

Voice of the Naturalist

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Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

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Reporting Guidelines

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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.

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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday January 27 at 2:30 PM.

Top birds this week are BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK* in DE, TUFTED DUCK* in MD, BARROW'S GOLDENEYE* in MD, PACIFIC LOON in VA, WESTERN GREBE in VA, CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD* in VA, WESTERN TANAGER* in VA, and PAINTED BUNTING* in VA.

Other birds of interest include waterfowl, RED-NECKED GREBE, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, GREAT CORMORANT, GOLDEN EAGLE, ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, VIRGINIA RAIL, gulls, RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD, LOGGERHEAD and NORTHERN SHRIKE, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, LAPLAND LONGSPUR, WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL*, and COMMON REDPOLL.

The BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK* on Silver Lake in Rehoboth Beach, Sussex Co, DE was seen again on Jan 25.

The TUFTED DUCK* which has been at the Cambridge Marina, in Dorchester Co, MD, continues with the most recent report from Jan 25. Also present at the marina as recently as the 25th were a female BARROW'S GOLDENEYE* and a EURASIAN WIGEON. The Dock Master at the Marina asks that birders sign in on the clip board near the stainless steel panel boxes at the High Street entrance.

The PACIFIC LOON was seen again on Jan 24 on the Kerr Reservoir in Mecklenburg Co off of the Palmer Point Day Use Area. While the Palmer Point gate was closed due to construction the group was able to walk in and find the loon.

A WESTERN GREBE was found not far from the dam at Claytor Lake SP, Pulaski Co, VA, on Jan 24 and relocated on Jan 26.

The CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD*, which has been visiting a feeder just north of Lynchburg, Bedford Co, VA, continues to be seen, thanks to the kind hospitality of the property owners at 207 Sandown Circle, with the most recent report on Jan 23.

The WESTERN TANAGER* at 154 Lakewood Dr in Williamsburg, VA continues with sightings on Jan 20 and Jan 22.

The PAINTED BUNTING* continues at 2491 Fairview Road in the Mount Crawford area of Rockingham Co, VA with the most recent sighting on Jan 26.

A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE found in the field just south of the Solomons Bridge, Calvert Co, MD on Jan 23 was relocated on the 24th. On Jan 24 a GREATER WHITEFRONTED GOOSE was found at Brighton Dam, Howard Co, MD; while it wasn't relocated on Jan 25, two CACKLING GEESE were.

On Jan 24 a ROSS'S GOOSE was found with a flock of Canada Geese in a field on the west side of Dover Neck Road right before the turn-off to the dump on Barker's Landing Rd near

Easton, Talbot Co, MD. On Jan 26 a ROSS'S GOOSE was found at Airlie, Fauquier Co, VA in an area accessible only with permission.

ACKLING GEESE were found at numerous locations. Six ACKLING GEESE were seen at Black Hill Regional Park, Montgomery Co, MD on the 20th. There were also reports from Piney Run Park, Carroll Co, MD on Jan 21 and two at the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, Prince George's Co, MD on Jan 23. Sixteen ACKLING GEESE were found Jan 24 in various locations throughout Augusta Co, VA.

The TRUMPETER SWAN at Schoolhouse Pond, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's Co, MD, was sighted again on Jan 22.

The EURASIAN WIGEON in the Williamsburg, VA area was seen on Jan 22.

A female COMMON EIDER was seen at the end of the jetty at the Ocean City inlet, Worcester Co, MD on Jan 25.

On Jan 26 a RED-NECKED GREBE was found at Brighton Dam on the Howard-Montgomery Co line.

On Jan 23 a GREAT CORMORANT was seen on the pound nets looking north from the causeway at Point Lookout SP, St. Mary's Co, MD. A GREAT CORMORANT was found on Jan 24 at the Back River water treatment plant, Baltimore, MD.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS continue to be seen at Blackwater NWR in Dorchester Co, MD, with reports from Jan 24 and 25.

On Jan 20 a juvenile GOLDEN EAGLE was reported from the Patuxent River Park, Prince George's Co, MD, in the vicinity of Mataponi Creek. A juvenile GOLDEN EAGLE was seen at the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Jan 21. On Jan 24 two ROUGHLEGGED

HAWKS were seen in Highland Co, VA and one was seen along I-68 in Allegany Co, MD about three miles east of Cumberland. PEREGRINE FALCONS were reported from a number of downtown locations, presumably hunting pigeons, including Cumberland, Allegany Co, MD on Jan 20, at Dupont Circle on Jan 22 and at Farragut Square Park, Wash, DC, NW on Jan 23, and in downtown Chevy Chase, MD on the 24th.

Three VIRGINIA RAILS were found between mileposts 163 and 164 in Allegany Co, MD, during the C&O Canal Winter Count on Jan 24.

The first year ICELAND GULL was again at North East Town Park, Cecil Co, MD on Jan 21 along with 4 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS; there were two ICELAND GULLS there on the 23rd and 24th, and at least one on Jan 25. An ICELAND GULL was at the Cambridge waterfront on Jan 25. Sightings at the Salisbury Landfill, Wicomico Co, MD, on Jan 23 included two first-winter Kumlien's ICELAND GULLS, one first-winter GLAUCOUS GULL, and six LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS. One first-winter GLAUCOUS GULL, one first-winter Kumlien's ICELAND GULL, and three LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were observed in the Appomattox River near City Point, Hopewell, VA on Jan 24. On Jan 26 two ICELAND GULLS and two GLAUCOUS GULLS were found at Depot Pond, Upper Marlboro, Prince George Co, MD.

The RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD in Port Republic, Calvert Co, MD is still present with the most recent sighting on Jan 22.

On Jan 24 a LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE was found in western Loudoun Co, VA southeast of Bluemont along Foggy Bottom Rd, Rte 626, about a mile south of Walsh Farm Ln.

A NORTHERN SHRIKE just south of Oldtown, Allegany Co, MD, was another nice find during the C&O Canal Winter Count on Jan 24.

A BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE was found Jan 26 along Appleton Road in Elkton, Cecil Co, MD.

An ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER was found Jan 23 in the scrubby patch at the southern tip of Point Lookout SP, St. Mary's Co, MD.

Three LAPLAND LONGSPURS were found in the fields near the Pocomoke sand pits, Somerset Co, MD on Jan 20.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS* were spotted in numerous locations this past week. They

were again found in Druid Ridge Cemetery, Baltimore Co, MD earlier in the week as well as seven on the 20th on the Gunpowder Loop on Gunpowder Rd at Prettyboy Reservoir, Baltimore Co, MD. They were also reported in small numbers at Piney Run Park, Carroll Co, MD on Jan 23 and Jan 25. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS* also turned up in the evergreens behind the visitor center, known as the Quarters, at the Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke Co, VA on Jan 23 and 25. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS* turned up in Howard Co, MD on Jan 25 and 26 on the east side of Jennings Chapel Road a little ways southeast of the junction with Hipsely Mill Road. On both Jan 25 and 26 a small flock was found at Font Hill Wetland Park in northeast Howard County at the intersection of Font Hill Dr and Carrigan Dr. On Jan 25 about 20 were found in a yard tree in Bel Air, Harford Co, MD. On Jan 26 one was found at Schooley Mill Park, Howard Co, MD.

A flyover COMMON REDPOLL was seen Jan 25 at Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD along Shorter's Wharf Rd.

Some of this week's reports have been gleaned from the MDOsprey, VA-Bird, and Delaware 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.