

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: 11/11/2008

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

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(independent of NAS!)

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Snowy Owl at the north end of Assateague on Saturday

Photo by George Jett

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 x12, the address is 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, November 11, at 2:30 p.m.

Top birds this week are SNOWY OWLS and AUDUBON'S YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER* in MD.

Other birds of interest include arriving waterfowl, RUFFED GROUSE, NORTHERN BOBWHITE, AMERICAN BITTERN, GOLDEN EAGLE and other raptors, shorebirds, RUBY-THROATED and SELASPHORUS HUMMINGBIRDS, LOGGERHEAD and NORTHERN SHRIKE, AMERICAN PIPIT, warblers, sparrows, EASTERN MEADOWLARK, YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, RUSTY BLACKBIRD, PURPLE FINCH, PINE SISKIN and EVENING GROSBEAK.

Following multiple reports of SNOWY OWLS from states to the north of our region, there were two sightings in Maryland: A SNOWY OWL was spotted at the north end of Assateague Island, Worcester Co, MD on November 7. Another SNOWY OWL was seen at Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD on November 10.

An AUDUBON'S YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER* was discovered on Assateague Island, Worcester Co, MD on November 9.

A ROSS'S GOOSE was found among over 200 CANADA GEESE at the intersection of Carroll Clark Road and Rt. 313, Kent Co, MD on November 6. Two ROSS'S GEESE were in a SNOW GOOSE flock in eastern Henrico Co, VA on November 8.

A male EURASIAN WIGEON was located on Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD on November 8. Two immature SURF SCOTERS were in the Potomac River, seen from Hains Point, DC on November 4. The female WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, previously reported at Charles City County, VA was seen again on November 8. Thirty seven LONG-TAILED DUCKS were by the dam at Triadelphia Reservoir, Montgomery/Howard Cos, MD on November 10.

Two RUFFED GROUSE were spotted at the Harvey's Knob hawk watch, VA on November 6. About a dozen NORTHERN BOBWHITE were flushed at Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke Co, VA on November 5.

Two AMERICAN BITTERNS were seen on Hart-Miller Island on November 8.

GOLDEN EAGLES were noted at several locations. Eastern Neck NWR, Kent Co, MD had one GOLDEN and eight BALD EAGLES on November 6. An immature GOLDEN EAGLE circled over Cromwell Valley Park, Baltimore Co, MD on November 7. Two GOLDEN EAGLES were spotted from the Rockfish Gap Hawk watch, VA on November 8 and another GOLDEN EAGLE was at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, Loudoun Co, VA on the same day. A GOLDEN EAGLE made a slow circle over Turkey Point, Cecil Co, MD on November 9.

A PEREGRINE FALCON sailed over Bethesda, Montgomery Co, MD on November 6 while another PEREGRINE FALCON was at the Poplar Neck marshes, Caroline Co, MD on November 8. A PEREGRINE FALCON was seen at Dyke Marsh, Fairfax Co, VA on November 9 and another was at Fort Reno, NW DC on the same day. A PEREGRINE FALCON sped through the Ballston, VA area on November 10.

Two AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVERS were noted on a sod field near Chestertown, Kent Co, MD on November 7.

A weekend trip to the Virginia Eastern Shore produced some highlights including MARBLED GODWITS, a WHIMBREL and SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROW at Willis Wharf plus a NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW at Magotha Road.

A RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD and a SELASPHORUS HUMMINGBIRD continue to visit a feeder in Fairfax, VA.

A **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** was photographed at Sky Meadows State Park, Fauquier Co, VA on November 10. A **NORTHERN SHRIKE** was observed in northern Queen Anne's Co, MD, near Chestertown with sightings through the week.

Two **AMERICAN PIPITS** showed up November 8 on Hart-Miller Island and 90 **AMERICAN PIPITS**, along with 30 **HORNED LARKS**, were at the Ninetown Road fields, Caroline Co, MD on the same day.

An **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** was seen at Julie Metz Wetland Mitigation Bank, Prince William Co, VA on November 8.

A very cooperative **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** was seen at Wakefield Park, Fairfax Co, VA on November 9. Two **FOX**, a **LINCOLN'S** and a **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** were among seven sparrow species seen at the Blue Mash Nature Trail on November 4. **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS** and a **VESPER SPARROW** were found during a Caroline County Big Day on November 8. A **LE CONT'S SPARROW** was spotted at the Old Trail Golf Course near Crozet, Albemarle Co, VA on November 4. A **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** was seen at a feeder in Darlington, Harford Co, MD on November 8.

A **VESPER SPARROW** and a **SAVANNAH SPARROW** shared a fence at Gravelly Point, Arlington Co, VA on November 8.

A **DICKCISSEL** was picked out of a large flock at the Bayside campground loop in Assateague Island on November 8.

An amazing flock of 323 **EASTERN MEADOWLARKS** were seen north of Kiptopeke SP, Northampton Co, VA on November 8.

A female **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** was found in a mixed flock at Kiptopeke SP on November 8. A **RUSTY BLACKBIRD** was observed at Fort Smallwood Park, Anne Arundel Co, MD on November 9.

Two **PURPLE FINCHES** were at a feeder in Darnestown, Montgomery Co, MD on November 10.

PINE SISKINS were widely reported.

EVENING GROSBEAKS were seen from the Harvey's Knob Hawk watch, VA - 30 on November 5 and another one on November 6.

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

The [Audubon Sanctuary Shop](#) (301-652-3606) is an excellent source for local 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.