

Voice of the Naturalist

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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, January 19, at 9:00 AM.

Top birds this week were DOVEKIE in MD and ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER* in VA.

Other birds of interest include RED-THROATED LOON, HORNED GREBE, AMERICAN BITTERN, geese, ducks, GOLDEN EAGLE, raptors, gulls, PURPLE SANDPIPER, SHORT-EARED OWL, RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, shrikes, warblers, sparrows, SNOW BUNTING, PAINTED BUNTING, and PINE SISKIN.

A DOVEKIE was spotted in the water at Ocean City Inlet, Worcester Co., MD on Jan 17.

An ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER* was seen again on Tim Rd, Virginia Beach, VA, with sightings on January 14 and 15. Birders are cautioned to be very careful in the area.

A RED-THROATED LOON was found on Seneca Creek, close to Riley's Lock, Montgomery Co, MD on Jan 12. Six RED-THROATED LOONS were at the Ocean City Inlet, Worcester Co, MD on Jan 18.

A HORNED GREBE was seen at Thomas Point SP, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Jan 15 and 16. Three HORNED GREBES were at the Ocean City MD inlet and bay areas on Jan 18.

Two AMERICAN BITTERNS were reported on Jan 13 in Fairmount WMA, Somerset Co, MD.

Geese reports come from across our region. Sighting include a GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (Greenland race) at Piney Run Park, Carroll Co, MD on Jan 13 and a GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE in the field close to the visitor's center at Blackwater NWR,

Dorchester Co, MD on Jan 16. CACKLING GOOSE reports included an individual CACKLING GOOSE at Prettyboy Reservoir, Baltimore Co, MD on Jan 12, four CACKLING GEESE at Blackwater NWR on Jan 16, a CACKLING GOOSE at Silver Lake Park, Prince William Co, VA on Jan 16, and a CACKLING GOOSE at Silver Lake Rehoboth, DE on Jan 18. A ROSS'S GOOSE was seen flying overhead with SNOW GEESE close to the Ocean City Inlet on Jan 18. Numerous BRANT were seen from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel on Jan 16.

Other waterfowl including sea ducks and fresh-water ducks are being reported in many locations. A female KING EIDER was spotted along the causeway at Point Lookout SP, St. Mary's Co, MD on Jan 18. COMMON EIDERS were seen at the Ocean City Inlet through the week. Two HARLEQUIN DUCKS were reported at the Ocean City Inlet on Jan 18. Eight LONG-TAILED DUCKS were close to the marina in Rumbley, Somerset Co, MD on Jan 13. Over 170 LONG-TAILED DUCKS were seen on the Chesapeake Bay from North Beach, Calvert Co, MD on Jan 14. Six REDHEADS were at Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William Co, VA on Jan 18 and another two REDHEADS were seen on the Potomac River from Riverside Park, Fairfax Co, VA on Jan 18. A COMMON GOLDENEYE was at Thousand Acre Marsh, in New Castle Co, DE on Jan 18. At least 24 COMMON GOLDENEYES were reported at Greenbury Point, Annapolis, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Jan 18.

A GOLDEN EAGLE soared above the fields at Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Talbot Co, MD on Jan 15.

A NORTHERN HARRIER flew over Dyke Marsh, Fairfax Co, VA on Jan 15. A dark morph ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was reported along Russell Road, Garrett Co, MD on Jan 16. A MERLIN was seen at Hains Point, Washington, DC on Jan 12. A PEREGRINE FALCON was at the Mt. Calvert area of Patuxent River Park, Prince George's Co, MD on Jan 16.

Two BLACK-HEADED GULLS were reported at Wolfe's Neck Sewage Treatment Plant, between Lewes and Rehoboth Beach, DE on Jan 14. Eighteen BONAPARTE'S GULLS were at the Back River Wastewater Treatment plant, Baltimore, MD on Jan 16. An ICELAND GULL was observed at Schoolhouse Pond, Prince George's Co, MD on Jan 17. A NELSON'S GULL (a Glaucous and Herring Hybrid) was reported in a field on Thirteen Curves Road in the vicinity of Fowler Beach, Sussex Co, DE on Jan 16. An immature GLAUCOUS GULL was in the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Jan 16. A first winter THAYER'S GULL was spotted in the Mount Calvert area of Patuxent River Park, Prince George's Co, MD on Jan 13. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were reported from many sites in the region during the week.

Over 20 PURPLE SANDPIPERS were on the Ocean City Inlet rocks, Worcester Co, MD on Jan 18.

Two SHORT-EARED OWLS were in the meadows in Highland Co, VA on Jan 13. Four SHORT-EARED OWLS were seen flying over the marshes north of Shorter's Wharf, Dorchester Co, MD on Jan 16.

Two RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS visited feeders in Virginia Beach, VA on Jan 12.

A **LOGGERHEAD SHIKE** was seen daily from Jan 13 through Jan 16 south of Rte 40 in the area east of the Del-Mar Inn, Washington Co, MD. A **NORTHERN SHRIKE** was seen on the Chino Farms from Roundtop Rd, Queen Anne's Co, MD on Jan 18.

Warbler sightings have included two **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS** at Poplar Point in Anacostia Park, Washington, DC during the week and an individual **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** north of the picnic area at Dyke Marsh, Fairfax Co, VA on Jan 18. A **PINE WARBLER** was spotted in Alexandria, Fairfax Co, VA on Jan 12.

An **AMERICAN TREE SPARROW** was below the dam at Blair's Valley Lake, Washington Co, MD on Jan 14. Two **AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS** were at Schooley Mill Park, Howard Co, MD on Jan 15. A **VESPER SPARROW** was seen between the barn and the viewing platform at Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Talbot Co, MD on Jan 12. **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS** were reported at various locations including Bles Park, Loudon Co, VA on Jan 12, Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Talbot Co, MD on Jan 15, and on Florence Rd, Howard Co, MD on Jan 16. A **SAVANNAH SPARROW (IPSWICH)** was reported close to Ocean City, MD on Jan 17. Two **SALTMARSH SPARROWS** and one **NELSON'S SPARROW** were seen in the marsh by the Park & Ride on the south side of West Ocean City on Jan 18.

Three **LAPLAND LONGSPURS** were seen in fields north of the corner of Oland Rd and Rte 85, Frederick Co, MD on Jan 14 and Jan 16. **HORNED LARKS** were also in the fields. Birders are reminded to not park or walk on the private property of local residents.

A **SNOW BUNTING** was reported at Windmill Point, Lancaster Co, VA on Jan 16.

A male **PAINTED BUNTING** was reported at a home feeder in Chesapeake, VA on Jan 15. A pair of **PAINTED BUNTINGS** came to the MSA building feeders off Rouse Drive in Virginia Beach, VA on Jan 17.

A **PINE SISKIN** was observed south of Laurel, Prince George's Co, MD on Jan 13.

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, <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/default.asp?page=511> 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

