

Birding Reports (Sept 2015)

Sept. 25, 2015 — The change in the weather brings in the first “winter” migrants into the Brainerd Lakes area. Saw my first Dark-eyed Junco’s for the fall/winter season this morning. Bird sightings for the area include: Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Woodduck, Trumpeter Swan, Sandhill Crane, Geese, Mallard, Belted-kingfisher, Turkey Vulture (5), Bald Eagle (7), Red-tailed Hawk (1), Osprey (1), Scarlet Tanager, Bluebird, Catbird, Hummingbird, Junco, Morning Dove, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Ring-billed Gull, Turkey (20), White-throated Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Raven, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Flickers and Cedar Waxwing. Happy Birding!

Sept. 19, 2015 — The long journey south for many of the birds in our area continues. Goldfinches are now starting to change color for the winter season -- some do stay here year-round. Bird sightings include: Common Loon, Great-blue Heron, Ring-billed Gull, Killdeer, Belted Kingfisher, Woodduck, Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Mallard, Bald Eagle (5), Turkey Vulture (8), Red-tailed Hawk (1), Osprey (1), Scarlet Tanager, Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, House Wren, Bluebird, Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hummingbird, Vesper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Flicker, Robin, Turkey, Morning Dove, Catbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Nashville Warbler, American Redstart, Tennessee Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Orange-crown Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler (uncommon), Blue-winged Teal, White-throated Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing, House Finch, Purple Finch and Indigo Bunting. Happy Birding!

Sept. 10, 2015 — Birds on the move right now! The migration is near its peak in the Brainerd lakes area. Some of the early groups moving include warblers, Vireos, Tanagers and Raptors. Goldfinches are starting to molt into their winter plumage. Bird sightings for the area include: Common Loon, Green Heron, Great-blue Heron, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Pied-billed Grebe, Mallard, Geese, Woodduck, Raven, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Oriole, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, Cedar Waxwing, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Peregrine Falcon, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Common Nighthawk, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Phoebe, Turkey, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Flicker, Raven, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Kingbird, Nashville Warbler, Redstart, Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Wilsons Warbler and Hummingbird.

A guided bird tour on Saturday found over 25 species some of the highlights include 50+ Turkey Vultures, 35 Sandhill Cranes, Ruffed Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse and Northern Harriers.

Hawk Ridge in Duluth sets new records on 9-1-2015 with almost 92,000 non-raptor migrants. Common Nighthawks 28,054 (3rd highest for MN) Cedar Waxwing 12,842 (new state high count) Rose-breasted Grosbeak 198 (new state high count). Happy Birding!

Sept. 4, 2015 — This week's bird sightings for the area include: Loon, Mallard, Geese, Woodduck, Hooded Merganser, Trumpeter Swan, Ring-neck Duck, Sora Rail, Red-tail Hawk (2) Bald Eagle (6) Turkey Vulture (8) Osprey (5) Broad-wing Hawk (2) Turkey, Great-blue Heron, Ring-billed Gull, Raven, Crow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Oriole, Hummingbird, Scarlet Tanager, Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Nashville Warbler Golden-winged Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Whip-poor Will, House Finch, Gold Finch, Song Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Kingbird, Phoebe, Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, Morning Dove, House Wren and Cedar Waxwing.

Still watching Common Nighthawks in the evening as they continue to migrate. One group is estimated at 150 birds. Also this week at the Laestadian Church in Brainerd several folks counted close to 300 Chimney Swifts at dusk. Hawk Ridge in Duluth started their annual raptor counts on August 15 and will continue through the fall season. So far the highest count date was August 31 with 169 birds but just in few weeks those numbers will be in the thousands! Happy Birding.

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