

Featured nature sighting report for the dates of June 14-19:

- Evidence of raccoons are seen at turtle nests, the empty shells scattered around the excavated nests.
- Showy Lady-slippers began blooming in full force on Saturday, June 16, just in time to celebrate Father's Day.
- New batches of dragonflies are emerging each day.
- Tiny, newly emerged Monarch butterfly caterpillars are seen feeding on milkweed leaves.
- Summer flowers are coming out in full force including Blue-flag iris, sweet bedstraw, ox-eye daisy, Canada anemone, Indian paintbrush, purple avens, wild calla, yellow bullhead water lilies, vetch and more!

Featured nature sighting report for the dates of June 7-13:

- Baby fawn tracks are being found in the soft soil along paths and roadways.
- Groups of trumpeter swans can be heard bugling on Mary Lake and Lake Itasca in the early morning.
- Showy, large yellow and stemless lady slippers are blooming.
- Raccoons are active at night, their loud screeching call can be heard as they fight over food.
- Summer flowers are coming out in full force including Canada anemone, Indian paintbrush, purple avens, wild calla, yellow bullhead water lilies, ox-eye daisy's, blue flag iris and more!

Featured nature sighting report for the dates of May 26-June 1:

- Itasca's research mother bear with her yearling 3 cubs was seen sunning themselves.
- Various thrush (birds related to robins) are at the park, their spooky melodic calls can be heard at dusk and dawn.
- Watch for large-mouth bass as they leap from the water feeding on dragonflies hovering close to the water's surface.

- Some of our orchids are now up blooming including the large and small yellow lady slippers and early coral root.
- Watch for the first fawns of the season.