

Birding Reports (May 2016)



May 27, 2016 — With the spring migration just about over birds now focus on nesting and raising young during the summer. For some birds the fall migration starts as early as August. The new arrivals for the week include: Western Grebe, Green Heron, Least Bittern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper, Dunlin, Black Tern, Forester's Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Great-crested Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Blackburnian Warbler, Bobolink and Mourning Warbler. At dusk, starting see groups of Nighthawks as they migrate through the area. One of the last warblers to arrive is the Connecticut Warbler, a bird that is highly sought after by many birders/photographers.

This weeks bird sightings include: Common Loon, Trumpeter Swan, Mallard, Ring-neck Duck, Woodduck, Great-blue Heron, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Osprey, Red-tail Hawk, Barred Owl, Sandhill Crane, Kill Deer, Hooded Merganser, Northern Cardinal, Gray Catbird, Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Bluebird, Tree Swallow, Eastern Kingbird, Least Flycatcher, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Raven, Golden-winged Warbler, Turkey Vulture, Black and White Warbler, American Redstart, Wild Turkey, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Cliff Swallow. Happy Birding!

May 20, 2016 — The spring bird migration peaked over the weekend in the lakes area. A good variety of birds but didn't see any big groups of birds like in the past. Here are the newest arrivals for the area: Double-crested Cormorant, Solitary Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Indigo Bunting, Cliff Swallow American Redstart and Mourning Warbler.

Recent bird sightings include: Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Brown Thrasher, Indigo Bunting, House Wren, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Gray Catbird, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Nashville Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black & White Warbler, Great-blue Heron, American Bittern, Pied-billed Grebe, Sora Rail, Red-winged Blackbird, Whip-poor-Will, Barred Owl, Towhee, Tree Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, Common Loon, Ring-neck Duck, Woodduck, Hooded Merganser, Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, American Kestrel, Red-tail Hawk, Kill Deer, Purple Martin, Cooper's Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Least Flycatcher, Phoebe, Red-eyed Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, White-crowned Sparrow and Cardinal.

Results from Sunday's International Migratory Bird Day bird hike at the Northland Arboretum found a total of 75 species. Three groups of birders search high and low for all birds along the trails, woods and waters finding 17 species of warblers and many others! A few highlights include a Solitary Vireo, Blackpoll Warbler and Baybreasted Warbler!

Also -- Bear reports continue to come in from the area so please keep your feeders inside during the evening. Happy Birding!

May 13, 2016 — A good variety of birds can be seen in the area but not in huge numbers as of yet. The list of new arrivals is very impressive with the following: American Bittern, Green Heron, Sora Rail, Virginia Rail, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Indigo bunting, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler (MN has 45% of the global population), Northern Parula, Northern Waterthrush, Black-throated Green Warbler, American Redstart, Nashville Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Common Whip-poor-Will, Clay-colored Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Eastern Kingbird, Caspian Tern, Marsh Wren, White-crowned Sparrow, Towhee, Swamp Sparrow, Swainsons Thrush, House Wren and Veery.

Most of waterfowl and raptors have now passed us but the new wave of birds are just starting often more colorful and coming from Central/South America.

The weekly sightings include: Common Loon (now nesting) Canada Goose (first broods of the year) Bald Eagle, Osprey, Turkey Vulture, American Kestrel, Broad-winged Hawk, Merlin, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Great-blue Heron, Trumpeter Swan, Woodduck, Hooded Merganser, Ring-neck Duck, Killdeer, Northern Flicker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Bluebird, Tree Swallow, Brown Thrasher, Morning Dove, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Cardinal, Purple Martin, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Goldfinch, House Finch, Purple Finch, Raven, Mallard, Turkey, Phoebe, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Coopers Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Barred Owl, White-throated Sparrow and Cedar Waxwing. Happy Birding!

May 5, 2016 — Recent bird sightings for the week are: Common Loon, Great-blue Heron, Woodduck, Mallard, Canada Goose, Ring-neck Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Osprey (8), Bald Eagle (5), Turkey Vulture (11), American Kestrel (6), Red-tailed Hawk (3), Broad-winged Hawk (5), Coopers Hawk (1), White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Pine Siskin, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Purple Finch, Common Raven, Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbird, Wild Turkey, Common Grackle, Trumpeter Swan, Tree Swallow, Purple Martin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Eastern Phoebe, Robin, Sandhill Crane and Northern Harrier.

New arrivals in the lakes area include: Black and White Warbler, Bonaparte's Gull, Hermit Thrush, Horned Grebe, Brown Thrasher and Barn Swallow. The wind changing to the south over the next few days should bring in more birds.

Rice Lake along Co Rd 11 had a single Common Loon along with several Blue-winged Teal. The Trumpeter Swans are still present but only saw one maybe an indication of nesting.

— Judd Brink, bird guide/owner, MN Backyard Birds & BirdMinnesota.com