

## March - Week 4

### *The Return of Robins, Bluebirds, and Red-winged Blackbirds*

**Migrating birds begin to arrive in large numbers** as the days grow longer in March. The first migrating American Robin arrives in central Minnesota in mid-March. The Robin's cheery song signals the return of spring for many Minnesotans. In addition to the song of the robin, a chorus of bird song erupts this time of year as other long-distance migratory birds return to many habitats across Minnesota. The Red-winged Blackbirds 'o-ka-lee' can be heard around wetlands while the Eastern Bluebirds singing in prairies and along forest edges near potential nesting sites becomes a daily occurrence.

This week, focus your observations on the expanding chorus of birds and notice the crescendo of sound as many birds announce their return to Minnesota. Listen for newcomers, but also recognize how these new sounds mesh with those of our year-round feathered residents such as the Black-capped chickadee and the Northern Cardinal. Visit the shores of a wetland or pond to hear the honking of geese and the trilled call of the Red-winged Blackbirds. Listen to the songs of birds in your yard or at a local nature center. Observe birds at bird feeders as the birds refuel from their northward journey and prepare to establish summer territories.

Journaling about your birding experience may include: species lists, song lists, sketches of birds seen and heard, comparisons of bird songs in different habitats, and more.



A male Redwing Blackbird in the wetlands at McColl Pond ELC.