



Voice of the Naturalist

Date: **10/20/09**

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

Telephone: 301-652-1088 option 1

Reports (voice): 301-652-1088 option 2

(email): voice@AudubonNaturalist.org

(deadline): midnight Mondays

Compiler: John Bjerke

Sponsor: Audubon Naturalist Society of the
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Transcriber: Steve Cordle

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 20, at 8:00 am.

Top bird this week is TROPICAL KINGBIRD* in DE.

Other birds of interest include BRANT, scoters, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, GREAT CORMORANT, NORTHERN HARRIER, GOLDEN EAGLE, AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER, WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, AMERICAN WOODCOCK, PARASITIC JAEGER, LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE*, NORTHERN SHRIKE, CAVE SWALLOW, CONNECTICUT WARBLER, MOURNING WARBLER, NELSON'S SPARROW, and LINCOLN'S SPARROW.

A TROPICAL KINGBIRD* made a one-day appearance on Oct 13 near the end of Prime Hook Beach Rd, Sussex Co, DE.

A single BRANT was seen at Sandy Point, Anne Arundel Co, MD on October 16 and 17. Four BRANT were spotted there on Oct 18 and another four were seen at Thomas Point Park in Anne Arundel Co that day.

Although the cold rainy days this week were not optimal for hawk watchers, observers at the Cape Henlopen, DE hawk watch had an outstanding sea watch on Oct 17 counting 217 BRANT, 3080 BLACK SCOTERS, 4450 SURF SCOTERS, 4 WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS, 14 RED-THROATED LOONS, 20,450 DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS, and 4 PARASITIC JAEGERS.

An AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN was seen from Key Wallace Dr, Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD on Oct 15.

An immature GREAT CORMORANT was at the Ocean City inlet, Worcester Co, MD on Oct 16.

There were hawks aloft even with the continuing rains; notable were a NORTHERN HARRIER seen over Poplar Pt., Washington, DC on Oct 17 and an adult GOLDEN EAGLE over Eastern Neck NWR, Kent Co, MD on Oct 18.

The Summit Hall Turf Farm on River Road, Montgomery Co, MD had 2 AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS on Oct 17 and 3 AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS and a WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER on Oct 18. PECTORAL SANDPIPERS, DUNLIN, and WILSON'S SNIPE were also seen there. Two WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS were seen at Swan Creek, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Oct 19. A BAIRD'S SANDPIPER was found at Sandy Point SP, MD on Oct 18. An AMERICAN WOODCOCK was found in Chevy Chase, Montgomery Co, MD on Oct 13.

An adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL and a juvenile LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL were seen at Sandy Point SP on Oct 18; another adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was at Anacostia River Park, Washington, DC on Oct 17. A very late COMMON TERN was also in Anacostia River Park on Oct 17.

A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE* was found on Blandy Farm, Clarke Co, VA on Oct 13. A NORTHERN SHRIKE was seen on Chino Farm, Queen Annes Co, MD on Oct 13.

Two CAVE SWALLOWS flew by the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch, Northampton Co, VA on Oct 18.

An immature CONNECTICUT WARBLER was spotted at Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co, MD on Oct 14. A MOURNING WARBLER was found at Violette's Lock, C&O Canal, Montgomery Co, MD on Oct 18. Birders enjoyed a variety of warblers this last week especially noting PALM WARBLERS and growing numbers of YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS. Both Rock Creek Park in DC and Monticello Park in Alexandria, VA had several species of warblers and other songbirds as their migration winds down.

LINCOLN'S SPARROWS were reported across the region. A NELSON'S SPARROW was seen on overgrown state property off of Dent Rd in Anne Arundel Co, MD on Oct 18.

There were numerous reports of returning winter residents, particularly YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, BROWN CREEPER, WINTER WREN, kinglets, HERMIT THRUSH, AMERICAN PIPIT, AMERICAN TREE SPARROW, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, and DARK-EYED JUNCO. And there were a few reports of lingering summer birds like BALTIMORE ORIOLE and INDIGO BUNTING.

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 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.