

## Birding Reports (October 2011)

**October 26, 2011** — With more normal weather, a good number of new birds are arriving throughout the area. A guided trip last week found 30 species in Aitkin County. Most notable were: Harris Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Northern Shrike, Gray Jay, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier and Bald Eagle. On back-to-back days, I had one Cooper's Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk visit my home. The following are still being seen in the area: Bluebird, Robbin, Cedar Waxwing, Raven, White-throated Sparrow, Harris Sparrow, Junco, Fox Sparrow, Geese, Mallard, Wood Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Loon (winter plumage). On Round Lake: two adult Bald Eagles, Mallards, Bonaparte's Gulls. Hole in the Day Lake: 4 Trumpeter Swans. Lowell WMA (Rice Lake): 37 Trumpeter Swans.

**October 18, 2011** — With below-normal temperatures, more birds are starting to travel through the region. A total of 13 Red-tail Hawks were seen between Brainerd and St. Cloud on October 12. Other raptors found in the area include Broad-wing Hawk, one adult Bald Eagle sitting on the nest in Nisswa. More Gulls and waterfowl are being seen but with all of the wind its difficult to identify. A few include Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Mallard and Ring-billed Gull. A stop at the Uppgarrd WMA found the following Common Raven, Immature Bald Eagle, Fox Sparrows, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Junco, Blue Jay, Brown Creeper, Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker, Geese, and White-breasted Nuthatch. Others in the area include Cedar Waxwing, Purple Finch, White-throated Sparrows, Juncos, starlings, Red-winged Blackbird and Yellow rumped Warbler.

**October 12, 2011** — There are several species that have increased over the past week, including White-throated Sparrow, Junco and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Along the shoreline of North Long Lake several groups of Pied-billed Grebes can be seen. I expect to see more waterfowl arriving soon as the weather cools. At Chiarella FMA: Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Junco, White-throated Sparrow. At Lowell WMA: one adult Bald Eagle, some waterfowl too far away to be IDed. Other birds in the area include Belted kingfisher, Robin, Grackle, Barred Owl, Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch.

**October 4, 2011** — The fall migration around the Brainerd Lakes Area is more gradual than the spring migration and with above normal weather many birds can be found in the area. A bike ride on the Paul Bunyan Trail from Nisswa to Pequot Lakes found the following; Bluebird, Kestrel, Cedar Waxwing, Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler along with (non-migratory) birds. Many raptors are still present in the area, Red-tail Hawk, Bald Eagle and Immature Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Coopers Hawk. Lots of Yellow-rumped Warblers I would expect to see them for another week or so. Just starting to see some larger flocks of geese flying at sundown with some ducks moving. Other birds include Great Blue Heron, Raven, Hummingbird, Brown Creeper, Phoebe and Tennessee Warbler. .

Happy Birding!

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