

Birding Reports (Aug 2015)

Aug. 28, 2015 — The fall bird migration has taken flight this past week. During the evenings starting to see Nighthawks in groups of 10-50 traveling south. Purple Martins are also gathering in huge numbers to roost at night as they migrate. Bird sightings include: Bald Eagle (5) Turkey Vulture (3) Broad-winged Hawk (2) Osprey (4) Loon, Great-blue Heron, Green Heron, Mallard, Woodduck, Hooded Merganser, Geese, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Oriole, Hummingbird, Catbird, Goldfinch, House Finch, Cardinal, Pileated Woodpecker, Flicker, Indigo Bunting, Bluebird, Vesper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Kingbird, Phoebe, Pewee, Raven, House Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwing, Morning Dove and Robin. A short walk at Fritz-Loven Park found; phoebe, Redstart, Yellow-throated Vireo, Bald Eagle, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatch and Goldfinch. The Veteran's trail was very productive with many migrants such as Golden-Winged Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Black Poll Warbler and Nashville Warbler. The trail also provided Barred Owl, Turkey Vulture, Raven, Song Sparrow, House Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Goldfinch, Blue Jay, Downy Woodpecker and Hairy Woodpecker. Happy Birding!

Aug. 20, 2015 — More migrants continue to push through the area providing great opportunities to practice identifying those confusing fall warblers. One of the ways to try and bring these birds closer to view is to provide moving water. Received several reports of shorebirds still in Duluth, with more rain coming check out any fields that may flood. Bird sightings for the week include: Trumpeter Swan, Woodduck, Mallard, Ring-neck Duck, Great-blue Heron, Ring-billed Gull, Common Loon, Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Kestrel, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Oriole, Hummingbird, Cardinal, Goldfinch, House Finch, Barn Swallow, Chimney Swift, Bluebird, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Kingbird, Phoebe, House Wren, Morning Dove, Raven, Turkey, Cedar Waxwing, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow Warbler and Redstart. Happy Birding!

Aug. 13, 2015 — A feeding frenzy of hummingbirds and orioles are at local feeders as they prepare for the fall bird migration. Last week's report mentioned the start of the shorebird migration. With the recent heavy rains, look for birds in flooded fields. Bird sightings for the week include: Bald Eagle, Osprey, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Kestrel, Broad-winged Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Great-blue-heron, Goose, Mallard, Woodduck, Hooded-merganser, Raven, Loon, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Sedge Wren, Indigo Bunting, Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Chimney Swift, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Oriole, Cardinal, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Morning Dove, Hummingbird, House Finch, Goldfinch, Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee and Ring-billed Gull. Happy Birding!

Aug. 6, 2015 — The summer is over for shorebirds! They are one of the earliest groups of birds to migrate through our area, starting in August. The Brainerd area doesn't attract very many shorebirds, but the rocky beaches around Lake Mille Lacs offers better opportunities. Western portions of the state can be much better with numbers in the thousands. How would you like to be a shorebird? Some fly non-stop 8,000-10,000 miles in May to nest in the cold tundra with only 2 months to nest and raise young before leaving in August for South America. Wow!

Trumpeter Swan update from Rice Lake along Co Rd 11. I saw two adults but with no young swans so I kept watching for them to appear but didn't see them. I drove around to the other end and sure enough I saw the family on the shore so I feel much better seeing them again. A few years ago in the fall I counted 35 swans on this small pond!

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Bird sightings for the area include: Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-chinned Hawk, Great-blue Heron, Green Heron, Raven, Crow, Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, Morning Dove, Mallard, Woodduck, Goose, Ring-neck Duck, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Oriole, Catbird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwing, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Chimney Swift, House Wren, Pileated Woodpecker, Hummingbird, Whip-poor-Will, Loon, Red-eyed Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Redstart, Least Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Trumpeter Swan, Sedge Wren, Yellow Warbler, Nighthawk and Robin. Happy Birding!

Aug. 2, 2015 — Bird sightings this week include; Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-chinned Hawk, Kestrel, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Great-blue Heron, Sandhill Crane, Red-eyed Vireo, Whip-poor Will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Killdeer, Common Loon, Geese, Mallard, Woodduck, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Goldfinch, Oriole, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Great-crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Bluebird, Raven, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Indigo Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing, Morning Dove, Yellow Warbler and Song Sparrow. Happy Birding!

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