

Musing  
February 2023  
**"Here Comes the Sun"**  
Thom Storm (Sweet Lake)



***Here Comes The Sun***

*Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter,  
Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here,  
Here comes the sun,  
Here comes the sun,  
And I say it's all right.*

**George Harrison, 1969**

After a long cold lonely month of January, the sun is finally starting to pick up some steam heading towards summer.

On the shortest day of the year, December 21, the sunset in Barnes was at **4:21 pm**. On February 21, 2 months later, it sets at **5:21 pm**, a full hour later. On March 21, another month later, it will set at **7:21 pm**. Correcting for Daylight Savings Time, it has gained another hour. On April 21, another month later, the sun will set over the Eau Claire Lakes at **8:03 pm** on its way to **9:04 pm** on June 21st.

It is a rather impressive gain from **8 hours and 32 minutes** of daylight, from the winter solstice, to **15 hours and 52 minutes** to midsummer.

Along with the days getting longer, February finds Great Horned Owls in our woods, sitting on their nests incubating eggs. They are the earliest nesting birds in Wisconsin to do this. If you go outdoors on a calm night, it is fairly common to hear owls talking to each other with their whoo, whoo, whoo calls. Owls are very curious birds, and will often come and investigate if you mimic their calls back to them. It is a fun little adventure to have on a cold winter's night, especially with children or grandchildren.

Once the sun rises up in the sky, if we get some February days when the temperature flirts with 40 degrees, you just might see a sleepy chipmunk out by your woodpile, doing some sunbathing.

Ahhh, the joys of dreaming of spring.

As George Harrison said,

Here comes the sun,

And I say it's alright.

**Thom Storm**