

Voice of the Naturalist

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Archives

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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, October 28, at 8:00 a.m.

Top birds this week are BROWN BOOBY* in VA and COMMON REDPOLL in MD.

Other birds of interest include BAR-HEADED GOOSE and arriving waterfowl, AMERICAN BITTERN, OSPREY, GOLDEN EAGLE, SELASPHORUS hummingbird, COMMON RAVEN, SEDGE WREN, GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH, warblers, sparrows including LINCOLN'S, SNOW BUNTING, DICKCISSEL, PURPLE FINCH and PINE SISKIN.

A BROWN BOOBY* continues at Claytor Lake State Park in Pulaski Co, VA. It was seen on Oct 22, 24, and 26. The bird shows at various locations including cross-water views from the park marina. In addition, a Selasphorus species hummingbird believed to be either an immature female Rufous or Allen's was reported from a feeder at the lake from Oct 23 through 26.

A male COMMON REDPOLL was seen on Oct 23 at Druid Ridge Cemetery, Pikesville, Baltimore Co, MD.

Waterfowl are slowly returning to the area. Especially notable among the usual species were rafts of RUDDY DUCKS. A BAR-HEADED GOOSE was seen on Copperville Road, near Easton, Talbot Co, MD on Oct 23 and another was in the Potomac River above Great Falls on Oct 26. The WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL* being seen in a pond at the Huntfield subdivision south of Charles Town, Jefferson Co, WV is now believed to be an escaped bird from a waterfowl collection. The right hind toe or hallux has been trimmed which is common among captive waterfowl.

An AMERICAN BITTERN was a highlight at Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William Co, VA on Oct 27.

Raptors continue to migrate through our area. A few late departing OSPREY were observed this past week; especially along the Potomac River.

A GOLDEN EAGLE flew over the Cape Henlopen Hawk Watch in Sussex Co, DE on Oct 26. Another GOLDEN EAGLE was seen there on Oct 27.

A COMMON RAVEN was seen on upper Connecticut Av in Washington, DC on Oct 25. Another RAVEN was spotted at the North Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Oct 26.

A SEDGE WREN was found near the farm pond in Layhill Park, Montgomery Co, MD on Oct 23.

Among the migrants in the Maintenance yard area of Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC on Oct 22 were a GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH and two SWAINSON'S THRUSHES. Also noted were more than 21 HERMIT THRUSHES and 9 WINTER WRENS.

Warbler migration has slowed throughout the area except for large numbers of incoming YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS. But Roosevelt Island, Washington, DC produced BLACKPOLL, BLACK-THROATED GREEN, and YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER on Oct 24.

A LINCOLN'S SPARROW was in Cromwell Valley Park, Baltimore Co, MD on Oct 21. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were widely reported. A search for sparrows in DE on Oct 26 produced 14 species; highlights include NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED, SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED and SEASIDE SPARROWS at Indian River Inlet, Sussex Co and HARRIS'S and LINCOLN'S SPARROWS in Brandywine Creek SP, 3 miles north of Wilmington.

A SNOW BUNTING was seen on the Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation, Harford Co, MD on Oct 24 and another was found at Kiptopeke SP, Northampton Co, VA on Oct 26. Six SNOW BUNTINGS were on Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD on Oct 27.

A female DICKCISSEL was spotted at Milltown Landing, Prince George's Co, MD on Oct 24.

Two PURPLE FINCHES were seen at Claude Moore Park, Sterling, Loudoun Co, VA on Oct 24.

PINE SISKIN reports were widespread this week. Nine birds were seen at the Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation on Oct 24, up to 35 were in Druid Ridge Cemetery, Baltimore Co, MD on Oct 22 and 23 and 2 were in Davidsonville, Anne Arundel Co on Oct 21.

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

*Of interest to the records committee.