

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, December 29, at 4:30 pm.

Top birds this week were WOOD STORK* in VA and BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE in MD.

Other birds of interest include Geese, GOLDEN EAGLE, MERLIN, PEREGRINE FALCON, COMMON MOORHEN, SANDHILL CRANE, PURPLE SANDPIPER, AMERICAN WOODCOCK, gulls, RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, shrike, HORNED LARK, ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, sparrows, PAINTED BUNTING, RUSTY BLACKBIRD, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, PURPLE FINCH and RED CROSSBILL.

Several Christmas Bird Counts were snowed out this year and have been rescheduled. Please look for details online or directly from the relevant compiler. Your help is needed more than ever.

A WOOD STORK* seen flying north from the Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach, Va on December 27.

A BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE was noted at the Ocean City Inlet, Worcester Co, MD on December 25.

A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was at Herrington Harbor, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Dec 21. Four ROSS'S GEESE and a CACKLING GOOSE were found on December 23 at the corner of Rte. 50 and Woodyard Rd., Wicomico Co, MD in a flock of 50,000 SNOW GEESE. A CACKLING GOOSE was seen at Hains Point, DC on December 27. A ROSS'S GOOSE was spotted in Leeds Creek, Talbot Co, MD on December 24 and 25.

Ducks in ever increasing numbers have been reported throughout the region during the week.

A GOLDEN EAGLE was seen along Hickory Point Road, Worcester Co, MD on December 27.

A MERLIN was spotted during the Manassas CBC, Prince William Co, VA on December 27. Two PEREGRINE FALCONS were seen capturing a EUROPEAN STARLING in Anacostia Park, DC on December 23. A drenched PEREGRINE FALCON was soaking in the rain on the Whorton watertower, Kent Co, MD on December 26. A PEREGRINE FALCON was spotted on the South River Bridge, Anne Arundel Co, MD, most recently on December 27. Two PEREGRINE FALCONS were seen resting on the 14th Street Bridge, DC on December 28

The Crisfield CBC, Somerset Co, MD on December 27 tallied two COMMON MOORHENS – one in Fairmount WMA-Rumbley-Frenchtown Intersection, and another in the Ellis Bay WMA.

A SANDHILL CRANE was seen at the Great Oak Landing pond on December 24, 25 and 26.

Five PURPLE SANDPIPERS were seen at Herrington Harbor in Rosehaven, Anne Arundel Co, MD on December 22. One PURPLE SANDPIPER lingered at Herrington Harbor, seen on December 26 and 27. Fourteen PURPLE SANDPIPERS were at Ocean City Inlet, Worcester Co, MD on December 23. An AMERICAN WOODCOCK visited a yard in Talbot Co, MD on December 24.

An adult BLACK-HEADED GULL was seen and photographed in North East Town Park, Cecil Co, MD on December 24 and the THAYER'S GULL reported last week was still there on December 24. Another BLACK-HEADED GULL was spotted at the Ocean City Inlet on December 25. Yet another BLACK-HEADED GULL was seen at Chincoteague Bay, VA on December 29. A KUMILIEN'S ICELAND GULL was at the Tidal Basin, DC, seen on December 26 and another was at North East Town Park on the same day. The Rock Run CBC tallied two THAYER'S GULLS, an ICELAND GULL and three LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS at Conowingo Dam, Harford Co, MD on December 27.

An adult RED-HEADED WOODPECKER was seen at the intersection of Bar Neck Road and Feather Lane in Talbot Co, MD on December 23.

A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE* was seen on Laws Ford Road, off Elk Run Road south of Catlett, Fauquier Co, VA on December 27. A NORTHERN SHRIKE made a cooperative appearance near the intersection of Roundtop and Kibler Roads, Kent Co, MD on December 24. The bird was seen again on December 26.

HORNED LARKS were seen in a variety of places throughout the region including a high count of 450 in Kennedyville, Kent Co, MD seen on December 21.

An ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER was sighted in a mixed-species flock at Jones Point, near Alexandria, VA on December 23. Three or more ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS were seen also at Anacostia Park on December 24.

Sparrows were reported in great numbers throughout the area, many feeding on roadsides after the snow storm. An AMERICAN TREE SPARROW was seen at the Lock Raven Skeet & Trap Center, Baltimore Co, MD on December 22. FOX, SAVANNAH and WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were noted from many venues. The Christfield CBC in Somerset Co, MD tallied a NESLON'S SPARROW and four SEASIDE SPARROWS. LAPLAND LONGSPURS were observed in many places throughout the region most notably in Caroline, Queen Anne's and Talbot Co, MD. Two SNOW BUNTINGS were at Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert Co, MD on December 21.

A male PAINTED BUNTING was observed at a residence near Wicomico Church in lower

Northumberland Co, Northern Neck, VA on December 23 and 26.

Thirty plus RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were noted at the Edgewood area of the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Harford Co, MD on December 23. A BALTIMORE ORIOLE visited a feeder in Talbot Co, MD on December 24. A BALTIMORE ORIOLE visited a feeder in Charles Co, MD seen most recently on December 27.

Small numbers of PURPLE FINCHES were reported at feeders across the region. A RED CROSSBILL was heard in a yard in Croom, Prince George's Co, MD on December 27.

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