



MAY
2026

What's Happening in Our Community?

MAY
9th & 10th

TRILLIUM FESTIVAL

Maiden Rock, WI - Mother's Day Weekend

The Trillium Festival is a fun two-day gathering to celebrate the spring bloom and the natural world that surrounds us. Hosted in the scenic valley at the Maiden Rock American Legion along Rustic Road, this event brings together people who care about the land, the birds, the plants, and the future of this region.

Visit www.cooperhansen.com for more information

WBU Woodbury is a Habitat Partner of this event

MAY
16th

BIRD WALK with the WBU Woodbury Team

8:30am - Colby Lake – 3100 Edgewater Drive
Meet at pavilion near the parking lot

Binoculars and cameras encouraged. A limited number of Vortex brand binoculars will be available to borrow on a first-come first-served basis. **See Facebook event for more details.**

This is a FREE event and open to the public

MAY
16th

MIX A CUSTOM SEED BLEND

Nesting Edition!

In-store at WBU Woodbury – 11:00am – 3:00pm

Freshly hatched nestlings need a protein-packed diet to help them grow their first set of feathers before leaving the nest, then again as they molt into their adult plumage soon after. Parent birds need lots of fat in their diet for energy to care for their young. Join us in-store to mix your own custom blend of fresh high-protein and high-fat foods for your local bird families!

What to Watch for This Month in Nature:

- Heaviest avian migration period of the spring! Birds returning include:
 - Scarlet Tanagers
 - Sedge & Marsh Wrens
 - Savannah, Grasshopper, and Harris' Sparrows
 - American Redstarts
 - Ovenbirds
 - Indigo Buntings
 - Tennessee, Black and White, Nashville, Prothonotary, and Chestnut-sided Warblers
 - Grey Catbirds
 - Many of the flycatchers
 - Last of the hummingbirds and orioles

And many more!
- The first American Robin eggs of the year will be hatching
- Listen for the very vocal House Wrens defending their nesting sites, "singing" at any threat real or perceived
- The end of May is the beginning of peak fawning season, with baby white-tailed deer being born
- Wild Turkey eggs hatching
- Monarch butterflies returning from their wintering grounds in Mexico. The monarchs arriving in Minnesota will be the third or fourth generation from those that started the journey

Help the birds during spring migration! It is estimated that *hundreds of millions of birds* die each year from building collisions, and the night skies in May will see some of the peak spring bird migration action. The Twin Cities area typically peaks May 6th-24th, Southern Minnesota mid-month, and northern Minnesota during the third or fourth week in May. You can help prevent collisions by keeping your house lights off at night while many of these birds are flying through. Save on electricity and help the birds in the process!



Bird of the Month: American Robin

Our Bird of the Month for May, the American Robin, is a familiar bird many of us associate with the seasons changing from winter to spring. And although the robin activity does really pick up in the springtime, some of our local robins stay in Minnesota all winter long.

Most of the over-wintering robins in Minnesota tend to be first-year males and if you're going to find them in the colder months, you'll likely see them roosting in trees in low swampy areas where they have access to berries and insect eggs. Once the snow begins to melt and the ground thaws is when we usually see more robins on the ground and in our yards foraging for earthworms – they can eat up to 14 feet of worms a day!



You may see a robin running across your yard then abruptly stop, cock their head to the side, and stare at the ground. It may appear as if the robin has their ear pointing at the ground listening for movement, but the robin is using its strong vision to focus their sight out of one eye to look for dirt moving, indicating a moving worm below.

Male and female American Robins look similar, but they do have some differences. Look for the females to have a duller chest and a greyer head, while the males have a rust-red chest and more of a black colored head. Young robins are nearly the same size as their parents soon after they leave (fledge) the nest, more resembling mom but with white spots and streaks on the wings and chest.

Once a male and female robin pair up for mating, the female will choose the nest site and handle construction duties. Nests are often built in the lower half of trees, but it's not uncommon for them to nest on light fixtures, gutters, ledges, and man-made nesting platforms.



American Robins will attempt 2-3 nesting cycles (broods) each season with 4-7 eggs per round (clutch). Between the incubation and nesting period, it takes about 25+ days before the young robins are ready to fledge the nest. Despite American Robins making such strong efforts in nesting, only 40% of their nests will be successful in fledging young. Of the robins that do fledge the nest, only about 1/4th of them will survive until November of that same year.



There are dozens of different bird species that have “robin” in their name, but only the American Robin is found here in Minnesota. American Robins are members of the thrush family, as are their “cousins” the Eastern Bluebird along with the wood, hermit, and Swainson’s Thrushes.

Most thrushes are quite fond of bathing in water and the American Robin is no exception. A fresh, clean water source is a great way to attract robins to your yard or patio, especially if you have moving water or a bubbling bird bath. American Robins may also visit your feeders to enjoy mealworms or seed blends with fruit and berries.