

## Voice of the Naturalist

Date: 10/13/09

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

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Please consider joining ANS, especially if you are a regular user of the Voice (Individual \$40; Family \$50; Nature Steward \$75; Audubon Advocate \$150). The membership number is 301-652-9188, option 12; the address is 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, October 13, at 5:45 pm.

Top bird this week is BRANT in MD.

Other birds of interest include geese, RING-NECKED PHEASANT, WHITE-FACED IBIS, MERLIN, shorebirds, RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, LEAST FLYCATCHER, YELLOW-THROATED and PHILADELPHIA VIREOS, COMMON RAVEN, thrushes, warblers, sparrows, ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, BREWER'S BLACKBIRD and PURPLE FINCH.

Four BRANT were spotted at Sandy Point, Anne Arundel Co, MD on October 7. A single BRANT was seen at Eastern Neck NWR, Kent Co, MD on October 11.

A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE along with a CACKLING GOOSE were seen at the Chestertown treatment ponds on John Hanson Road in Kent Co, MD on October 9. The GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was seen again on October 10. Another GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was at Willis Wharf, Northampton Co, VA on October 12. A SNOW GOOSE was noted on the north side of Rt 50, near the E-Z Pass office on October 9. A ROSS'S GOOSE was seen on Great Oak Pond, Kent Co, MD on October 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12. A CACKLING GOOSE was picked out of a group of CANADA GEESE at Turkey Point, Cecil Co, MD on October 11.

A RING-NECKED PHEASANT was spotted on Rowes Point Road (Rt 652) in SE Gloucester Co, VA on October 11.

A WHITE-FACED IBIS was found in the marsh behind A-19 in the Bayside Campground, Assateague Island, Worcester Co, MD on October 11.

A MERLIN flew over a yard in Woodbine, Carroll Co, MD on October 9. A MERLIN perched on a nearby snag at Turkey Point on October 11.

An AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER was found at Hughlett, Northern Neck, Northernumberland Co, VA on October 11.

A trip to Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD on October 10 recorded 11 shorebird species including WESTERN, PECTORAL and STILT SANDPIPERS. A RED-NECKED PHALAROPE was at the Chestertown treatment ponds on October 9, 10, 11 and 12.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS continued to pop up with reports from Hard Bargain Farm, Prince George's Co, MD and Sky Meadows SP, Fauquier Co, VA on October 11 and Turkey Point, also on October 11.

A LEAST FLYCATCHER was at Leesylvania SP, Prince William Co, Va on October 10.

A YELLOW-THROATED VIREO was seen in Rock Creek Park, DC on October 7. A PHILADELPHIA VIREO was seen at Equitation Field in Rock Creek Park on October 11.

COMMON RAVENS continue to be observed in areas where they were once uncommon. This past week one was flying over I-95 at the Beltsville/Cloverly exit, Prince Georges Co, MD on October 7, another three were found October 11 at Great Falls, Montgomery Co, MD. These three COMMON RAVENS were also seen from the VA side.

A GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH put in appearance in Rock Creek Park on the trail to the Maintenance Yard on October 10. A SWAINSON'S THRUSH was seen at Wheaton Regional Park/Brookside Garden, Montgomery Co, MD on October 9 while another was at Monticello Park, Alexandria, VA on the same day. A half dozen SWAINSON'S THRUSH were seen at Oregon Ridge Park, Baltimore Co, MD on October 10.

Good numbers of warblers continued to be found this past week. The highlights included an ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER at Sky Meadows SP, Fauquier Co, VA on October 11; NASHVILLE WARBLERS that were reported from many sites; a CAPE MAY WARBLER in Wheaton Regional Park/Brookside Gardens on October 9; a BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER in Rock Creek Park on October 7; BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS at Oxbow Lake Nature Park, Anne Arundel Co, MD on October 9, Terrapin Park, Kent Island, Queen Anne's Co, MD on October 11, and Van Ness NW DC on October 12; CONNECTICUT WARBLERS at Fort Frederick SP, Washington Co, MD on October 10; Schooley Mill Park, Howard Co, MD, Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co, MD, Columbia, Howard Co, MD and Little Pipe Creek Park, Carroll Co, MD on October 11.

LINCOLN'S SPARROWS were reported from a number of locations during the week.

A WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW was noted in the Maintenance Yard of Rock Creek Park on October 11. More WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were seen at Lake Artemisia, Prince George's Co, MD and on Ebenezer Church Road, Loudoun Co, VA also on October 11. A VESPER SPARROW was found October 7 at Sands Road Park, Southern Anne Arundel Co, MD. It was relocated on October 8. Another VESPER SPARROW was seen at Western Regional Park, Howard Co, MD on October 12.

There were several reports of ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK during the week.

A possible adult female BREWER'S BLACKBIRD was seen at Lilypons, Frederick Co, MD on October 8.

Two PURPLE FINCH were at Millington WMA, Black Bottom Road, Kent Co, MD on October 10.

Some of this week's reports have been gleaned from the MDOsprey, VA-Bird, and DE-Birds list servers.

The [Audubon Sanctuary Shop](#) (301-652-3606), is an excellent source for guidebooks and many other nature-related titles.

To report bird sightings, e-mail your report to [voice@AudubonNaturalist.org](mailto:voice@AudubonNaturalist.org) or call 301-652-1088 and select menu option 2. Please post reports before midnight Monday, identify the county as well as state, and include your name and a Tuesday morning contact, either e-mail or phone.

Thank you for calling, and GOOD BIRDING.

\*Of interest to the records committee.