with a mix of rain and snow without a significant accumulation of snow.

12.15.11

5:00 a.m. Light snow and 24° in Hill City

12.14.11

5:30 a.m. Big snowflakes falling, by 7:30 a.m. it had turned to rain!

12.11.11

38°F & sunny

12.6.11

-6° F this a.m.

12.3.11

While on the Great River Road (from Aitkin to Grand Rapids) the following birds were observed: 5 Bald eagles, 3 Rough-legged hawks and 5 Pine grosbeaks.

A flock of approximately 20 Snow buntings: 2 Bald eagles, and 2 Rough-legged hawks were seen while on County Road 5.

12.1.11

The last night trek class heard wolf howl across Long Lake (the north side)

11,30.11

Two Bald eagles on Great River Road and a Rough-legged hawk was seen on County Road 5

11.29.11

Nice day, high temp. of 39° and no snow!

11.22.11

8:00 a.m. Snowy owl sitting in a tree along US Hwy 169/MN 210 4 miles north of Aitkin.

11.21.11

Long Lake completely covered with ice.

11.17.11

Whistling swan "V" headed south over Long Lake

One Ring-necked duck on Long Lake

10:00 a.m. Ice formed on the east end of Long Lake. 100-150 Canada Geese make an appearance.

11.16.11

Five Hooded mergansers on Long Lake

11.15.11

11:00 a.m. Approximately 250-300 Canada Geese on Long Lake

11.10.11

7:30 p.m. Saw deer behind dining hall

11.9-10.11

First snow in Hill City (35 miles north of LLLCCO covered ground

11.4.11

12 – 1 a.m. Wolves howling behind the North Star Lodge

10.31.11  
5:30 p.m. Deer eats sunflower seeds (outside of Dining Hall) while students eat spaghetti

10.29.11  
12:30 a.m. 3 does on driveway by North Star Lodge  
12:50 a.m. 5 raccoons on driveway by North Star Lodge

10.28.11  
5:30 a.m. Six point buck spotted on Aitkin County Road 3 two miles west of Palisade

10.26.11  
11:15 a.m. - Two deer seen crossing County Road 88 as the second Cambridge Middle School group arrived.  
50+ Canada Geese on Long Lake  
Afternoon - Female Northern Cardinal at Carlson's feeder in Palisade.  
4:30 p.m. - Bog trek class saw a deer

10.25.11  
4:00 p.m. - Bald Eagle flying over CCC course

10.24.11  
11:00 a.m. - Cambridge Middle School participants spotted a Bald Eagle in the LLCC parking lot upon their arrival.

10.21.11  
9:30 a.m. - One otter swimming in Long Lake

10.11.11  
Afternoon - Belted Kingfisher "fishing" on Long Lake near the dock.

10.7.11  
Woodcock spotted on near Gilby's Apple Orchard (Aitkin Co. Road 5 & MN 210) 13 Bald Eagles on road kill on Aitkin County Road 22

10.4.11  
Evening - Wanda & Steve see bull Moose east of Palisade near the rice paddies

10.3.11  
High of 77°. Tamarack are starting to turn "dusky gold" along the shores of Long Lake.

10.2.11  
High of 76°

10.1.11  
Another beautiful day in Aitkin County, lots of color on the trees & a high of 74°

9.30.11  
Nice day high of 68°

9.29.11  
High temp of 56° and wind gusts up to 40 miles/hour out of the north.

9.28.11  
High temperature of 82°

9.26.11  
Moose spotted on Mountain Ash Road in Itasca County (7 miles n. of Hill City)

9.25.11  
6:45 a.m. - Gray wolf near Chris' neighbors house in northern Aitkin County and chases their dog

9.20.11  
2:30 p.m. - Approximately 50 Canada geese on Long Lake

9.15.11  
7:00 a.m. - 29° at LLCC

9.14.11  
6:30 a.m. - First frost in Palisade...killed Carlson's tomato plants

8.26.11  
6:30 p.m. 2 Does adjacent to the Dining Hall

8.22.11  
6:40 a.m. 30+ Geese on Long Lake  
High bush cranberries are ripe

8.20.11  
5.35 a.m. Red Fox family on Highway 169 by the Soo Line trail (1 adult and 4 kits)

8.18.11  
11:40 a.m. Five hummingbirds on feeder at one time

8.15.11  
7:30 a.m. Hummingbird moth (Sphinx moth) on Joe-Pye Weed  
Baby Loons still on Long Lake

7.27.11  
Blueberries are ripe at LLCC

6.12.11  
3:00 p.m. Male Cardinal spotted in Palisade.

