

# Voice of the Naturalist

Date: 2/24/09

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

## Reporting Guidelines

Compiler: Joe Coleman

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

Transcriber: Steve Cordle

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

## Join online

This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, February 24 at 1:00 P.M.

Top bird this week is BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK\* in DE.

Other birds of interest include GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, ROSS'S GOOSE, CACKLING GOOSE, TRUMPETER SWAN\*, ducks including EURASIAN WIGEON and eiders, EARED GREBE, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, BROWN PELICAN, GREAT CORMORANT, GOLDEN EAGLE, gulls, RAZORBILL, SNOWY OWL, SHORT-EARED OWL, LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, PAINTED BUNTING, DICKCISSEL, RUSTY and BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, and WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.

The BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK\* was seen again from Lake Drive at Silver Lake in Rehoboth, DE.

The GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was spotted again near the bridge at Solomons, Calvert Co, MD, on both Feb 17 and 19. A ROSS'S GOOSE was found Feb 21 next to the large pond north of Harrison Rd, Fauquier Co, VA. A ROSS'S GOOSE was found on Shenandoah Lake in the Swoope area of Augusta Co, VA on Feb 21.

CACKLING GEESSE were reported from a variety of locations including four on Feb 20 on a private farm pond on Bell's Lane, Staunton, VA and one on Feb 21 at Fort Frederick SP, Washington Co, MD.

TRUMPETER SWAN\* #960 was seen again on Feb 17 at Oxbow Lake, Anne Arundel Co, MD. The two young TRUMPETER SWANS\* at Lakeside Business Park in Edgewood, Harford Co, MD were seen again with reports from Feb 17 and 20.

The EURASIAN WIGEON was at Ridgeway Park in Hampton, VA on Feb 22.

A COMMON EIDER, 3 KING EIDERS, a GREAT CORMORANT, a RED-NECKED GREBE, and an EARED GREBE were found at the Ocean City Inlet, Worcester Co, MD, on Feb 22.

A SURF SCOTER and a WHITE-WINGED SCOTER were seen Feb 17 in the Potomac River between Violettes Lock and Riley's Lock, Montgomery Co, MD. Both a WHITE-WINGED SCOTER and a LONG-TAILED DUCK were seen Feb 17 under the South Capital St Bridge from Anacostia Park, SE DC. Two WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS were found Feb 22 just south of Lapidum on the Susquehanna River in Harford Co, MD.

An EARED GREBE was found Feb 21 on 32nd St bayside in Ocean City, MD.

A dozen AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were at Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD on Feb 22.

A flyby BROWN PELICAN was seen Feb 22 on the bayside at Point Lookout SP, St. Mary's Co, MD.

A GREAT CORMORANT was seen Feb 21 at the south jetty of the Ocean City Inlet, Worcester Co, MD. Four GREAT CORMORANTS, 2 adults and 2 immatures, were found on Feb 21 at Indian River Inlet, Sussex Co, DE.

An immature GOLDEN EAGLE was found Feb 21 along Rte 644 in Highland Co, VA. A GOLDEN EAGLE was found Feb 21 at the E A Vaughn Wildlife Management Area, Worcester Co, MD.

An adult Kumlien's ICELAND GULL was seen flying downstream on the Potomac River from Fletcher's Boatyard, NW DC, on Feb 21. A LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was reported at Fort Armistead Park, Baltimore, MD on Feb 20. Five LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were seen at the Jug Bay Natural Area, Prince Georges Co, MD on Feb 17. Three LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS and a GLAUCOUS GULL were seen Feb 18 in Jug Bay, Anne Arundel Co, MD. A LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was seen Feb 19 at the tip of Hains Point, SW DC.

A RAZORBILL was seen Feb 21 in the ORV Zone on Assateague Island, Worcester Co, MD.

The SNOWY OWL in the vicinity of Oxford Laboratory, Talbot Co, MD, continued to be seen this past week, with reports from Feb 17 and 18. The Lab is federal property and requires visitors to sign in, weekdays only, between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM. The owl is seen frequently near the Bachelor Point Boatyard and on Pleasant St. A SNOWY Owl was also seen at Fort McHenry, Baltimore on Feb 19. It was relocated on Feb 20.

On both Feb 17 and 22 SHORT-EARED OWLS were seen hunting the fields at Pemberton Manor, Queen Anne's County, MD; there was also one there the morning of Feb 24. Five SHORT-EARED OWLS were found Feb 17 in the fields southwest of Middletown, Frederick Co, VA.

A birder watched a LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE kill and cache a mouse along Russell Rd in Clarke Co, VA on Feb 21. A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE was seen in Augusta Co, VA on Feb 20.

The LARK SPARROW was seen again Feb 21 at Vessey Orchard, Somerset County, MD.

A visit to Taylor's Landing, Worcester Co, MD on Feb 21 yielded 2 NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED

SPARROWS, 4 SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS, and a SEASIDE SPARROW.

The PAINTED BUNTING which has been visiting a feeder in Rockingham Co. VA, near Harrisonburg, was seen again on Feb 22. The two PAINTED BUNTINGS visiting feeders on Rouse Rd in Virginia Beach, VA were seen again Feb 22.

The trip to Highland Co, VA on Feb 21 found a DICKCISSEL, four finch species, and a CHIPPING SPARROW, at the feeders in McDowell, VA.

A single RUSTY BLACKBIRD was found at Huntley Meadows Pk, Fairfax Co, VA on Feb 21. The same day two RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were found at Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co, MD. On Feb 22 there were 13 RUSTY BLACKBIRDS behind the Wildewood Shopping Center on Rte 235 in California, St Mary's Co, MD.

On Feb 21 seven BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS were found at Truitt's Landing Rd, Worcester Co, MD.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS continued to be seen across the region. There were reports this week from Centennial Park in Howard Co, MD as recently as Feb 21; from Wrighton Road near the turn to Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in Anne Arundel Co, MD as recently as Feb 21; as well as along the Gunpowder Loop Trail, Baltimore Co, MD near Prettyboy Reservoir on the 17th and 21st. One was seen and heard singing in a yard Feb 17 in Colesville, MD.

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 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.