

DATE: THURSDAY SEPT 7TH

First frost warnings tonight!! When I arrived home from class at 10:15 p.m. the temp. was 44°F. Brrr.

Full moon - a nice bright evening.

After class tonight I realized I hadn't seen a hummingbird today at my feeder. They were definitely there yesterday. Also, the number of wasps at my hummingbird feeder has increased the past few days.

At my finch feeder I noticed a "new" bird; it is quite brown w/ a pretty white breast, about the size of a chickadee, slightly larger. I don't know what it is yet.

I have a small pond in my yard. It is quite "mucky" and sterile. Bad - it has quite a few cattails around it and two days ago something was in there. It made quite a splash when I surprised it. It sounded to be about 10-15 pounds but I never saw it. I surprised it once early in the morning, then again right at dark. I never saw it, but several cattails were sheared off about 1 inch above the water, so I'm thinking possibly a lost muskrat? But I haven't seen a single other sign.

* Thoughts that crossed my mind after class:

Isn't it ironic that we have to teach people how to be aware of nature??!! That's scary to think we are that far removed from it now. Yikes!

L IT SURG
IS SCARY

DATE: FRIDAY SEPT 8TH

Morning temp a chilly 36°F! My houseplants, which I have outside for the summer, survived the night!

I saw another new bird out here. I don't know what it was. It perched at the tip of a dead birch at the edge of a pond. It looked quite dark w/ white patches, it was about the size of a bluejay (maybe it was one!) and it made a throaty-rattly call.

I wonder if the hummingbirds are gone? The hummingbirds are gone!!

There was frost on the windshield for the first time this yr, so the temps must have hit freezing! Brrrr!

will visit.

One last thought; the woods are busy with chainsaws! I love that smell and the sound. It reminds me of when I was young & I would go out in the woods to cut firewood with my dad. Man, our noses are like an instant time machine!
OK... ♪♫ Let It Snow, Let It Snow! ♪♫

THURS → SEPT 22nd

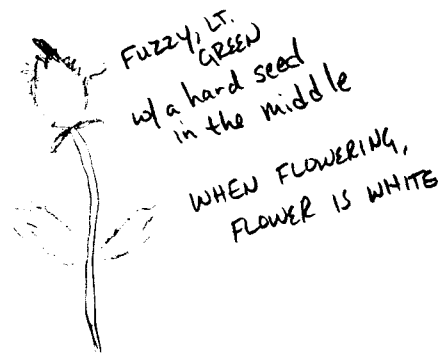
First snowfall of the year in Duluth! I don't think it snowed out here by our place, but we're approximately 25 miles from Duluth. Dr. Gilbertson said this was normal, I was surprised, it seems very early in the year for me.

Nick and I brought our plants inside last night. These are houseplants.

I also learned that the Palm Warblers are moving through now - or migrating to this area from the Arctic. I thought maybe this is the bird I've been seeing on the roadside. I'll have to look for the yellow triangle on the tail.

SATURDAY, SEPT 24th

Nick and I went out Sneeding today to collect some fall wildflowers/weeds to plant in our ditch at our house. We collected and planted New England Aster (purple), Evening Campion (White) (Open Up at Night), Wild Rose, and one other that I have to look up. This is our first step in reaching our goal of making our front yard/ditch a collection of blooming wildflowers for each season.



WHITE CAMPION

FUZZY, LT. GREEN w/ a hard seed in the middle
WHEN FLOWERING, FLOWER IS WHITE



NEW ENGLAND ASTER

PETALS PURPLE
CENTER YELLOW

LEAVES GREEN, KIND OF "GRASP" THE STEM.

2-3-2011
Pearly Everlasting
more likely

Sunday, Oct 1

Nick + I drove to Butternut w/ this week-end for my grandpa's 88th birthday. If I can be as sharp of mind and in good health as he is I want to live that long, too!

The leaves are definitely at their peak. It was kind of a cloudy week-end but they were still gorgeous! The tamaracks are just starting to turn yellow. In another week or two they'll be golden colored.

On the road, Nick and I again saw more turtles on the road. Why is this?? They aren't hatchlings - they're adults.

We also saw many (a few) dead porcupines. More than is typical - so they must be moving around for some reason now too.

When we got home, we heard the Barned Owls in the woods. This is the first time I heard two in our woods. We've been hearing one about once a week throughout the summer, but tonight they were calling to each other. They were pretty far back in our woods.

It was a gorgeous night; windy but warm with that distinct smell of fall leaves in the air.

Our yard is covered w/ fallen leaves. Many of our trees are bare or almost bare.

Also, I checked our bat house & see no signs of occupancy. Oh well, will just keep waiting...

Wednesday, Oct 4

There are Juncos all over!! I don't know what you call huge groups of birds, but we have been seeing herds of juncos flying up from the sides of roads mainly. They are smaller grey birds w/ a characteristic white stripe on the tail feathers.