6.8.11  
Six baby Groundhogs near Marcum House.  
Two eggs on Loon's nest on Long Lake.  
Labrador tea in full bloom in the bog.

6.7.11  
6:25 a.m. Parent with School For All Seasons & Minnesota Center sees fawn near stand of Pine trees near orienteering field  
2:25 p.m. Snapping turtle laying eggs on County Road 88

6.6.11  
7:50 a.m. A fawn was seen in the woodlot.  
5:30 p.m. Painted turtle laying eggs in northern Aitkin County.

6.2.11  
6:20 a.m. 4 Hummingbirds at dining hall feeder  
Doe on road between entrance gate & overflow parking. Buck in overflow parking lot at edge of woods.

6.1.11  
4:30 p.m. Merganser with six ducklings in northern Aitkin County  
A White-throated Sparrow was calling in the bog. A Moccasin Flower Lady Slipper next to board walk.

5.31.11  
Yellow Lady slippers in bloom in the bog near Chris' house

5.24.11

6:20 p.m. Beaver walking in the vicinity of his lodge on Long Lake.

5.23.11  
Kingfisher seen fishing by Long Lake beach

5.18.11  
8:00 a.m. Goslings on Long Lake

5.17.11  
10:00 a.m. Hummingbird visits the feeder near the staff apartment at the North Star Lodge.

5.16.11  
Fruit trees, marsh marigolds and trilliums all in bloom.

5.15.11  
3:30 p.m. Canada goose family along Hwy. 169 south of the Soo Line crossing have 5 goslings. The resident Swan was not welcome to join the family!

5.14.11  
3:50 p.m. Yellow-breasted grosbeak (red pigment very pale) at Chris' feeder

5.12.11  
3:00 p.m. Male Rose-breasted grosbeak and male Goldfinches at feeder

5.11.11  
5:25 a.m. Two fox along US Highway 169  
6:25 a.m. Female Oriole on grape jelly feeder Blooming near Aitkin: Bloodroot, Bellflower

5.9.11  
10:15 a.m. Bluebird near the butterfly garden  
5:05 p.m. Two Goldfinches and Rose-breasted grosbeaks at the Dining Hall feeders Tiny green leaves on Aspen trees

5.8.11  
a.m. First tulip in bloom at Pam's house in Palisade

5.5.11  
8:40 a.m. Chipping sparrow near Dining Hall feeders

5.4.11  
7:10 a.m. Male Goldfinch at Dining Hall feeder  
Violets in bloom as well as dandelions  
4:30 p.m. Trilliums & Lady Slippers just starting to show green near Chris' house in northern Aitkin County.

5.3.11  
Spring peepers  
Red belly snake near archery field  
There's a silt outwash from a spring at the edge of Long Lake near the beaver lodge.

5.2.11  
Snow flakes seen in the morning...is it ever going to stop snowing????  
8:40 a.m. White-throated sparrow heard singing

5.1.11  
Dusting of snow on the ground

4.30.11

- Two American Woodcocks seen flying at the same time  
Hepatica flowers in bloom
- 4.29.11  
1:30 p.m. Turtle basking in the sunshine on the shore of Long Lake
- 4.28.11  
Giant egg masses in wetland on orienteering course
- 4.27.11  
Snowfall all day...winter returns!!  
Leopard frog was heard singing outside the North Star Lodge  
Chipmunks scurrying through the leaves  
Mid-morning Large Moose spotted on Soo Line trail north of U.S. Highway 169
- 4.23.11  
Sandhill Crane flew and called out, over the North Star Lodge  
Brown Creeper seen in the woods  
Yellow Shafted Flicker was seen
- 4.20.11  
Morning snowfall, winter is not quite over, yet...  
9:00 a.m. Grackle seen near Lakeside Lab  
10:15 a.m. Two Loons calling and swimming on Long Lake
- 4.19.11  
A Yellow-rumped warbler was seen on LLCC campus.  
9:45 p.m. An owl was hooting behind the North Star Lodge.
- 4.18.11  
+15 gallons of maple sap collected.  
Loon platform put on Long Lake.
- 4.17.11  
Saw Myrtle Warbler (Yellow-rumped) near Aitkin
- 4.15.11  
Long Lake free of ice. Marie wins "bragging rights"!
- 4.14.11  
7:00 a.m. Loons calling on Long Lake  
7:30 a.m. A muskrat was on the road berm outside Aitkin (Hwy. 169/210)  
11:00 a.m. Bufflehead ducks near McGregor
- 4.13.11  
11:00 Immature Bald Eagle was on Long Lake
- 4.12.11  
9:00 a.m. Saw 2 Tree Swallows in a tree near the Marcum House. Killdeer are back & calling.  
2:30 p.m. Turkey vulture soared over archery field
- 4.11.11  
5:35 a.m. Fox along roadside near Corner Club on Highway 169  
11:30 a.m. Saw Osprey on nesting platform located near US Hwy 169/MN 210  
12:40 p.m. 10 Purple Finches at Dining Hall feeder. A Flicker just north of Aitkin  
9:00 p.m. Heard Wood frogs, Spring Peepers and Northern Chorus frogs singing

