

Birding Reports (August 2011)

August 29, 2011 — The fall migration is starting to build slowly before the peak in September. Hawk Ridge in Duluth started their annual raptor counts last week. Raptors seen this past week include Broad-wing Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Coopers Hawk mostly individual birds. A small group of 5 Turkey Vultures were circling this past week along with Bald Eagles and osprey at other locations. Immature Eagles and Ospreys can be seen flying with their parents or on their own. Bird feeders in the area are still attracting fall birds like; Hummingbirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Orioles. During the past week I have had several small waves of warblers going through the yard and at other locations. Now through mid September is a good time to watch for fall warblers they look much different and take some practice and patience. The next several weeks should be very exciting as more birds move southward with September being the peak month for a majority of birds.

August 21, 2011 —The month of August is when the American Goldfinch nests the last bird to nest in our area. Unfortunately the number of Loon chicks seen this year is down with just one chick being more commonly seen. At area bird feeding stations, I have seen more Hummingbirds mostly young birds along with Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

August 14, 2011 — A birding trip to Uppgaard WMA in mid-July found 13 species including an Indigo Bunting with two fledglings. The Bald Eagle nest located on Hwy 371 just north of Nisswa successful raised two eagles. The Osprey nest located along the Paul Bunyan Scenic Byway on Co Rd 11 also were successful in raising two Osprey. The Bluebird boxes were used again this year with two boxes being occupied by Bluebirds and each raised 1 brood at the AmericInn in Pequot Lakes. The Trumpeter swans at Lowell WMA may have nested but didn't produce any cygnets this year. This summer I participated in the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project surveying local golf courses for nesting clusters. Happy Birding!

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