



On the Watch
June Hitchcox

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Spring Bird Sightings

All winter, my son Mike had a lot of Robins living fairly near his Bronte home. He says that their songs have changed and now, they slightly different from the winter time. That could be because some are returning from the south or it could be their northern nesting song intended to tell everyone that they are looking for a mate and a nesting area.

Red-winged Blackbirds have been around my apartment in North Oakville for at least a couple of weeks: Males are easy to spot - 8 1/4" body length+ red shoulder patches bottomed by a line of yellow feathers at the base.



Photos from Unsplash - Above: Red-winged Blackbird by Yannick Menard. Middle: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker by John Yunker. Bottom: Hummingbird by Bryan Hanson.

Yellowed Belly Sapsuckers also arrive in April, opening up sap in tree trucks to be able to eat the sap. They are followed closely by Hummingbirds, also needing that sap before flowers have opened - but need the Sapsuckers strong bills to open up the sap holes.

You will be helping to save the lives of many birds of all kinds by keeping your feeders full - the long winter plus the long flight from the south will have taken most of their energy. Also, many of these birds are flying in new territory and often fly into windows, breaking their necks. To avoid this, we attached cloth netting - stretched taut over the outsides and nailed into all corners of our windows - which has saved every bird since we placed it there. So, get those binoculars out; keep your ears and eyes open and let's all have a wonderful birding season!

To My Readers: You are invited to send me any questions about birds. I have a library of bird books and would find it pleasant to research any questions on behalf of interested readers and to share that information with others who share that interest.

Photo Below: Red-breasted Robin by Jan Meeus on Unsplash.

