

## Birding Reports (September 2013)

**Sept. 28, 2013** — The birds are really on the move now with the recent change of temperatures. Bird watchers in the Whitefish Area are seeing more and more warblers and sparrows with some hawks still around. The birds spotted this week include, Turkey Vulture (8) Bald Eagle (3) Cooper's Hawk (1) Broad-winged Hawk (2) Barred Owl, Great-horned Owl, Flicker, Sapsucker, Phoebe, Common Loon, Mallard, Geese, Hooded Merganser, Wood Duck, Ravens, White-throated Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Purple Finch, Sandhill Crane, Woodcock, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bluebird (35), Belted Kingfisher, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Trumpeter Swan. **Fall Birding Tours** in the Whitefish Area are a great way to see more birds.

A great place to visit right now is the [Rice Lake /Lowell WMA](#) located on County Road 11 between Pequot Lakes and Breezy Point where some waterfowl are starting to stage. The next wave of migrants will be waterfowl before things start to freeze but hopefully that will be a few weeks away. Happy Birding!

**Sept. 19, 2013** — As you can see from the photo, most of the goldfinches are already sporting their winter plumage so their pretty yellow/gold coloring is gone until spring.

It appears that the fall bird migration is almost at its peak or soon to be for many birds across the Whitefish Chain of Lakes Region. Now is a great time to enjoy the start of the fall colors and the peak bird migration along the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway.

In my opinion, the five best areas for fall colors and seeing birds in the Whitefish Area are the Rice Lake/Lowell WMA, Veterans Trail, Chiarella Forest Management Area, US Army Corps Campground and Uppgaard Wildlife Management Area. Many warblers and other birds can now be seen at these great locations. Several currently migrating warblers include Nashville Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, Black and White Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pied-billed Grebe, Cedar Waxwings and Canada Geese. It is also easy to spot Redstart, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Nashville Warblers. Other birds spotted this week include, Great-blue Heron, Mallard, Woodduck, Hooded Merganser, White-throated Sparrow, Catbird, Bluebird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Bald Eagle (3), Turkey Vulture (15), Osprey (1) Broad-winged Hawk (1), Red-tailed Hawk (6), Raven, Hummingbird, Scarlet Tanager, Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Phoebe, Robin, Red-winged Blackbird and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Happy Birding!

**Sept. 13, 2013** — The birds are responding to the cooler weather and shorter days as they are preparing for their migrations. New birds this week include: Palm Warbler, Solitary Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Pine Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Nashville Warbler and Yellow Warbler. Other migrants on the move are: Canada Geese, Sandhill Crane, Yellow-shafted Flicker (30 at one location along a road side) Ravens, Common Nighthawk, Robin, Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Great-horned Owl, White-throated Sparrow, Cooper's Hawk, Turkey Vulture (22) Bald Eagle (3) Broad-winged Hawk (1) Sharp-shinned Hawk (1) Belted kingfisher, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Hummingbird, Vesper Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Red-tailed Hawk (5). The Orioles and Grosbeaks have been really hard to find lately but the hummingbirds are in a feeding frenzy. Happy Birding!

**Sept. 5, 2013** — Many of our birds are now on the move with the bulk of the migration still yet to come. Birds reported this past week include: White-throated Sparrow, Belted Kingfisher, Green Heron, Bald Eagle (4), Osprey (2), Turkey Vulture (15), Broad Wing Hawk (2), Cooper's Hawk (2), Oriole, Hummingbird, Catbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Trumpeter Swan, Double-crested Cormorant, Geese, Mallards, Pied-billed Grebe, Woodduck, Common Loon, Great-blue Heron, Great-horned Owl, Nashville Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Pileated Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Cooper's Hawk photos shared by Larry W. from Crosslake. Happy Birding!

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