

Birding Reports (September 2018)



The winter season can offer some very good birding opportunities especially in areas like Aitkin County and the famous Sax-Zim Bog. Many of the "Boreal" species of birds often spend the winters here giving birders and photographers a unique experience. These areas might offer the best chance to see rare Owls and Woodpeckers and some of the winter finches than anywhere else in the United States. Some of the birds that my guiding tours look for include Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Snowy Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Evening and Pine Grosbeak, Northern Goshawk, Red-Crossbill and a few others.

Contact me to see our winter rarities -- Judd Brink [\(218\) 838-4784](tel:218-838-4784) or info@birdminnesota.com.
Happy Birding!

Sept. 30, 2018 — The bird migration is just past its peak but there are still a good number of birds to be seen. **Recent** bird sightings: Common Loon, Canada Goose, Mallard, Great Egret, Phoebe, Bluebird, Turkey, Woodduck, Sandhill Crane, White-throated Sparrows, Juncos, Towhee, Brown Thrasher, Raven, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Cedar Waxwing, Great-blue Heron, House Finch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Flicker, Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Belted Kingfisher, Trumpeter Swan and Song Sparrow. Happy Birding!

Sept. 20, 2018 — **Recent** bird sightings: Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Catbird, Robin, Towhee, Sandhill Crane, Trumpeter Swan, Mallard, Goose, White-throated Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Common Nighthawk (150), Common Loon, Bluebird, Cardinal, Ring-billed Gull, Cedar Waxwing and Raven.

Typically this time in the fall is the peak migration period for many songbirds. The waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans) are also starting to gather in grain fields late evenings.

The Crosslake city council recently voted on Audubon's Bird City program! Look for more birding events in the future in the Crosslake area. Happy Birding!

Sept. 14, 2018 — **Recent** bird sightings: Trumpeter Swans, Mallard, Woodduck, Trumpeter Swan, Belted Kingfisher, Great-blue Heron, Canada Goose, Bluebird, Towhee, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hummingbird, Chipping Sparrow, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Solitary Sandpiper, Cedar Waxwing, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Redstart, Palm Warbler, Cape May, Black and White, Morning Dove, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Phoebe and Raven.

The Northern Flicker is one of our migratory woodpeckers often seen in groups. This woodpecker is fond of ants and can often be seen near ant hills and probably spends more time on the ground than any other woodpecker. Happy Birding!

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Birding Reports (September 2018), cont.

Sept. 7, 2018 — Recent bird sightings: Common Loon, Great-blue Heron, Mallard, Woodduck, Blue-winged Teal, Coopers Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Trumpeter Swan, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Sedge Wren, Towhee, Cardinal, Pied-billed Grebe, Canada Goose, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Osprey, Common Nighthawk, Cedar Waxwing, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Bluebird, Oriole, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Phoebe, House Finch and Belted Kingfisher.

You can use your smartphone to track the fall migration by using your weather or radar map birds will appear as "doughnuts" on a radar map. Best checked late night or very early in the morning 2-3 am.

Please report any unusual birds to Judd Brink ([\(218\) 838-4784](tel:2188384784)) or email (info@birdminnesota.com). Include a photo and/or a brief description in the email if possible. Happy Birding!

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