

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: 10/27/09

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, October 27, at 8:30 am.

Top birds this week are PACIFIC LOON* in MD, WOOD STORK* in DE, and CALIFORNIA GULL* in MD

Other birds of interest include bitterns, geese, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, waterfowl, NORTHERN HARRIER, PEREGRINE FALCON, rails, HUDSONIAN GODWIT, WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, PECTORAL SANDPIPER, LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, AMERICAN WOODCOCK, woodpeckers, COMMON RAVEN, nuthatches, MARSH WREN, warblers, sparrows, DICKCISSEL, PINE SISKIN, and RUSTY BLACKBIRD.

A first winter PACIFIC LOON* was reported making dives in the offshore water at Black Walnut Point, Tilghman Island, Talbot Co, MD on Oct 23.

A WOOD STORK* made a brief stop at the Ashland Nature Center, New Castle Co, DE on Oct 25, and headed northeast.

A CALIFORNIA GULL* showed at the Salisbury Landfill in Wicomico Co, MD, on Oct 24 and 25. Other gull sightings included a LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL on Schoolhouse Pond, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's Co, MD on Oct 22 and nine LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS at the Salisbury Landfill, Wicomico Co, MD on Oct 24.

An AMERICAN BITTERN was reported at Woody's Lake, Madison Heights, Amherst Co, VA, on Oct 23. A LEAST BITTERN was heard on Elliott Island Road, Dorchester Co, MD on Oct 25.

A CACKLING GOOSE (RICHARDSON'S) was identified at Loch Raven Reservoir near bridge No.1, Baltimore Co, MD on Oct 20. About 33 SNOW GEESE showed on Bayside at Assateague Island SP, Worcester Co, MD, on Oct 23. Four BRANT were found on Oct 20 at Mayo Beach, Anne Arundel Co, MD.

An AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN was seen again from Key Wallace Dr, Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD on Oct 24.

Waterfowl reports show seasonal arrivals throughout the region. A bird walk at Dyke Marsh, Fairfax Co, VA on Oct 25 reported GADWALL, AMERICAN WIGEON, MALLARD, NORTHERN SHOVELER, GREEN-WINGED TEAL, RUDDY DUCK, and PIED-BILLED GREBE.

Hawk migration and sightings continue at regional hawk watches. A NORTHERN HARRIER was reported flying over Van Ness in NW Washington, DC on Oct 20. A PEREGRINE FALCON on seen on the mud flats, Swan Creek, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Oct 23.

Birders at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA on Oct 26 saw 3 KING RAILS, heard a VIRGINIA RAIL, and also found a SORA.

Shore and field bird reports included two HUDSONIAN GODWITS spotted in pool 5a of Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD on Oct 23, 24, and 25. A WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER was seen in flight above Swan Creek, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Oct 23. A PECTORAL SANDPIPER was at Triadelphia Reservoir on the Greenbridge side, Montgomery Co, MD on Oct 23. There were 14 DUNLIN at Hunting Creek Bridge, Alexandria, Fairfax Co, VA on Oct 20. Two LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS were at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, Prince George's Co, MD, on Oct 24. An AMERICAN WOODCOCK showed at Governor's Bridge Natural Area, Prince George's Co, MD on Oct 20.

Woodpecker reports included four RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS at Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William Co, VA on Oct 22, and two RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS on the east side of Keysville Rd, Carroll Co, MD on Oct 25. Two YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS were at the National Museum of Natural History on the Mall in Washington, DC on Oct 24.

A COMMON RAVEN was seen in Battery Kimble Park, Washington, DC, on Oct 25.

Nuthatch sightings have come from various locations. A RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH was seen in Colesville, Montgomery Co, MD on Oct 20. A RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH was at a feeder in Queenstown, Queen Anne's Co, MD on Oct 23. A BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH was found on Rumbly Point Road, Somerset Co, MD, on Oct 25. Six BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCHES were at Pocomoke Sound, Somerset Co, MD on Oct 25.

A MARSH WREN showed at the edge of Flint Hill School in Oakton, Fairfax Co, VA on Oct 20, 21, and 22. A MARSH WREN was at the impoundment behind the main building at Lilypons, Frederick Co, MD on Oct 25.

Sightings of YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS are plentiful and PALM WARBLERS are still being found in various locations. Warbler reports have generally diminished though Monticello Park in Alexandria, Fairfax Co, VA had a variety of warblers on Oct 20 and 22 including TENNESSEE WARBLER, NASHVILLE WARBLER, MAGNOLIA WARBLER, CAPE MAY WARBLER, BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, and BLACKPOLL WARBLER. A MOURNING WARBLER was seen on Thompson Station Rd, New Castle Co, DE on Oct 20.

Sparrow searches have been rewarding. Reports have included a CLAY-COLORED SPARROW at Nutter's Neck, Wicomico Co, MD, on Oct 23. At least six VESPER SPARRROWS were at Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, Howard Co, MD on Oct 24. A NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED

SPARROW was seen at Gordon's Pond, Cape Henlopen, DE on Oct 21. Three NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS were found on Rumbly Point Rd, Somerset Co, MD on Oct 25. A FOX SPARROW was reported at Blue Mash Nature Trail, Montgomery Co, MD on Oct 21. A LINCOLN'S SPARROW was seen in Wheaton Regional Park, Montgomery Co, MD on Oct 20. Two LINCOLN'S SPARROWS were at Difficult Run, Fairfax Co, VA on Oct 25. Five WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were at Blue Mash Nature Trail, Montgomery Co, MD on Oct 23.

A DICKCISSEL was spotted at Cape Henlopen, DE on Oct 20. Another DICKCISSEL was found at Bayside Campground, Assateague Island, Worcester Co, MD on Oct 23. A female DICKCISSEL was at Occoquan NWR, Prince William Co, VA on Oct 25.

A PINE SISKIN was heard in Eldersburg, Carroll Co, MD, on Oct 20. A PINE SISKIN was at the Ashland Nature Center, New Castle Co, DE on Oct 21.

Two female RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were reported at the Catamount Creek marshes of Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William Co, VA on Oct 22. Two RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were reported at Jug Bay, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Oct 25.

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.