

## Birding Reports (April 2011)

**April 25:** Thanks to Mother Nature, the spring migration has been very sporadic. A few new arrivals were found last weekend and include White Pelicans and Ruffed Grouse drumming. Most of the waterfowl and water birds are here now with even the larger lakes becoming open. There are several loons staying close to nesting platforms — a good indication that the nests will be used again this year. One Pair of Ospreys are now using the new nesting platform along the Mississippi River at Central Lakes College. More Bluebirds, Veerys and Hermit Thrushes are increasing in numbers as they continue to arrive and disperse.

**April 18:** Last week brought below normal temperatures, as well as rain/snow. Waterfowl and other water birds are still present but continue to move northward as more water opens up. Common Loons arrived on about April 13 along with Ring-neck Ducks, Eared/Horned Grebe, Tree Swallow and veery. Birds observed at Lowell WMA include, Song Sparrow, Hooded Merganser, Red-winged Blackbird, Buffleheads, Wood Duck, Mallards and one pair of swans. A few more shorebirds have also arrived like Killdeer and Yellowlegs. Good viewing of waterbirds and waterfowl are on the smaller lakes and ponds that are open. Happy Birding!

**April 6-9:** With the mild weather last week, a good number of migrants have arrived and should continue for the next few weeks. On Wednesday, April 6, at Lowell WMA on Co Rd 11, the following were seen: Mallards, Geese and Hooded Mergansers. At the AmericInn in Pequot Lakes, Redpolls and Juncos are still seen at the feeders also a flock of Waxwings were near the parking lot. More new arrivals in the area include Fox Sparrow, Phoebe, Great Egret, Wigeons, Northern Shoveler, Northern Flicker, Bufflehead, Meadowlark, Song Sparrow, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Belted Kingfisher, Common Merganser, Red Heads, Northern Harrier, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Goldeneye, Osprey, American Kestrel, Common Snipe, Tree Swallow and Golden-crowned Kinglet. A guided trip on Saturday, April 9, found 35 species in Aitkin County mostly waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans) we also stopped at one field and counted about 500 Robbins! Happy Birding!

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