

Birding Reports (April 2016)



April 28, 2016 — For everyone hoping to see the spring arrival of Orioles, Hummingbirds, Grosbeaks and Tanagers this past week, we will have to wait just a bit longer. The cool and wet weather has delayed the bird migration but they will return very soon.

New arrivals to the Brainerd Lakes area include; American Bittern, Sora Rail, Pine Warbler and Solitary Sandpiper.

Birds reported this week include: Bald Eagle (5), Turkey Vulture (22), Red-tailed Hawk (4), Northern Harrier (2), American Kestrel (2), Coopers Hawk (1), Sharp-shinned Hawk (1), Osprey (8), Common Loon, Great- blue Heron, Mallard, Woodduck, Hooded Merganser, Scaup, Ring-neck Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Geese, Trumpeter Swan, Lesser/Greater Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Turkey, Tree Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, Purple Martin, Red-winged Blackbird, Junco, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Finch, Brown-head Cowbird, Common Grackle, Eastern Phoebe, Northern Flicker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Common Raven, Killdeer, Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Pileated Woodpecker and Pied-billed Grebe.

The pair of Osprey at the Central Lake College nest now have two eggs. Took a look at Rice Lake along Co Rd 11 and the Trumpeter Swans are still here so lets hope they will nest again soon. Happy Birding!

April 21, 2016 — Right now in the evenings, just after dusk, enjoy the "sky dance" display from our only woodland shorebird — the American Woodcock. Listen for the "peent" of the American Woodcock before it takes flight overhead often circling for several minutes before landing again. The best place to watch the "sky dance" is an open grassy area that is near a stand of aspen trees.

More Ospreys are being reported using several nesting platforms in the Crosslake area. Finally, our state bird, the Common Loon, is also showing up at more locations this past week.

New arrivals: Bufflehead, Savannah Sparrow, Redhead Duck, Sora Rail, Common Snipe, Northern Shoveler, Eastern Meadowlark and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Rice Lake on Co Rd 11 was full of birds this past week including; Common Loon, Trumpeter Swan, Tree Swallow, Geese (nesting), Woodduck, Ring-neck Duck, Scaup, Robin, Song Sparrow and Osprey.

Here are addition bird sighting from the last week: Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Woodduck, Hooded Merganser, Woodduck, Mallard, Ring-neck Duck, Trumpeter Swan, Great-blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Red-winged Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Song Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Raven, Eastern Bluebird, Dark-eyed Junco, Ring-billed Gull and Northern Cardinal, White-throated Sparrow and Tree Swallow. Happy Birding!

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April 15, 2016 — Here are the bird sightings from the past week: Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Woodduck, Hooded Merganser, Woodduck, Mallard, Common Merganser, Ring-neck Duck, Trumpeter Swan, Great-blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Redpoll, Purple Finch, House Finch, Song Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Raven, Eastern Bluebird, Dark-eyed Junco, Ring-billed Gull and Northern Cardinal.

The Ospreys have returned to the nest along Co Rd 11. At Rice Lake the Trumpeter Swans have also returned if they nest again successfully this would be the 4th year!

New arrivals include: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Flicker, White Pelican, Brown-headed Cowbird, Phoebe, Killdeer, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and Fox Sparrow. More birds arriving almost daily so keep checking your local areas or try exploring one of the area parks or the Northland Arboretum (Brainerd). I took a drive down St. Mathias Road to the flooded rice fields to see waterfowl and the early shorebirds. Good views with many of the birds close to the road, might need a scope to see the birds in the back ponds.

This weekend, I'm leading a group to view a Sharp-tailed Grouse from a blind to see them "dance" at their leks. Happy Birding!

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