

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: **12/8/09**

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

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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, option 12; the address is 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, Dec 8, at noon.

Top birds this week are *CAVE SWALLOW and PAINTED BUNTING in VA.

Other birds of interest include waterfowl, RED-THROATED LOON, EARED GREBE, pelicans, GREAT CORMORANT, OSPREY, ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, GOLDEN EAGLE, PURPLE SANDPIPER, gulls, SHORT-EARED OWL, RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD, *WESTERN KINGBIRD, vireos, BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, warblers including ORANGE-CROWNED, sparrows, RUSTY BLACKBIRD, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, and PURPLE FINCH.

A *CAVE SWALLOW was seen flying around Island # 4 of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge/Tunnel islands, Northampton Co, VA on Dec 4.

A green-plumaged, rather drab and probably a female, PAINTED BUNTING was with the House Sparrow flock on the corner of Tazewell Avenue and Plum Street in Cape Charles, VA on Dec 7.

A CACKLING GOOSE was found Dec 4 at Gunpowder Falls State Park, Baltimore Co, MD.

Two LONG-TAILED DUCKS were found Dec 4 on Little Seneca Reservoir, Montgomery Co, MD. Two LONG-TAILED DUCKS and a RED-THROATED LOON were among several birds found Dec 5 at Riley's Lock, C&O Canal Montgomery Co, MD.

The female COMMON EIDER continues to be seen at Point Lookout SP, St. Mary's Co, MD, with reports through Dec 7.

A RED-THROATED LOON was seen at Lock Raven Reservoir on Dec 6. There were also two found at South Haven Beach, Matthews Co, VA and one at Bethel Beach the same day. Single RED-THROATED LOONS were also found on Dec 6 at Palmer Point, Kerr Reservoir, Mecklenburg Co, VA and at Sandy Point SP, Anne Arundel Co, MD.

And RED-THROATED LOONS were well-seen Dec 6 in the surf at Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach, VA.

The EARED GREBE continued to be seen from the boardwalk at Piscataway Park, Prince George's Co, MD, with reports through Dec 4.

An AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN was seen at Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD on Dec 5. Ten BROWN PELICANS were spotted Dec 1 on the trip to Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD.

A GREAT CORMORANT was seen at Point Lookout SP, St. Mary's Co, MD Dec 6.

Late OSPREYS continue to be seen with one at Piscataway Park on Dec 1.

A light phase ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was seen on Dec 6 in Highland Co, VA.

An adult GOLDEN EAGLE soared over Prettyboy Reservoir, Baltimore Co, MD on Dec 1.

Two PURPLE SANDPIPERS were found at Thomas Point Park, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Dec 3.

A LITTLE GULL was seen Dec 7 from Fort Smallwood Park, Anne Arundel Co, MD; it was near Sparrows Point, Baltimore Co, MD.

On Dec 7 a first winter ICELAND GULL was flying around the intersection of Lee and 295 in Baltimore, basically between the two stadiums and near Inner Harbor.

A LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was reported from the Tailrace, Kerr Dam, Mecklenburg Co, VA on Dec 6.

A first-winter GLAUCOUS GULL was found Dec 6 in the Tidal Basin, SW DC. An immature GLAUCOUS GULL was observed Dec 6 in the City of Hopewell, VA. A first-cycle GLAUCOUS GULL was also found Dec 6 at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory Pier, Solomon's, Calvert Co, MD.

On Dec 6 a SHORT-EARED OWL was seen in the marsh along Cornfield Harbor Rd, St. Mary's Co, MD.

The hatch-year female RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD that has been visiting a feeder in Lynchburg, VA was banded on Dec 6.

A *WESTERN KINGBIRD was found and easily seen on Dec 6 near the 2nd gate (from Rte 15) to the privately-owned Dulles Greenway Wetlands Mitigation Project, Loudoun Co, VA.

Late vireos continued to make appearances with a WHITE-EYED VIREO in the Great Dismal Swamp NWR, Suffolk, VA on Dec 2.

A late BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER was found Dec 6 during a bird walk to the Loch Raven Reservoir, Baltimore Co, MD.

An ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER was found Dec 3 at Ben Brenman Park, Alexandria, VA. On Dec 7 an ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER made its annual return to a feeder in Virginia Beach, VA.

The lingering NORTHERN PARULA in the City of Hopewell, VA was seen again on Dec 6.

On Dec 5 a YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER returned to a feeder in Indian Head, Charles Co, MD for the 5th year in a row.

An AMERICAN TREE SPARROW was found Dec 6 at Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William Co, VA. One was also found at Greenbury Point, Anne Arundel Co, MD, the same day. A LINCOLN'S SPARROW was found Dec 2 along the Railroad Ditch in the Great Dismal Swamp NWR, Suffolk, VA.

SNOW BUNTINGS were found on the Dec 1 trip to Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD reports included a flock of about 20 birds just off the Railroad Ditch in the Great Dismal Swamp NWR, Suffolk, VA on Dec 2.

A female BALTIMORE ORIOLE was seen Dec 1 at a feeder in New Kent Co, VA. Two, and possibly three, BALTIMORE ORIOLES visited a feeder in Virginia Beach, VA on Dec 7.

A PURPLE FINCH was found on the weekly bird walk at Huntley Meadows Pk, Fairfax Co, VA on Dec 7.

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