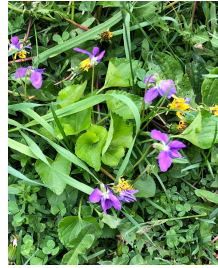


# Gillespie Creek Journal



Trillium



Common Blue Violet



Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Blood Root



Pusy Toes



Oven Bird by Audubon



Ruffed Grouse by Audubon



Yellow Warbler by Audubon

The flower and Grosbeak photos are mine.

## “No Mow May”

The “temperate” climate of Minnesota and Wisconsin presented long grass as I returned to my Gillespie Creek tiny farm house week. Conservationist around the temperate climate zone have encouraged residents to stop or reduce their May mowing. This of course is a practical method of promoting pollinator-friendly habitat early in the growing season. (Some cites are recommending putting off regular mowing until June 15.) For me “No Mow” means more wild flowers, butterflies, fireflies and interesting bird sightings.

Most mornings Merlin Bird ID identifies between 16 and 23 different species singing. My favorite are the duets sung by the Ovenbirds and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. In this issue the excitement of my sightings is shared by Aldo Leopold in his iconic **Sand County Almanac**.

A Ruffed Grouse, a year around resident, passed beside me this morning. The Partridge, hardly ever seen was my “proof of spring” on this 46 degree, cloudy, blustery day.

### May

by Aldo Leopold

“When dandelions have set the mark of May on Wisconsin pastures, it is time to listen for the final proof of spring. Sit down on a tussock, cock your ears at the sky, dial out the bedlam of meadowlarks and redwings, and soon you may hear it: the flight-song of the upland player, just now back from the Argentine.

If your eyes are strong, you may search the sky and see him, wings aquiver, circling among the woolly clouds. If your eyes are weak, don't try it, just watch the fence posts. Soon a flash of silver will tell you on which post the Plover has alighted and folded his long wings.

**Whoever invented the word ‘grace’ must have seen the wing-folding of the Plover.”**