

Birding Reports (May 2015)

May 30, 2015 — We are now at the end of the spring bird migration for the area and the birds will be nesting soon. For some birds, it will be a short summer as the fall migration starts at the end of July. But the peak month for migration is usually September.

Recent sightings include: Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Kestrel, Broad-wing Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Great-blue Heron, Green Heron, Mallard, Woodduck, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-neck Duck, Loon, Hooded Merganser, Killdeer, Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Oriole, Hummingbird, Scarlet Tanager, Catbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Cardinal, Tree Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Black & White Warbler, Redstart, Bay-breasted Warbler, Ovenbird, Veery, Red-eyed Vireo, Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-Will, Pine Siskin, Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Phoebe, Chimney Swift, Turkey Vulture, Belted Kingfisher, Trumpeter Swan, Mourning Dove, Pine Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Kingbird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Canada Warbler and Nashville Warbler.

May 24, 2015 — A variety of colorful birds can be seen in the Crosslake Area at bird feeders or at any of the birding locations along the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway. Some of the more colorful birds currently being seen include Warblers, Tanagers and Orioles! This past week a new bird for Crow Wing County was reported -- a Black-headed Grosbeak!

New arrivals include: Nighthawk, Western Tanager, Eastern Kingbird, Black Tern, Red-headed Woodpecker, Cliff Swallow, Cape may Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Great-crested Flycatcher, Golden-winged Warbler, Water Thrush and Great Egret. Other sightings include; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Oriole, Indigo Bunting, Turkey, Woodduck, Loon, Great-blue Heron, Hummingbird, Song Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Kestrel, Broad-winged Hawk, Bluebird, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Raven, Tree Swallow, Green Heron, Ruffed Grouse, Towhee, Trumpeter Swan, Yellow Warbler and Belted Kingfisher. Happy Birding!

May 8, 2015 — The first wave of warblers are now showing up in the area! This group of birds are probably the most colorful and most challenging to identify -- especially in the fall. They typically don't visit bird feeders, but there are few that will be enticed with suet and mealworms. The new warblers include: Common Yellowthroat, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted and Golden-winged Warbler.

Other new arrivals include: Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Oriole, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Chimney Swift, Whip-poor Will, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Green Heron and several shorebird species from Lake Mille-lacs. Area sightings include; Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Tree Swallow, Trumpeter Swan, Bald Eagle Turkey Vulture, Barred Owl, Osprey, Great-blue Heron, Turkey, Ruffed Grouse, Pine Siskin, Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Raven, Sandhill Crane, Broad-wing Hawk, Cardinal, Red-headed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Killdeer and Common Loon!

At Rice Lake, along the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway on Co Rd 11, look for nesting Trumpeter swans. I watched them today, along with Ring-neck Duck, Mallard and Geese. Happy Birding!!

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