

Birding Reports (March 2015)

March 25, 2015 — The spring migration of birds is underway and will continue until the end of May -- the peak season! This year's initial report is about 3 weeks early due to unusual early spring. The spring migration is also triggered by a period of increased daylight. The first wave of migrants include shorebirds and waterfowl in March-April, followed by birds of prey in April with many of the songbirds arriving in May.

A few birds that have already started nesting or have young include: Bald Eagle, Raven and Great-horned Owl. The Great-horned Owl is Minnesota's earliest nesting bird with eggs laid in February!

The spring arrivals for the Brainerd Lakes Area include: Trumpeter Swan, Common Merganser, Common Golden-eye, Canada Geese, Mallard, Sandhill Crane, Bluebird, Robin, Merlin, Northern Flicker and Red-tailed Hawk. Other bird sightings for the area include; Junco, Raven, Bald Eagle, Cardinal, Turkey, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Redpoll and Pileated Woodpecker. A few Goldfinches are now starting to molt into their bright yellow summer plumage. Happy Birding!

— Judd Brink, bird guide/owner, [MN Backyard Birds](#) & [BirdsoftheByway.com](#)