

## Birding Reports (October 2012)

**October 27, 2012** — This past week brought little change in migration. The waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans) movement has been very slow but should be picking up very soon. At the Lowell Rice Lake WMA, the Trumpeter Swans are still their but soon to be joined by other migrating swans. (Last year, 49 were spotted at this location.) Also at Lowell Rice Lake, a single adult Bald Eagle was soaring over the water perhaps looking at the Woodducks below. A few birds that are still present in the area include Red-winged Blackbird, Grackle, Robin, Red-headed Woodpecker and Ring-billed Gull. Cedar waxwings and Robins were found in fruiting trees this past week at various locations in the Brainerd area. Birds that are now arriving at feeding stations include Purple Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Junco, White-throated Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow and Fox Sparrow. Bald Eagles and Ravens also in the area. Happy Birding!

**October 18, 2012** — The last group of birds to migrate (ducks, geese and swans) are just starting to arrive in small numbers. Some of these include Trumpeter Swans, Hooded Mergansers, Mallards, Woodduck, Common Goldeneye and Coots. One good location for seeing swans and other waterfowl is the Rice Lake/Lowell WMA near Pequot Lakes. This past week Trumpeter Swans were viewed along the Niswaga Lake channel. Several large flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles are still hanging around along with some robins. Now with most of the leaves off the trees this is a good time to look for birds feeding on Mountain Ash and Crabbapple fruit. The Juncos, White-throated Sparrows and Fox Sparrows are still in the area in good numbers and prefer to feed on the ground. Other birds in the area include Cedar Waxwing, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bald Eagle, Common Loon (North Long Lake), Bluebirds and Pine Siskin. Happy Birding!

**October 12, 2012** — The below normal temperatures have brought a few birds into the area earlier than normal. This includes: Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, Fox Sparrow, Grackles, Red-tailed Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Coopers Hawk, Northern Harrier, Flicker, Robin, Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Woodduck, Trumpeter Swan, White Pelican, Belted Kingfisher, Pied-billed Grebe, Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane, Brewers Blackbird and Lapland Longspur. Over 200 Sandhill Cranes were found just outside of the town of Aitkin on Co Rd 1. Trumpeter Swans now being seen at the Niswaga Lake channel. Happy Birding.

**October 1, 2012** — With the mild weather, the bird movement has slowed some. Juncos and White-throated Sparrows seem to be everywhere along with Yellow-rumped Warblers. Bluebirds and Robins are still present and in good numbers in the area. Adult Bald Eagles can be seen along Hwy 371 between Brainerd and Niswaga. Find Trumpeter Swans in Brainerd and at Rice Lake/Lowell WMA. Coots and Pied-billed grebes can be found along the shores of North Long and Round Lakes. Most of the Goldfinches have molted into their winter coats that will last into next spring. Sharp-shinned Hawk was at the house the other day looking for smaller birds at the feeders. Turkey Vultures are still here and can be seen soaring high above. Some waterfowl are just starting to move in such as geese, woodducks, mallards and others. Happy Birding!

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