

Phenology Records

February:

2.5.2000: First great horned owls heard hooting, male and female in Twisp, at night. Redwing blackbirds heard singing near Wanda's house, and Bohemian waxwings seen hawking (flycatching) from tall cottonwoods (midges and/or stoneflies must be hatching).

2.8.07 First great horned owls heard hooting, at home

2.14.07: First chipmunk out at home

2.15.05 Redwings (at feeder) and Say's phoebe show up at home today

2.20.05 Sage brush buttercups in bloom at top of Eagle Rocks (Balky Hill).

2.22.97 First Say's phoebe arrives.

2.26.05 Milbet's tortoiseshells (a butterfly) on Balky Hill road, 1st western bluebird seen on hill near Twisp

2.27.05 Canada geese return to the river at home, Sue K. gives 1st report of bluebells in bloom, these near Deadhorse lake.

March

3.7.05 Says phoebe back at home

3.10.05 Aspen catkins out at home

3.10.06 1st sagebrush buttercup in bloom on Balky Hill reported by Helen Tresser

3.12.05 Last snow melts in garden; on a jog at Eagle Rocks the following were in bloom: sagebrush buttercup, bluebell, spring gold (*Lomatium*). Wax current leaves are emerging on Eagle Rocks and Deadhorse Lake; also saw 2 spring whites, (butterfly) *Pontia sisymbrii*.

3.13.05 Chipmunks out at home (marmots emerged at home sometime between 3.4 and 3.10)

3.14.05 1st yellowbells seen, in Deadhorse area, also mourning cloaks on that road, song sparrows appear at home.

3.15.98: A relatively early snowmelt this year- gone from all the south slopes. Saw my first flower of the year today- it was a small spring beauty up on State Wildlife. Also saw several mountain bluebirds and several western bluebirds. Meadowlarks started singing at Dorothea's on 3.10.

3.16.05 spring beauties blooming at home under PIPO

3.17.05: Last snow melts in garden

3.18.06 Robins singing, marmots appear at home, even tho there is 12" of snow on the ground

3.19.04: Aspen catkins elongating at home.

3.21.04: spring beauties blooming at home under PIPO; 14+ garter snakes in cobble den near river.

3.22.06 Spring beauties in bloom at home under pine tree, alder catkins are fully elongated

3.24.06 Western blue birds back, checking boxes in garden

3.30.04: Cottonwood bud-break in Twisp; aspen and alder catkins at home are about finished, while birch catkins are just opening.

3.30: Willow catkins bloom on valley floor. This simple occurrence initiates a cascade of events that leads to a much larger flowering. Although willows reproduce via non-showy catkin-based flowers, they do produce nectar and abundant pollen to induce insects to visit. Willow catkins in fact produce the first abundant nectar of the year, inducing bumblebee queens and other insects to emerge from hibernation. This in turn leads to the arrival of the insectivorous birds, most notably the ruby-crowned kinglets and yellow-rumped warblers.

April

4.1.05: Chokecherry budbreak at home

4.3.05 Cottonwood leaves opening in Twisp

4.4.2000 Cottonwood leaves opening in Twisp

4.5.2000 Blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia parviflora*) blooming nr Twisp

4.6.99 Aspen catkins extended along highway between Winthrop & Twisp (3.28 in yr 2000)

4.7.05 1st yellow-rumped warbler at home

4.8.06 Cottonwood bud break at Twisp park, choke cherry leaves appearing at home

4.9.04: Serviceberries blooming along highway between Twisp & Winthrop, and at home.

4.10.04 A great horned owl fledging is on the ground at the Twisp city park

4.15 Harlequin ducks arrive from wintering along rocky seacoasts to nest along the Methow's rushing waters, having flown the entire way along the Columbia. Kestrels and nuthatches begin egg-laying, bluebird eggs are hatching. Serviceberry and squaw current are in full bloom (by 4.24 between Twisp & Winthrop); bitterroot is just starting to bloom and orchard grass is already beginning to head out. Canada geese and sandhill cranes pass northward high overhead. Rufus hummingbirds appear at windows wondering where feeders went. Mink, weasels coyotes bear their young.

4.13.06 Ruby-crowned kinglets back at home

4.15.99 Cottonwood bud break at Twisp

4.15.04 First white-crowned sparrows at home

4.15.06 Yellow-rumped warbler back at home

5.16.05: 1st white crowned sparrows at home.

4.18.97: First sign of bud break on cottonwoods at RM 43-44 (home)

4.18.99: First sign of bud break at Winthrop park; serviceberry beginning to bloom between Twisp & Winthrop

.18.05 Serviceberries bloom at home

4.20.04 5 eggs in western bluebird nest in garden

4.21.97: Cottonwood bud break in Winthrop

4.24.99 Serviceberry in full bloom between Twisp & Winthrop

4.28.05 Fruit trees at home bloom—cherry, apricot, apple; lilacs are close. 4 eggs in the garden bluebird nest.

4.30.04 Lilacs bloom at home