

# Voice of the Naturalist

Date: **1/5/10**

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

Telephone: 301-652-1088 option 1

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

(email): [voice@AudubonNaturalist.org](mailto:voice@AudubonNaturalist.org)

(deadline): midnight Mondays

Compiler: John Bjerke

Sponsor: Audubon Naturalist Society of the  
Central Atlantic States (independent of NAS!)

Transcriber: Steve Cordle

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, January 5, at 8:00 am.

Top birds this week were ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER\* and HARRIS'S SPARROW\* in VA and WESTERN/CLARK'S GREBE\* in MD.

Other birds of interest include Geese, EURASIAN WIGEON, COMMON EIDER, PACIFIC LOON\*, EARED GREBE, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, GREAT CORMORANT, ANHINGA, GREAT EGRET, GREEN HERON, OSPREY, MERLIN, PEREGRINE FALCON, KING RAIL, VIRGINIA RAIL, LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, gulls, NORTHERN SHRIKE, BLUE-HEADED VIREO, BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH, BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, AMERICAN TREE SPARROW, LARK SPARROW, LAPLAND LONGSPUR, ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, and RED CROSSBILL.

Despite the bitter wind chills from the howling winds, birders completed a number of Christmas Bird Counts this past weekend and many species unusual for the season were found. Congratulations to all!

A bird that was either a WESTERN\* or a CLARK'S GREBE\* was seen Jan 3 near the mouth of the Magothy River in Cape St. Claire, Anne Arundel Co, MD during the Annapolis Christmas Count. Direct access in Cape St Claire is restricted and birders might try from nearby Sandy Point St Park.

Two ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHERS\* were spotted on Tim Rd, Virginia Beach, VA on Dec 31 on the Little Creek Christmas Count. The birds were also seen on Jan 1 and 3. Birders are cautioned to be very careful in the area.

A HARRIS'S SPARROW\* is making sporadic appearances in Rockbridge Co, VA. It was seen from Dec 30 through Jan 3 along Hyde Rd (Rt 727) about .4 mile from its intersection with Brownsburg Turnpike (Rt 252).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE were found at several locations including Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Talbot Co, MD on Dec 30, Bear Swamp, Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE on Jan 4, Shiloh School RD about 6 miles north of Kilmarnock, Northumberland Co, VA on Dec 31, and Hunting Creek, Alexandria, VA on Jan 2. A ROSS'S GOOSE and a CACKLING GOOSE were seen at Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD on Dec 30. Single CACKLING GEESE also were spotted at St. Margarets, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Dec 31, Dairy Farm Rd, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Dec 31, Underwood Rd, Howard Co, MD on Dec 31, Hains Point, Washington, DC on Jan 2, Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William Co, VA on Jan 3, and Greenbelt Lake, Prince Georges Co, MD on Jan 4.

A male EURASIAN WIGEON was in Swan Cove, Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on Dec 31 and Jan 3. A EURASIAN WIGEON was seen in the Assawoman Wildlife Area, Sussex Co, DE on Jan 2. Four COMMON EIDERS were in the Ocean City, Worcester Co, MD inlet on Dec 30 and 3 were there on Jan 3. Five COMMON EIDERS were found at Indian River Inlet, Sussex Co, DE on Dec 30 and 4 were there on Jan 1.

A PACIFIC LOON\* drifted down the Lafayette River in Norfolk, VA on Jan 3. An EARED GREBE was in the Ocean City, MD inlet on Jan 3.

An AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN flew by the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, Anne Arundel, Co, MD on Dec 31. Eight AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were spotted on the wildlife drive at Chincoteague NWR on Jan 3.

Sightings of GREAT CORMORANT included one at the Ocean City inlet on Dec 30 and Jan 3, 5 at Indian River Inlet on Dec 30, and 1 at Sandy Point SP on Dec 31. Three ANHINGAS were seen in Virginia Beach on Dec 31.

A GREAT EGRET was found on Ft Belvoir, Fairfax Co, VA on Jan 3. An unusually lingering GREEN HERON was found in Ben Brenman Park, Alexandria, VA on Jan 1.

