

Birding Reports (May 2012)

May 30, 2012 — A nice spot to visit is the Rice Lake/Lowell WMA on Co Rd 11 just East of Pequot Lakes; recent birds seen include Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Oriole, Tree Swallows, Trumpeter Swans, Ring-neck Ducks, Mallards and Geese. The Blue-goose that was being reported for almost 7 weeks wasn't seen but it's very difficult to see with the vegetation. A good majority of the birds have gone through the area by now so it's the end of the spring migration. Birds that can still be found in the area include Bluebirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Least Flycatchers, Orioles, Hummingbirds, Yellow Warblers, Redstarts, Common Yellowthroat, Bald Eagles, Common Loons, Osprey, Turkey Vulture, Great-crested Flycatcher, Great-blue Heron, Song Sparrow, Purple Martins and Red-tailed Hawk. During the next few weeks you will start to see more and more duck broods such as Woodduck and Mallard. Most of the Owls that nested in February/March have young that are now fledged or left the nest on their own. Happy Birding!

May 22, 2012 — The spring bird migration is at its peak or just beyond. This year's early leaf out made it more challenging to see many birds. Birds seen from Lowell/Rice Lake WMA near Pequot Lakes includes: Swamp Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Snow Goose (week 7), Loons, Ring-neck Ducks, Mallards, Orioles, Tree Swallows and Geese. Bald Eagles, Osprey, Turkey Vultures and Red-tailed Hawks were also seen in various locations. Many of our birds are already nesting with some being early due to the favorable conditions. Happy Birding!

May 15, 2012 — The bird migration is now in full flight with many new arrivals this past week. Some of the new birds include: Redstarts, Scarlet Tanager, Red-eyed Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Hummingbird, House Wren, Indigo Bunting, Oriole and E. Kingbird. I went to the Veterans Trail (on County Road 16) on Saturday and found Black & White Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ovenbird, Pine Warbler and Ruffed Grouse drumming.

On Sunday, the Northland Arboretum (Brainerd) held its annual International Migratory Bird Day count with about 25 people searching for birds. Each year, this friendly but competitive event sends out teams with a guide to record as many species within that time period with a potluck lunch afterwards. The top teams found 45 and 43 birds which is down a little from previous years, but still fun. Some of the birds seen from that event are Red-headed Woodpecker, Scarlet Tanager, Bluebirds, Pine Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Ovenbird and Chestnut-sided Warbler. Happy Birding!

May 8, 2012 — The Whitefish Chain Region is nearing the peak of spring migration. New arrivals from this past week include Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black and White Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Ovenbird, Great-crested Flycatcher, Ruffed Grouse (drumming) Hermit Thrush, Veery, American Redstart and Barn Swallows. During the week I discovered a few more birds besides the Eagles and Osprey's that are now nesting like Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Woodducks, and Chickadees. One of the Chickadee's nest contained 8 eggs while a Bluebird nest at the Northland Arboretum contained 4 eggs!

On Monday May 7, 2012, I stopped at Fritz-Loven Park in Lakeshore for some birding here is what I found; Palm Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Pine Warbler, Veery, Bald Eagle (adult) Broad-winged Hawk (2) Ruffed Grouse (drumming), Flicker, Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Crow, Raven, Chickadee, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Robins.

Also seen were Eagles, Turkey Vultures, Osprey's, Broad-winged Hawks and Cooper's Hawks in the area seen from the car in the area. Happy Birding!

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