

Birding Reports (July 2013)

July 28, 2013 — Some of the best birding activity right now is at bird feeders, as many of our backyard birds are now bringing their young in a for summer snack. Here are a few birds that have nested nearby and stopping at my bird feeders with their young: Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Bluebirds, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, Chipping Sparrow, Lark Sparrow (first nesting record for Crow Wing County), scarlet Tanager and Red-winged Blackbird. One area that has a nice bird feeder set up for the public to enjoy can be found at the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd.

Birds observed during the week include: Raven, Crow, Great-blue Heron, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Red-tailed Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Broad Winged Hawk, Whip-poor Will, Common Nighthawk, Bluebird, Tree Swallow, House Wren, Eastern Kingbird, Phoebe, Gray Catbird, Trumpeter Swan, Pigeon, House Finch, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, House Finch, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black Tern, Common Loon (Mud Lake loon pair with 1 chick), Belted Kingfisher, Chimney Swift, Osprey, Robin, Grackle and Brown Thrasher.

Sightings along the Rice Lake/Lowell WMA include the Trumpeter Swans with three growing cygnets, Great-blue Heron, Swamp Sparrow, Common Yellow-throat and the Ospreys nesting along the Highway. Happy Birding!

July 24, 2013 — Trying to find birds in the heat can be difficult and challenging, but things will improve soon. A recent bird watching tour found some good birds for the Nebraska and Fargo birders in the area. Here is the list of birds found: Great-blue Heron, Eastern Kingbird, Black Tern, Killdeer, Clay-colored Sparrow, Common Loon, Mallard, Green Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Song Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Ring-billed Gulls, Red-winged Blackbird, Grackle, Crow, Brown-headed Cowbird, Tree Swallow, Red-eyed Vireo, Least Flycatcher and few others. Common Loons were found at French Rapids, Northlong Lake, Round Lake (1 pair with 2 chicks), and White Sand Lake (3 adults). Happy Birding!

July 14, 2013 — The birding activity has slowed with the summer heat and nesting. I just recently started seeing some birds bringing their young to the feeders. For some birds, the fall migration will start as early as next month but we don't see much of the shorebird migration in our area.

Birds of interest found this week include: Lark Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Phoebe, Trumpeter Swan with 3 Cygnets, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Ring-neck Duck, Oriole, Great-blue Heron, Bluebird, Vesper Sparrow, Whip-poor-Will, Vesper Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Ring-billed Gull, Eastern Kingbird, Brown Thrasher, Great-crested Flycatcher, Canada Goose, Pileated Woodpecker, Turkey Vulture, Hummingbird and Chimney Swift.

The swans at Rice Lake/Lowell WMA are doing well with the young Cygnets growing fast now about 4 weeks old. Happy Birding!

July 7, 2013 — Birding is often slower this time of year, but birds can still be seen at select locations in the area. This is a good time to see young eagles, osprey and loons riding their parents' backs. I should mention that the Trumpeter Swans (picture above) found at the Rice Lake/ Lowell WMA hatched 3 cygnets this year compared to 7 last year.

Here is a short list of bird that have been found during the week in the area; Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Cliff Swallow, Tree Swallow, Chimney Swift, Bluebird, Oriole, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Great Blue Heron, Broad Winged Hawk, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Common Loon, Ring-neck Duck, Killdeer, Scarlet Tanager, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Turkey, Canada Goose, Mallard, Belted Kingfisher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Raven, Eastern Kingbird, Nighthawk, Hummingbird, Sandhill Crane and Trumpeter Swan. Happy Birding!

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