

## Birding Reports (April 2013)

**April 28, 2013** — The birds are finally responding to the change in weather and are on the move. With many of the lakes still ice covered, the best locations for watching waterfowl are the rivers and outlets of some lakes. New birds this week include: Common Loon, White Pelican, Kestrel, Veery, Ring-necked Duck, Scaup, Woodduck, Coopers Hawk and Double-crested Cormorant. A great location for seeing a great variety of waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans) is the Gull River along Hwy 210 just west of Brainerd/Baxter. Many of the area's Osprey nesting platforms now have birds on them and can be seen adding sticks to the nest. The pair is back again on Co Rd 11 we will see how they do this year. A few things seen at the Rice Lake/Lowell WMA include a Veery and a pair of Trumpeter Swans. I am hoping the swans will be able to nest successful again. The Gull River along the Gull Dam Rd also has some waterfowl including 2 Immature Bald Eagles chasing the ducks. On Sunday, over 100 Robins flew over the yard and the Sharp-shinned Hawk is still hanging around the yard. Other birds that are passing through include many raptors (Hawks, Eagles and Vultures) and Sandhill cranes. Happy Birding!

**April 21, 2013** — A recent snowstorm left it's mark on the area, and limited the movements of many birds. The new arrivals this past week were Osprey, Fox Sparrow and Yellow-rumped Warbler, Great-blue Heron and Purple Martin. The waterfowl and raptor migration is near its peak any open water should have a good variety of Ducks, Geese and Swans. Here is an estimate for some of the birds found on open water this past week; Trumpeter Swan 25+, Geese 45+ Common Golden-eye 100+ Common Merganser 75+ Bald Eagles 10 and Turkey Vultures 15. Happy Birding!

**April 11, 2013** — The weather conditions haven't improved much over the past week, but the bird movement and activity has been steady. New arrivals include: Ring-billed Gull, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Great-blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Bluebird, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Junco, Mourning Dove and a chipmunk.

Locations that have open water have attracted Canada Geese, Mallards, Trumpeter Swans, Bald Eagles, Common Mergansers and other waterfowl. Raptors that are still moving northward include Red-tailed Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks. In most years the redpolls are usually gone before the goldfinches start molting into their summer plumage.

Lots of Ravens and Crows can be found along road sides picking up any remains that the snow has uncovered. One Northern Shrike was found last week again a little unusual for this time of year. Even the chipmunks have started to appear above ground but that might change in the next few days. Happy Birding.

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