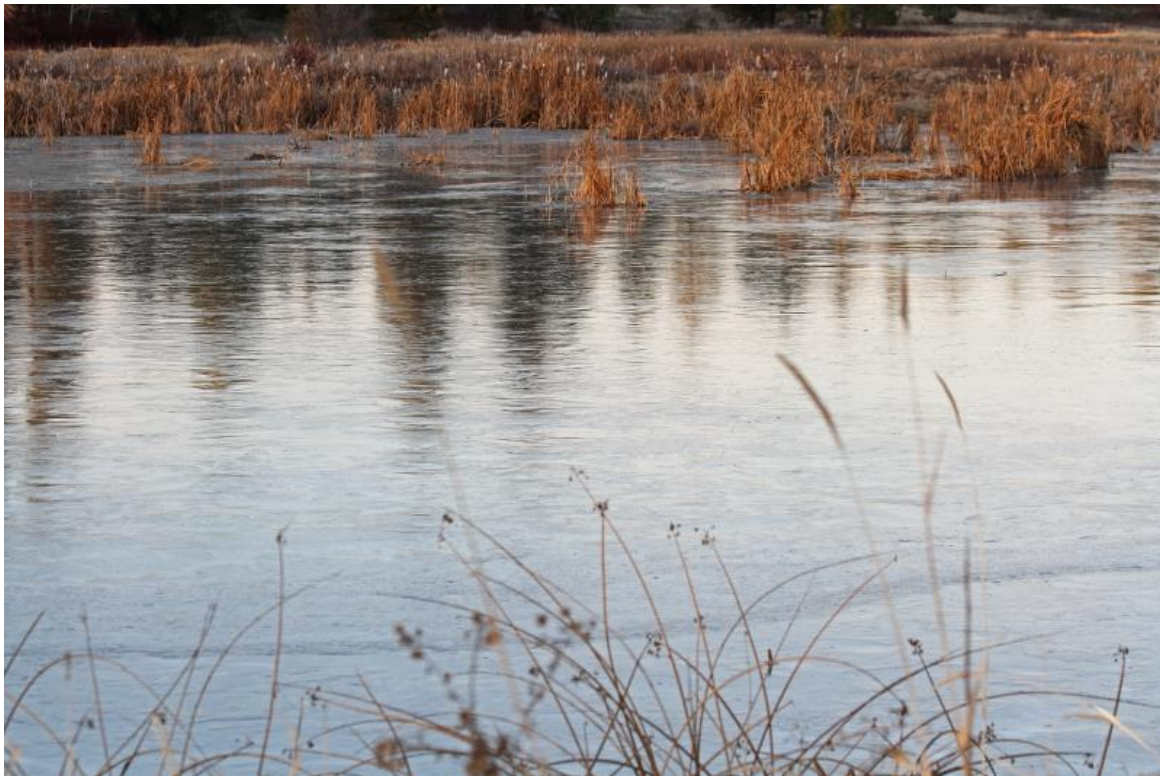


Carlene Hardt, November 2019

FALL MIGRATION!

Daylight Savings Time was coming up so I went to Turnbull one last time after work on October 31st. After this, it will get dark too early for me to take a walk there.

While walking down to Winslow Pool, I remember thinking how quiet it was. You could hear a pin drop. As I passed by Winslow and Middle Pine, I noticed there were no ducks on the ponds - they were completely frozen over!



One thing really stood out, though - there was an odd pile of sticks and grass (and mud?) on the banks of Middle Pine. So THAT's where the aspen trees went, the ones chewed down by the beavers! They made themselves a nice lodge just in time for winter.



When I was nearing the south end of the path, three Trumpeter swans flew over, heading south towards nearby Cheever Lake.



I could tell when they landed because I could hear their loud trumpeting. And I realized there might be more happening at that lake so I hurried down there to try to beat the sun setting.

I was delighted to reach my destination and see a big group of geese and ducks in fall migration with Trumpeter and Tundra swans too (they have a yellow patch in front of each eye).





There was still some unfrozen water where they could stop and eat on their long journey south. And it was no longer quiet. The sights and sounds of hundreds of birds calling was worth the

strenuous walk! This was only the second time in all my years out there that I was at the right place at the right time for migration.



And everyone was getting along, something that doesn't normally happen. Look at the Trumpeter swan walking in between two gees:



Did you know that in North America about 75% of birds migrate? They do this for various reasons but mostly to find a more abundant source of food or warmer weather.

Another sign that winter is on its way!

