

Birding Reports (March 2012)

March 28, 2012 — At the Lowell/Rice Lake WMA on Co Rd 11, several Hooded Mergansers were spotted, along with one pair of Trumpeter Swans. A few new arrivals to the region include Phoebe, Fox Sparrows, and singing spring peepers (frogs). Several large flocks of swans are continuing to pass through the area as they travel north. Robins and cedar waxwings are busy feeding on crabapple trees now. Any fruiting tree that has kept its fruit through the winter now becomes an important food source and can be a good place to find uncommon birds. Happy Birding!

March 24, 2012 — Early open water is attracting geese, swans and ducks, including Trumpeter Swans, Woodduck and Common Goldeneyes. Bald Eagles have also been active — both in the air and on the melting lake. Other raptors in the area include Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels and a Northern Harrier. Other new arrivals include: Bluebird, Great Blue Heron, Chipping Sparrow, Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, Ring-billed Gull, Song Sparrow and Fox Sparrow. Goldfinches are molting into their bright yellow summer plumage — a true sign of what's to come. Happy Birding!

March 13, 2012 — With temperatures 15-30 degrees above average, an early migration is expected this year around the Whitefish Chain of Lakes. Within the last week, the following birds have been spotted: Trumpeter Swans, Redtailed Hawks, Adult Bald, Immature Eagles, Hooded and Common Mergansers, American Kestrel, Sandhill Cranes, Killdeer, Horned Lark, and a Barred Owl. Plus, the official sign for spring in the lakes area has arrived — Robbins.

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