

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: 12/22/09

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, Dec 22, at 7:30 am.

Top bird this week is any bird you were able to see during the historic snow storm of Dec 19.

Other birds of interest include GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, CACKLING GOOSE, LONG-TAILED DUCK, EARED GREBE, BROWN PELICAN, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, NORTHERN GOSHAWK, MERLIN, PEREGRINE FALCON, WILSON'S SNIPE, THAYER'S GULL, ICELAND GULL, LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, WHITE-WINGED DOVE\*, RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER\*, LINCOLN'S SPARROW, LAPLAND LONGSPUR, PAINTED BUNTING, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, PURPLE FINCH and EVENING GROSBEAK.

Several Christmas Bird Counts were snowed out this past weekend. Compilers are attempting to reschedule. Please look for details online or directly from the relevant compiler. Your help is needed more than ever.

A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was seen in a large SNOW GOOSE flock on the corner of Rt 50 and Woodyard Rd, Wicomico Co, MD on Dec 21. Another GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was at Herrington Harbor, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Dec 21. A CACKLING GOOSE was found on Dec 16 at Hains Point, Washington, DC and perhaps the same bird was seen between the 14th St and Memorial Bridges, Washington, DC on Dec 18 and in the Tidal Basin near the Jefferson Memorial on Dec 15. At least two CACKLING GEESE were spotted on Jug Bay, Anne Arundel and Prince Georges Co, MD on Dec 18 and 20. Two CACKLING GEESE were in Charles City Co, VA on Dec 20. Another CACKLING GOOSE was on Mill Creek Lake, Amherst Co, VA on Dec 21.

Four LONG-TAILED DUCKS were seen on the Potomac River near Piscataway Park, Prince Georges Co, MD on Dec 16. Two LONG-TAILED DUCKS and a REDHEAD were on the lake at Black Hill Reg Park, Montgomery Co, MD on Dec 20.

An EARED GREBE was found near the Assateague Island Causeway in Worcester Co, MD on Dec 16.

Some 60 BROWN PELICANS were still at Point Lookout, St Marys Co, MD on Dec 15.

An unusual record for DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT comes from the Catoctin CBC, Carroll Co, MD on Dec 14.

An adult NORTHERN GOSHAWK was seen at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Harford Co, MD on Dec 18. An immature NORTHERN GOSHAWK raided a bird feeder in a Kensington, Montgomery Co, MD backyard on Dec 20.

A MERLIN was spotted during the week at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Prince Georges Co, MD. A MERLIN flew over Black Hill Reg Park on Dec 20. A PEREGRINE FALCON continues in the area of Bailey's Crossroads, Fairfax Co, VA.

Twenty one WILSON'S SNIPE were seen from the Anne Arundel Co, MD side of Jug Bay on Dec 18.

A probable first winter THAYER'S GULL and an adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL were found on Schoolhouse Pond, Prince Georges Co, MD on Dec 18. A THAYER'S GULL and 5 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were seen at North East Town Park, Cecil Co, MD on Dec 21. Five LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were at the Fauquier Co, VA landfill on Dec 18. A first winter and a second winter ICELAND GULL of the Kumlien's subspecies were found at the Prince William Co, VA landfill on Dec 18 along with a first winter LESSER

**BLACK-BACKED GULL.**

A **WHITE-WINGED DOVE\*** was photographed in a Chesapeake, VA yard on Dec 20.

The Center for Conservation Biology at William and Mary College and The Nature Conservancy announced that the Conservancy's Piney Grove Preserve reached a record high 41 **RED-COCKADED WOODPECKERS\*** in 8 clusters during the annual winter survey.

A **LINCOLN'S SPARROW** was seen Dec 16 along Interior Ditch in the Great Dismal Swamp NWR, Suffolk, VA.

The only **LAPLAND LONGSPUR** reports this past week were a bird in Rockingham Co, VA and two birds in Kennedyville, Kent Co, MD on Dec 21.

A male **PAINTED BUNTING** was observed at a feeder in Williamsburg, VA on Dec 17. A female **PAINTED BUNTING** visited the same yard as the White-winged Dove in Chesapeake, VA on Dec 20.

A **BALTIMORE ORIOLE** continued at a feeder in Charles Co, MD through Dec 17.

Small numbers of **PURPLE FINCHES** were reported at feeders across the region after the snow storm.

An **EVENING GROSBEAK** was seen from a yard in Jarrettsville, Harford Co, MD on Dec 20.

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