

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: **12/2/2008**

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

Telephone: 301-652-1088 option 1

Reports (voice): 301-652-1088 option 2

(email): voice@AudubonNaturalist.org

(deadline): midnight Mondays

Reporting Guidelines

Compiler: Helen Patton

Sponsor: Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States

(independent of NAS!)

Transcriber: Steve Cordle (scordle@capaccess.org)

Archives

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.

Join online

This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, December 2, at 11:45 a.m.

Top birds this week are BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK in DE and GYRFALCON in VA.

Other birds of interest include waterfowl, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, AMERICAN BITTERN, hawks, falcons, SANDHILL CRANE, PURPLE SANDPIPER, gulls, CASPIAN TERN, SNOWY OWL, RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD, WESTERN KINGBIRD, CAVE SWALLOW, warblers, sparrows, LAPLAND LONGSPUR, SNOW BUNTING, BREWER'S BLACKBIRD and WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL*.

The BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK remains at Silver Lake, Rehoboth DE.

The Kiptopeke Hawk Watch, Northampton Co, VA reported a gray morph GYRFALCON on November 27.

A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was seen in a field bounded by Rte 33 and Unionville Road, Talbot Co, MD on November 28. ROSS'S GEESE were at the Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on November 26, 27 and 28. Two ROSS'S GEESE were at the Hurlock WWTP, Dorchester Co, MD on November 29.

Reports of CACKLING GEESE came in from a few places including The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater, MD on November 25; Eastern Neck NWR, Kent Co, MD on November 27 and 28 and Kenilworth Park, DC on November 30.

Duck sightings have increased substantially during the last week. Some notable sightings include: an immature male EURASIAN WIGEON at the Chincoteague NWR on November 26, 28 and 29; a HARLEQUIN DUCK and one KING and one COMMON

EIDER at the Ocean City Inlet, Worcester Co, MD on November 28 and 29; one REDHEAD and three BLACK SCOTERS at Thomas Point, Annapolis on November 29.

Four AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were seen at Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD on November 30.

An AMERICAN BITTERN was spotted at Elliot's Island, Dorchester Co, MD on November 29.

An observer stopped counting at 75 BALD EAGLES on November 27 at Conowingo Dam, Harford/Cecil Co, MD on November 27. A GOLDEN EAGLE and a NORTHERN GOSHAWK were spotted at Rum Pointe, Worcester Co, MD on November 28.

A MERLIN was perched in the top of a large Sycamore along Frederick Road in western Howard Co, MD on November 28 while another was seen at Kenilworth Park, DC on both November 28 and 30. A MERLIN was seen at Centennial Park, Howard Co, on November 29. A PEREGRINE FALCON flew over Greenbury Point, Annapolis on November 29. Another PEREGRINE FALCON was on the CBBT, Northampton Co, VA on November 29.

A SANDHILL CRANE was seen at the Cromwell Valley Hawk Watch, Baltimore Co, MD on November 25.

Three PURPLE SANDPIPERS were noted at Thomas Point, Annapolis on November 29.

A FRANKLIN'S GULL was photographed at the south end of Cape Charles Beach, Northampton Co, VA on November 28. Schoolhouse Pond, Prince George's Co, MD experienced good gull activity with reports of a first winter THAYER'S GULL plus a second winter LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL November 25 and 26 and a first winter GLAUCOUS GULL on November 26. On November 27, the Hopewell area near Richmond, VA had an ICELAND GULL and 5+ LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS. The ICELAND GULL was seen again on November 29. Six LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were at the Salisbury landfill, Wicomico Co, MD on November 28. Three LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were at the Tidal Basin, DC on December 1.

Six very late CASPIAN TERNS were seen at Blue Mash Nature Trail, Montgomery Co, MD on November 29.

The SNOWY OWL continues in the Assateague ORV Zone, Worcester Co, MD with sightings on November 28, 29 and 30. Another SNOWY OWL was found on the ground in the Norfolk, VA area and subsequently admitted to a rehabilitation center on November 28. Another SNOWY OWL was observed at the corner of Rte 29 and Rte 609 outside of Ruckersville, Greene Co, VA on December 1.

A RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD continues at a feeder in Fairfax, VA with the most recent report from Nov 26.

The WESTERN KINGBIRD previously reported at Eastern Neck NWR was seen again on November 25, 26.

A CAVE SWALLOW was seen at the John Hanson WWTP, Chestertown, Kent Co, MD on November 29.

Several reports of warbler activity occurred during the week including YELLOW-THROATED and PINE WARBLERS at the LBJ Grove along the GW Parkway on November 27; three ORANGE-CROWNED and a BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLERS at the Hopewell, VA area, also on November 27 and 29 plus a WILSON'S WARBLER on November 29; a male NASHVILLE WARBLER at Ben Brenman Park, Alexandria, VA on November 28.

AMERICAN TREE and FOX SPARROWS were reported from a number of different locations. A SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROW was at Chincoteague NWR on November 26. On November 27, a LAPLAND LONGSPUR was noted on Oland Road, Frederick Co, MD. SNOW BUNTINGS were seen at Chincoteague NWR on November 26, 27 and 28. Five SNOW BUNTINGS flew over the Prince William County Sanitary Landfill, VA on November 29.

A BREWER'S BLACKBIRD was observed feeding on the grass right by the refuge headquarters at Blackwater NWR on November 30.

Two WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS* were seen on November 29 at Eastern Neck NWR.

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.