

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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NORTH COUNTRY WEATHER WISDOM

*"Each day fortells the next,
If one could read the signs;
Today is the progenitor of tomorrow."
John Burroughs, 1900.*

How simple it is to know what to expect with weather, or how to plan ahead. We have radio and TV constantly telling or showing by means of radar, chart forecasting, and various computerized electronics just what our weather will be, both here or in South America, at any given moment, if you happen to be watching Cablevision. Actually we need none of these for Mother Nature is trying to tell you something. We only need to look and listen.

It is written in the Bible "be still and know I am God." Nature says "be still and look at me. Listen to me for I have many things to show you and tell you." Every day, every hour, every minute nature is talking to each of us.

What follows is a gathering of many of nature's weather signs that have been handed down through the generations; primarily those dealing with the approach of winter:

SIGNS OF WIND:

Clouds that look like a horse's tail when it is running mean strong winds.

Northeast winds from the Lake predict rain or snow within twenty-four hours.

Sharp horns on the moon foretell strong winds.

Hard-edged clouds mean wind.

SIGNS OF WINTER:

The first frost will occur six months after the first thunder storm of spring.

Two frosts mean winter will soon appear.

The longer and hotter the summer, the longer and colder the winter. Extremes breed extremes.

When the tree leaves drop early, the fall will be short and the winter will be mild.

If the moss on the north side of a tree dries up in the fall it is to be a mild winter.

If the husks of corn and nuts grow thick and tight, the winter will be hard.

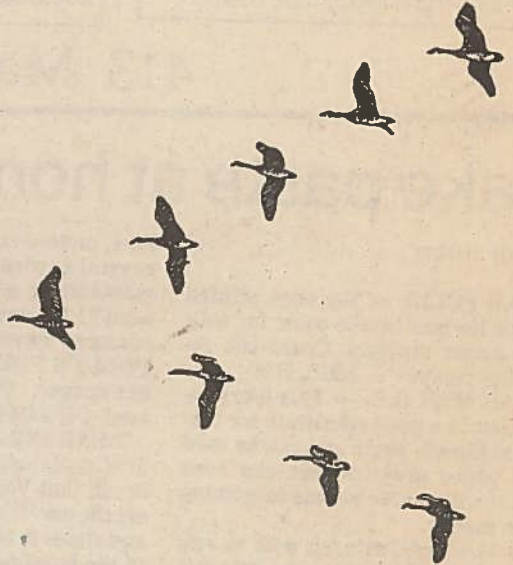
Rolling thunder in fall means a hard winter.

When the needles of pine trees turn west there will be heavy snow.

A dark, threatening western sky indicates storm.

WHAT ANIMALS, BIRDS, AND INSECTS TELL US:

Birds eat more just before a storm.



When geese can walk on top of the snow in March, there will be a muddy spring.

When cattle and horses stay in close groups, a storm is coming.

When birds fly low, there will be much snow or rain.

Bees are not good weather prophets as they will continue to hive when a storm is imminent.

The darker the color of caterpillars in the fall, the harder the winter will be.

Trout swimming in circles signifies a mild winter.

Chattering squirrels tell of a mild winter. When squirrels do not chatter, and gather many nuts early in the fall, often green ones, expect a long, cold winter.

Dogs bury more bones in the fall before a bad winter.

Heavy coats of hair on dogs in the fall is a good sign of a long, hard winter.

When the beaver adds more wood to the north side of his home, the winter will be long.

Early farm folks predicted complete seasons and some forecasters felt the first twelve days after Christmas told what the weather would be during each month of the next year.

At times it is nice to have advance knowledge of what Mother Nature has in mind for tomorrow. By reading or remembering her signs you can become a fairly reliable weather forecaster.

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