- 4.10.11  
2:00 p.m. 5 Turkey hens along County Road #5 north of LLCC
- 4.9.11  
6:00 p.m. Saw Turkey tracks on LLCC's South Road
- 4.8.11  
6:40 a.m. A tom Turkey was calling  
1:30 p.m. A pair of Wood ducks in pond  
2:00 p.m. 3 Turkey hens cross Co. Road #5 ¼ mile from Co. Rd 88. Eastern Phoebe seen near School House
- 4.6.11  
5:45 a.m. Barred Owl calling outside North Star Lodge
- 4.5.11  
10:10 a.m. Pine Siskins at feeder  
10:20 a.m. Goldfinches, Juncos & Robins  
5:45 p.m. Western Chorus frog singing
- 4.4.11  
8:30 a.m. Two Sand Hill cranes along U.S. Hwy. 169/MN 210 northeast of Aitkin  
2:30 p.m. Two Swans on Moose River along U.S. Hwy. 169  
8:15 p.m. Skunk outside Marcum House
- 4.3.11  
Mississippi river free of ice at Palisade
- 4.2.11  
8:00 a.m. Saw immature Bald Eagle fly near Long Lake
- 4.1.11  
8:30 a.m. Saw fresh weasel tracks in snow  
4:30 p.m. Heard a Ruffed Grouse drumming
- 3.31.11  
11:00 a.m. Two Mourning Doves seen near Dining Hall  
5:15 p.m. Saw Great Blue Heron flying past North Star Lodge  
6:00 p.m. It's snowing...again...huge flakes
- 3.29.11  
3:30 p.m. A mink was seen near the west shore of Long Lake
- 3.28.11  
11:45 a.m. Purple finches were at the feeder  
6:45 p.m. A flock of Canada geese flew over
- 3.25.11  
6:25 a.m. Wolf howling south side of Long Lake  
6:50 a.m. Dave sees a wolf cross Long Lake from south to north  
9:00 a.m. At the intersection of Hwy. 210 & Co. Road 5, a Kestrel was spotted displaying and a Rough-legged Hawk was also seen in the vicinity
- 3.23.11  
LLCC receives about 4" of snow, strong winds
- 3.21.11  
8:30 a.m. Flock of Robins

- 9:00 a.m. Canada Geese spotted in field along Co. Road 5 south of LLCC
- 3.18.11  
10:30 a.m. Woodchuck spotted at LLCC
- 3.17.11  
Bald Eagle soaring over School House  
Last snowshoeing class for the winter of 2010-11
- 3.16.11  
First Chipmunk of the year seen by Lakeside Lab  
2:35 p.m. Three Red-tail Hawks and 2 Cooper Hawks along Highway 169 by the Soo Line Trail  
6:00 p.m. Saw 3-5 Rough legged Hawks at the intersection of Nature Ave. & Hwy. 18.
- 3.15.11  
A Great Gray owl flew over Erin.  
Rain off & on, high of 48°  
5:45 p.m. 3 Rough-legged Hawks on Highway 5 & 18  
Last cross-country ski class for the winter of 2010-11
- 3.14.11  
10:30 a.m. A male pheasant was pecking at the roadside of 169/210 outside of Aitkin  
7:00 p.m. Wolf tracks in the bog, 3 or 4 sets. Tracks were same size as my hand.  
7:15 p.m. A skunk was in Chris' chicken coop.
- 3.13.11  
Noonish Two coyotes seen out hunting along Co. Road 22 and Co. Road 11 north of Aitkin. Several rough-legged hawks seen.  
Nighttime Raccoons out north of Aitkin (4 miles)
- 3.12.11  
A Kestrel was on wire near Pat's road. A woodchuck scurried through the yard.
- 3.10.11  
2:30 p.m. Porcupine spotted in tree during snowshoeing
- 3.9.11  
5:45 p.m. Weasel tracks end with wing imprints in snow and small blood drops (Owl or Hawk?)
- 3.7.11  
3:30 p.m. Porcupine seen in tree during Thicket activity
- 3.3.11  
4:45 p.m. Two coyotes spotted (one on either side of the road) about 2.5 miles north of LLCC.  
5:30 p.m. 20 White-tail deer and 2 Grouse seen at clear cut
- 3.2.11  
5:20 a.m. Red Fox with breakfast in its mouth near Highway 169 1 mile south of the Corner Club  
7:45 a.m. -10° at LLCC...when will spring come?
- 3.1.11  
6:45 a.m. Spectacular sun rise...orange, red & yellow, looking like a wall of fire! North of Aitkin a Raven flying with twig...nest building??

