

Birding Reports (November 2014)

Nov. 18, 2014 —The first snowy Owl reports just came in within the past few days in Aitkin County. Last year was a record year for the snowy owl, with one being found as far as Florida! If you didn't see any last year, I am sure there will be plenty of opportunities this winter. If interested in seeing or photographing the owls you can contact me for guiding trip.

Birds in the area this past week include; Trumpeter Swan, Robin, Hooded Merganser, Mallard, Geese, Red-winged Blackbird, Junco, American Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Bald Eagle (7) Raven, Turkey, Cedar Waxwing, Ring-billed Gull, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Pileated Woodpecker, Cardinal, Snow Bunting and Common Loon. Happy Birding!

Nov. 10, 2014 — The last group of birds to migrate are ducks, geese and swans as things start to freeze up. Now seeing some geese in flight along with some ducks probably going to the river for the night. The number of birds gets a little shorter this time of year but here is what is in the area: American Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Junco, Snow Bunting, Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Pine Siskin, Coots, Pied-billed Grebe, Loon, Hooded Merganser, Bald Eagle, Raven, Turkey and Pheasant. Hole in the day bay on Gull Lake had 5 Trumpeter Swans a few days ago. The Gull Lake recreation area reported about 5,000 coots out in the lake. The best places to look for large "rafts" of ducks would be the larger lakes including Gull Lake and Lake Mille Lacs. Happy Birding!

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