

Phenology calendar & data summary

Sherburne County, Minnesota

Phenology is the study of seasonal changes in plants and animals, and how those changes relate to climate. When you take note of nature’s calendar, by writing down your observations and wondering how it’s all connected, you’re thinking about phenology. Oftentimes, the concept of phenology is easiest to understand through examples, and several are listed in the grid below.

This calendar was made with historical records from Sherburne County. (For information on the source of records, see seasonwatch.umn.edu/orientation-center#data-collectors.) What species and seasonal changes will you notice in your local environment throughout the year? Explore the Season Watch website (seasonwatch.umn.edu) for resources and ideas. Enjoy tracking nature’s cycles in Minnesota!



Season Watch is a collaboration between Northern Community Radio and the University of Minnesota. Funding from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.



Average date	Phenological event In other words, “Which plant or animal can be seen doing what?”	Earliest date on record	Latest date on record	The average, earliest, and latest dates are based on:	Find out more, including how to make your own phenology observations
March 14	Red-winged blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>) arrival	January 27	March 31	36 records Collected from 1977 to 2013	seasonwatch.umn.edu/red-winged-blackbird
March 16	American kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius</i>) arrival	February 14	April 3	27 records Collected from 1979 to 2013	seasonwatch.umn.edu/american-kestrel
March 17	Eastern bluebird (<i>Sialia sialis</i>) arrival	February 16	April 3	30 records Collected from 1975 to 2013	seasonwatch.umn.edu/eastern-bluebird
March 17	Wood duck (<i>Aix sponsa</i>) arrival	February 13	March 31	35 records Collected from 1979 to 2013	seasonwatch.umn.edu/wood-duck
March 18	Sandhill crane (<i>Grus canadensis</i>) arrival	March 4	March 31	33 records Collected from 1980 to 2013	seasonwatch.umn.edu/sandhill-crane
April 5	Turkey vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>) arrival	March 8	May 14	26 records Collected from 1982 to 2013	seasonwatch.umn.edu/turkey-vulture
May 11	Rose-breasted grosbeak (<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>) arrival	May 1	May 18	17 records Collected from 1985 to 2013	seasonwatch.umn.edu/rose-breasted-grosbeak