- 2:30 p.m. Two large Bald Eagles in air (talons locked) near Highway 169 1 mile north of Soo Line trail
- 2.28.11  
6:30 a.m. Wolf near Highway 169 on the "flats" north of Aitkin
- 2.25.11  
6:45 a.m. Wolf in field near County Road #5 west side
- 2.24.11  
2:00 p.m. Saw a Black-capped Chickadee & Common Red Poll eating bird seed on top of Naturalist head near bird feeder
- 2.19-20.11  
MSP airport receives 13.5" of snow. Eden Prairie & Bloomington receive more than 17". LLCC receives approximately 5" of snow.
- 2.17.11  
5:00 a.m. 10°F, cold weather is back! Very windy 30+ m.p.h.
- 2.16.11  
7:20 a.m. Two sharp-tail Grouse in Pam's yard in Palisade  
12:00 p.m. 55°F very nice and no wind! Bald eagle on gut pile (red trail)
- 2.14.11  
7:40 a.m. Large deer at corner of County Roads #5 & #88  
8:00 a.m. Purple finches at Pat's feeder  
10:30 a.m. Bald eagle 2 miles north on Country Road #5  
1:15 p.m. Approximately 24 (or a few more) Cedar Waxwings in Pam's yard feeding on apples left in tree, they ate every apple which was on the tree!
- 2.13.11  
a.m. Grey squirrels and Hairy Woodpeckers in courtship displays  
Midday 50°F at LLCC, snow is really melting
- 2.12.11  
12:00 p.m. Bald eagle over dining hall
- 2.11.11  
3:30 a.m. 9°F in snow cave; 12°F outside. Naturalist was warm in sleeping bag.
- 2.10.11  
5:00 a.m. Coldest morning at Chris' house -27°F (northern Aitkin Co.), bank thermometer. In Hill City -30°F without wind...brrrrrrrrrr!
- 2.9.11  
9:00 a.m. Red squirrel (female) at feeder north of Aitkin
- 2.7.11  
2:00 p.m. Common Redpoll visit apartment feeder
- 2.4.11  
8:00 a.m. 17°F Freezing rain & sleet  
Pine Grosbeaks visit feeder for short time
- 2.2.11  
7:50 a.m. -17°F at LLCC  
11:00 a.m. Singe deer at Dining Hall feeder
- 2.1.11

- 7:50 a.m. -10°F at LLCC
- 1.31.11  
12:30 p.m. Single deer at North Star bird feeder  
2:30 p.m. Male Red-breasted Woodpecker, 2 Chickadees & 1 White-breasted Nuthatch at Dining Hall feeder.
- 1.26.11  
9:20 a.m. Black squirrel sighted
- 1.24.11  
12:35 p.m. Black squirrel near feeder area  
2:20 p.m. Gray squirrel was spotted eating leftover pancakes
- 1.21.11  
5:30 p.m. Large group of crows (100-200) hanging out over the drainage area east of the entrance road
- 1.18.11  
9:20 a.m. Juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker on suet feeder  
9:30-10:00 a.m. Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers at feeder
- 1.13.11  
7:30 a.m. Owl seen at LLCC
- 1.3.11  
7:45 a.m. -16°F at LLCC
- 1.1.11  
9:00 a.m. Mourning Dove at ground feeder in Aitkin