

Birding Reports (August 2013)

Aug. 31, 2013 — A few migrants (warblers) seen this past week include: Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Black and White Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, Golden-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler and Yellow Warbler. Several Common Loon families were also found this week on Pelican Lake with two young and on Rush Lake with a single chick. Other birds this week include: Belted Kingfisher, Great-blue Heron, Great-horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Scarlet Tanager, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Hummingbird, Broad-winged Hawk, Mallard, Woodduck, Brown Thrasher, Trumpeter Swan, Cedar Waxwing, Gray Catbird, Eastern Kingbird, Bluebird, Vesper Sparrow, Pewee, Oriole, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Grackle, Flicker and Song Sparrow. Happy Birding!

Aug. 26, 2013 — Birds found in the area this week include: Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Redstart, Golden-winged Warbler, Bluebird, Scarlet Tanager, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Hummingbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Martin, Nighthawk, Tree Swallow, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Great-blue Heron, Cedar Waxwing, Belted Kingfisher, Woodduck, Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Eastern Kingbird, Oriole, Loon, Great-horned Owl and Vesper Sparrow. Happy Birding!

Aug. 18, 2013 — The fall bird migration continues to grow in numbers, but won't peak until about mid September. Some birds -- like swifts, swallows and martins -- gather in huge pre-migratory roosts each evening numbering in the thousands of birds. In Aitkin, just north of the Brainerd area, a Purple Martin roost was just recently detected by both on the ground observers and local radar numbering at about 20,000-30,000 martins. The number of raptors also seems to be increasing as well and the best place to see migrating raptors is Hawk Ridge in Duluth.

Birds that have been seen more locally this week include: Belted Kingfisher, Red-tailed Hawk (5), Bald Eagle (3), Turkey Vulture (11) Broad-winged Hawk (2) Bluebird, Oriole, Hummingbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Martin, Ovenbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Flicker, Sapsucker, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow Warbler, Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Grackles, Red-winged Blackbird, Hooded Merganser, Woodduck, Mallard, Ring-neck Duck, Osprey, Robins (50) cedar Waxing, Brown Thrasher, Phoebe, Eastern-wood Pewee, Great-crested Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch Eastern Kingbird, Great-blue Heron, Common Loon and Vesper Sparrow. Happy Birding!

Aug. 12, 2013 — August is the start of the fall bird migration with shorebirds being the first group of birds taking flight. Unfortunately, our area doesn't produce good shorebird habitat (large mudflats), but they can be found in small scattered numbers along receding water edges. The best locations for our area is to seek out and visit sewage treatment plants. The facilities in Ironton/Crosby have decent numbers, but probably hold only for a few days.

Birds observed include: Solitary Sandpiper, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Chimney Swift, Eastern Kingbird, Bluebird, Scarlet Tanager, Oriole, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Belted Kingfisher, Trumpeter Swan, Green Heron, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Common Nighthawk (8), Whip-poor-Will, Great-blue Heron, Hooded Merganser, Woodduck, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, House Wren, Hummingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Indigo Bunting, Raven, Eastern-wood Pewee, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Coopers Hawk and Common Loon. Happy Birding!

A bird watching tour last week along the "Birds of the Byway" via Rice Lake/ Lowell WMA found these wonderful birds: Green Herons (3), Turkey Vulture, Common Yellowthroat, Red-tailed Hawk, Great-blue Heron, Black Tern, Cedar Waxwing, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Catbird, Trumpeter Swan, Raven, Hooded Merganser, Woodduck and Swamp Sparrow.

Aug. 6, 2013 — The birds are now on the move and are becoming more active in feeding as they are starting to prepare for their long migrations. Seeing a lot more activity at the feeders too, with lots of young birds joining the adults. Now is a good time to get the oriole and hummingbird feeders out again.

Here are the birds that were observed this past week in the lakes area. New birds include: Purple Martin, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Eastern wood-Pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, Indigo Bunting, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Redstart and Spotted Sandpiper. Other notable sightings are, Red-tailed Hawk, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor Will, Tree Swallows, Chimney Swifts, Eastern Kingbird, Bluebird, Scarlet Tanager, Brown Thrasher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Oriole, Hummingbird, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Great-blue Heron, Osprey, Common Loon, Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Woodduck, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Cedar Waxwing and House Wren.

Rice Lake/Lowell WMA: Trumpeter Swan (3 Cygnets), Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Ring-neck Duck, Great-Blue Heron, Green Heron, Cedar Waxwing, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Woodduck, Goldfinch and Common Yellowthroat. Chirella FMA: Barred Owl (heard only), Chestnut-sided Warbler, Downy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Chickadee, Red-eyed Vireo and White-breasted Nuthatch.

Happy Birding!

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