

Voice of the Naturalist

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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, January 12.

Top birds this week were YELLOW-LEGGED GULL* in DC and ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER* in VA.

Other birds of interest include Geese, ducks, GREAT CORMORANT, GOLDEN EAGLE, falcons, sandpipers, gulls, COMMON TERN, possible BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD, shrikes, warblers, sparrows, SNOW BUNTING, PAINTED BUNTING, RUSTY BLACKBIRD and BALTIMORE ORIOLE.

A possible YELLOW-LEGGED GULL* was seen in the Washington Channel, DC on January 10.

An ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER* continues to be seen on Tim Rd, Virginia Beach, VA, with a sighting on January 5. Birders are cautioned to be very careful in the area.

A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE and a CACKLING GOOSE were at the Worcester Central Landfill, Worcester Co, MD on January 9. Four GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE were seen near St. Michael's Road, Talbot Co, MD on January 12. Two ROSS'S GEESE were picked out of a flock of SNOW GEESE at the Rte 50 Quarry in Wicomico Co, MD on January 9. A CACKLING GOOSE was at Anacostia Park, DC on January 6. A CACKLING GOOSE was seen at Haines Point, DC on January 9. Seven CACKLING GEESE were spotted at Centennial Lake, Howard Co, MD on January 9.

A LONG-TAILED DUCK was at Palmer Point in the Kerr Dam area, Mecklenburg Co, VA on January 10. LONG-TAILED DUCKS and COMMON EIDERS were seen at the Indian River Inlet, DE on January 10. Fifty seven COMMON EIDERS were in the Ocean City Inlet, Worcester Co, MD inlet on January 9. An immature, male COMMON EIDER was at Kiptopeke SP, Cape Charles, VA on January 10. Eight COMMON EIDERS were in Rudee Inlet, Virginia Beach, VA on January 10.

A GREAT CORMORANT was at Thomas Point Park, Anne Arundel Co, MD on January 9.

A GOLDEN EAGLE flew over Clator Lake, Pulaski Co, VA on January 5. Another GOLDEN EAGLE was spotted at the intersection of Timber Ridge Rd and Narrowback Rd in NW Augusta Co, VA during the Rockingham Co, CBC on January 5.

A MERLIN was at the Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke Co, VA; another perched in the marsh in Dick Cross WMA, Mecklenburg Co, VA; another MERLIN was at the National Arboretum, DC, all on January 5. A PEREGRINE

FALCON was at Anacostia Park, DC on January 6 and 10. PEREGRINE FALCONS were perched on the Wilson Bridge on January 9 and 10. A PEREGRINE FALCON was sitting on an irrigation rig on Mason Branch Road near Ridgely, Caroline Co, MD on January 10.

A late SPOTTED SANDPIPER was noted at Tailrace Park in the Kerr Dam area, VA on January 10. A RED KNOT was at the Ocean City Inlet on January 9. A LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER was along Shorter's Wharf Road, Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD on January 10.

A first winter ICELAND GULL and a possible NELSON'S GULL (Glaucous x Herring Hybrid) were at Schoolhouse Pond, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's Co, MD on January 6. Perhaps the same ICELAND GULL was spotted at Jug Bay, Prince George's Co, MD also on January 6. The ICELAND GULL was seen again at Schoolhouse Pond along with a LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL on January 7 and 8. Three ICELAND GULLS were at North East Town Park, Cecil Co, MD on January 8. The ICELAND GULL, this time with a THAYER'S GULL was at Schoolhouse Pond on January 9. A THAYER'S GULL and two ICELAND GULLS were at the Salisbury landfill, Wicomico Co, MD on January 9. A visit to the Prince William County Landfill, VA on January 10 produced sightings of one THAYER'S GULL, two ICELAND GULLS and a NELSON'S GULL. An ICELAND GULL was on the Choptank River, Caroline Co, MD on January 11. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were reported from many sites in the region during the week.

A COMMON TERN was at the Ocean City Inlet on January 10.

A female Archilochus Hummingbird (possibly BLACK-CHINNED) was at a feeder in Cape Charles, VA on January 8.

A LOGGERHEAD SHIKE was found on Withers Larue Rd in northern Clarke Co, VA on January 9. A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE* was spotted from Rte 40 past the West End Shopping Center driving west toward Clear Spring, Washington Co, MD on January 10. A NORTHERN SHRIKE was on Kibler Road at Roundtop Road in Queen Anne's Co, MD also on January 10.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS continue to be seen in Anacostia Park, DC, with various numbers reported throughout the week. Another ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER was at Jones Point Park, Alexandria, VA on January 10. A CAPE MAY WARBLER was in a yard in Charlottesville, VA on January 6 and 8. A YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT was at a feeder in Suffolk VA, seen on January 10.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were scattered across the region in small numbers. Locations include Lilypons Water Gardens, Frederick Co, MD and Schooley Mill Park, Howard Co, MD on January 5, 9 and 11; at feeders in Croom, Prince George's Co, MD and at Old Trail, Albermarle Co, VA on January 6; Marshy Point Nature Center, Baltimore Co, MD on January 9. A NELSON'S SPARROW and a SALTMARSH SPARROW were at the George Island Landing, Worcester Co, MD on January 9. A LINCOLN'S SPARROW was at Greenbury Point, Anne Arundel Co, MD on January 10. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were reported from various locations throughout the area with a high count of fifteen at Keysville-Bruceville Road, Carroll Co, MD on January 11.

Three LAPLAND LONGSPURS were seen at the intersection of Coveys Landing Road and Lewistown Road, Talbot Co, MD on January 10.

A SNOW BUNTING was spotted as a part of a CBC in Rockingham Co, VA on January 5. It was seen in the vicinity of Rte. 752(Muddy Creek Rd) about 0.5 to 1.0 miles north of Rte 33.

A pair of PAINTED BUNTINGS came to a feeder on Rouse Drive in Virginia Beach, VA on January 5.

Nearly eighty RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were along Wrighton Road, Anne Arundel Co, MD on January 9. A BALTIMORE ORIOLE was perched on a Red Cedar at Ferry Neck, Talbot Co, MD on January 5. A BALTIMORE ORIOLE continues to be seen at a feeder in Croom, Prince Georges Co, MD on January 6 and 10. A BALTIMORE ORIOLE was seen in the Kerr Dam area, VA on January 10.

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

Thank you for calling, and GOOD BIRDING.

*Of interest to the records committee