An OSPREY was seen at Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary, Arlington, VA on Jan 1. A MERLIN and a PEREGRINE FALCON were in Perryville Community Park, Cecil Co, MD on Jan 3. A MERLIN was at Occoquan Bay NWR on Jan 3. Another MERLIN was seen at Hains Point, Washington, DC on Jan 4. A PEREGRINE FALCON was found along the Potomac River between Dickerson, Montgomery Co, MD and the Monocacy Aqueduct on Jan 3. Two PEREGRINE FALCONS were on the Wilson Bridge, Prince Georges Co, MD on Jan 2. Another PEREGRINE FALCON was found in Leesylvania SP, Prince William Co, VA on Jan 3.

A KING RAIL was seen in Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA on Jan 1 and Jan 3. A VIRGINIA RAIL was heard along the RFK access trail in Washington, DC on Jan 1 and one was seen in Huntley Meadows Park on Jan 3.

Four LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS were spotted on Sinepuxent Bay, Worcester Co, MD on Dec 30.

A BLACK-HEADED GULL was at the Ocean City Inlet on December 30. Another BLACK-HEADED GULL was seen at Indian River Inlet on Jan 1. One other BLACK-HEADED GULL was in the town of Chincoteague, VA on Dec 29 and 31. A second

winter KUMILIEN'S ICELAND GULL was found in the Prince William Co, VA landfill on Dec 31. An adult ICELAND GULL was seen in North East Town Park, Cecil Co, MD on Dec 31. An immature ICELAND GULL was in Swan Cove, Chincoteague NWR on Jan 3. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were in several locations including North East Town Park on Dec 31, Prince William and Fauquier Co, VA landfills on Dec 31, Anacostia Park, Washington DC on Jan 2, and the Easton, MD water treatment plant on Dec 30. A GLAUCOUS GULL was found in Hallowing Pt Estates, Mason Neck, Fairfax Co, VA on Jan 3.

A NORTHERN SHIKE reappeared near the intersection of Rt 544 and Kibler Roads, Queen Annes Co, MD on Jan 4.

Despite the record snow falls followed by very cold temperatures and very strong winds, area Christmas Bird Counts turned up a remarkable number of out-of-season songbirds. The Rehoboth, DE Count had a BLUE-HEADED VIREO at Holt's Landing SP on Jan 2. The Washington, DC Count, also on Jan 2, had four ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS including one at Ft Foote, one in Anacostia Park, one at Dyke Marsh, and one at Jones Point. The Washington Count also had a BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER at Jones Point and a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER at Dyke Marsh. The Calmes Neck Count had a ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK at a feeder in western Loudoun Co, VA on Jan 3. The Ft Belvoir Count on Jan 3 had a BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH at Fountainhead Park, Fairfax Co, VA, a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER at Hard Bargain Farm, Charles Co, MD, a YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER at Indian Head, Charles Co, MD, and a COMMON YELLOWTHROAT in the Burke Lake, Fairfax Co, MD area.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were scattered across the region in small numbers. Locations include Dyke Marsh, Fairfax Co, VA on Dec 31, Beltsville Agricultural Center, Prince Georges Co, MD on Jan 1, Davidsonville Park, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Jan 1, Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William Co, VA on Jan 1 and 3, Sky Meadows SP, Fauquier Co, VA on Jan 2, Oxon Farm Park, Prince Georges Co, MD on Jan 2, western Loudoun Co, VA on Jan 3, and Schooley Mill Park, Howard Co, MD on Jan 4.

Two LARK SPARROWS were found on the Cape Charles, VA Christmas Bird Count on Dec 30.

Two LAPLAND LONGSPURS were seen along Underwood Rd, Howard Co, MD near Rt 99 on Dec 31. Four LAPLAND LONGSPURS were along Raymond Neck Rd near Bombay Hook NWR, DE on Dec 30. Five LAPLAND LONGSPURS were on the runways of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St Marys Co, MD on Jan 3.

A BREWER'S BLACKBIRD was found in the Hallowing Pt Estates, Mason Neck on Jan 3. A BALTIMORE ORIOLE graced a feeder in Croom, Prince Georges Co, MD on Dec 31 and Jan 1.

RED CROSSBILLS flew over Shenandoah MT between Augusta and Highland Cos on Jan 1.

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