

Birding Reports (July 2015)

July 23, 2015 — Now seeing more and more bird families at the feeders. The young birds seem a bit confused about getting in and out of the feeders. The sightings for this week include: Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Coopers Hawk, Raven, Common Loon, Geese, Green Heron, Blue Heron, Ring-billed Gull, Killdeer, Osprey, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, House Finch, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Chimney Swift, Whip-poor Will, Goldfinch, House Wren, Red-winged Blackbird, Grackle, Oriole, Hummingbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Catbird, Chipping Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Sandhill Crane, Yellow Warbler, Towhee Morning Dove Brown Thrasher, Blue Jay and Bluebird.

I also finally saw the Trumpeter Swan family on Rice Lake along Co Rd 11. This year the adults are raising 6 young that are now about half the size of their parents. Happy Birding!

July 17, 2015 — More activity now being reported at many bird feeding stations in our area. Young birds can be difficult to identify and won't be as colorful as the adults until next year. Many will look like the female bird of that species. Lots of Blackbirds starting to gather in small numbers in many yards most being Red-winged Blackbirds. Bird sightings include: Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Coopers Hawk, Great-blue Heron, Green Heron, Loon, Woodduck, Mallard, Goose, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Goldfinch, House Finch, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Oriole, Hummingbird, Blue Jay, Pine Siskin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Raven, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Turkey, Grackle, Robin, Turkey, Morning Dove, Killdeer, Whip-poor Will, Bluebird, Chimney Swift, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Scarlet Tanager, Cowbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Redstart, Eastern Kingbird, Great-crested Flycatcher and Yellow Warbler. Happy Birding!

July 9, 2015 — Where did all the birds go? This is a common question that gets asked this time of year from many who enjoy feeding birds. Please don't be alarmed. The birds are simply taking advantage of their natural food sources that are abundant now. These resources are also being consumed by all the new birds that are out of the nest. Just yesterday, we saw our first families of Orioles visiting the bird feeders, soon the birds will return to our backyards.

Bird sightings include: Bald Eagle, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Kestrel, Turkey Vulture, Great-blue Heron, Green Heron, Trumpeter Swan, Turkey, Common Loon, Woodduck, Ring-neck Duck, Mallard, Geese, Eastern Kingbird, Great-crested Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch, House Finch, Goldfinch, Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Brown Creeper, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Bluebird, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Raven, Blue Jay, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Hummingbird, Morning Dove, Pine Siskin, Whip-poor-Will, Chimney Swift, Cliff Swallow, Tree Swallow, Catbird, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Redstart and Sandhill Crane. Happy Birding!

A MN Bird Guide tour on 7/8 to Rice Lake NWR with Paul from Santa Fe New Mexico found 46 species of birds! New birds added to his life list included Golden-winged Warbler and Le Conte's Sparrow.

July 3, 2015 — Happy 4th of July! This can be a difficult time to see birds at feeders as many of them are still nesting and feasting on the natural abundance of wild foods. I have noticed in my backyard feeder (and the many that I maintain) that the amount of food hasn't changed much from week to week. You can try putting less food out so it doesn't go to waste but keep in mind that a clean feeder with fresh food simply attracts more birds.

The female Goldfinch is gathering nesting material. They are one of the last birds to nest in the state. After several attempts in trying to relocate the Trumpeter Swans on Rice Lake along Co Rd 11, I finally got a glimpse of them this past week. I was able to determine that they did nest successfully but the chicks were in the grass so unable to count this time. This now marks the 3 consecutive year that they have nested successfully at this location, I would encourage taking a look at these beautiful birds.

Bird sightings this week include: Bald Eagle, Osprey, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Raven, Wild Turkey (with brood), Common Loon, Mallard, Trumpeter Swan, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Goldfinch, House Finch, Bluebird, House Wren, Sedge Wren, Oriole, Hummingbird, Yellow Warbler, Redstart, Whip-poor Will, Lark Sparrow, Killdeer, Song Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Bank Swallow, Red-headed Woodpecker, Sapsucker, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Pine Siskin, Black-billed Cuckoo, Common Yellowthroat, Great-blue Heron, Green Heron, Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Morning Dove and Cedar Waxwing. Happy Birding!
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— Judd Brink, bird guide/owner, [MN Backyard Birds](#) & [BirdsoftheByway.com](#)