

Birding Reports (October 2016)



Oct. 27, 2016 — Birds on the move this week include; Common Loon, Mallard, Trumpeter Swan, Ring-neck Duck, Woodduck, Ring-billed Gull, Coot, Red-tailed Hawk (10), Bald Eagle (8), Raven, Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Cardinal, Robin, Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Pileated Woodpecker, House Finch, Ruffed Grouse, Goldfinch, Red-bellied Woodpecker and Turkey.

Each evening, several flying squirrels appear at the feeders looking for anything that the birds didn't eat. If your feeders are located in wooded area you might want to take a peak tonight to see if you see these soaring acrobats.

Also -- our Common Loons will soon be uncommon as they form large rafts or groups of birds on larger lakes such as Mille Lacs. By the end of November, the loons travel to Lake Michigan where they continue to feed before making the large migration to the Gulf of Mexico where they spend the rest of the winter far off shore. Loons can dive as much as 500' below the surface in search of fish and other prey. Here is a link that tracks the loon migration from Minnesota to the Gulf.

(http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/migratory_birds/loons/migrations.html) Happy Birding!

Oct. 21, 2016 — Waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans) are the last group of birds to migrate and will soon be on the move. Then, our weekly reports will end until spring. Thanks to everyone who has followed the seasons with us!

Bird sightings for this week include: Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Trumpeter Swan, Common Loon, Mallard, Goose, Sandhill Crane, Ruffed Grouse, Hermit Thrush, Robin, Woodduck, Coot, Common Merganser, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Raven, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-winged Blackbird, Cardinal, House Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Turkey, Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Belted Kingfisher, Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow and Ring-billed Gull. Happy Birding!

Oct. 16, 2016 — Bird sightings for the last week include: Common Loon, Hooded Merganser, Mallard, Goose, Woodduck, Coot, Common Merganser, Trumpeter Swan, Red-tailed Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Bald Eagle (13) Turkey Vulture (20), Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Robin, Eastern Bluebird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Junco, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Ring-billed Gull, House Finch, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Belted Kingfisher, Wild Turkey and Raven. Happy Birding!

Oct. 7, 2016 — The Bird sightings for the lakes area include: Common Loon, Trumpeter Swan, Mallard, Woodduck, Turkey Vulture, Red-tail Hawk, Bald Eagle, Goose, Robin, Bluebird, Ring-billed Gull, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Goldfinch, House Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Turkey and Raven.

Enjoy the fall colors this weekend!

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Oct. 3, 2016 — The Whitefish Chain region is just past the peak fall migration. A few new sparrows can now be seen including: Fox Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Junco's. Recent sightings for the area include: Common Loon, Coot, Double-crested Cormorant, Trumpeter Swan, Ring-billed Gull, Great-blue Heron, Mallard, Woodduck, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle (5) Turkey Vulture (20) Red-tail Hawk (3) Broad-winged Hawk (1), Raven, Bluebird, Turkey, Robin, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Happy Birding!

— Judd Brink, *bird guide/owner, MN Backyard Birds & BirdMinnesota.com*