

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist
Date: 2/13/2018
Coverage: MD/DC/N. VA/C. & S. DE/WV panhandle
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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report covers the week starting Tuesday, February 6, and was completed on Tuesday, February 13 at about 3:00 p.m.

Information on noteworthy birds during this week is presented below in taxonomic order, as set forth in the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist for North and Middle American birds, as revised through the 57th Supplement (July 2016).

TOP BIRDS THIS WEEK: BARROW'S GOLDENEYE in MD, SNOWY OWLS IN MD, VA, and WV, HARRIS'S SPARROW* in MD, and PAINTED BUNTING in MD

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST: TRUMPETER SWAN, KING EIDER, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, LONG-TAILED DUCK, RED-NECKED GREBE, AMERICAN BITTERN, ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, COMMON GALLINULE, SANDHILL CRANE, RAZORBILL, ICELAND GULL, TREE SWALLOW, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, HOUSE WREN, SNOW BUNTING, BALTIMORE ORIOLE

TOP BIRDS

The BARROW'S GOLDENEYE continued at The Elms Environmental Education Center (private) in St. Mary's Co MD.

There were still a few SNOWY OWLS scattered widely around the area. On Feb 6, two were seen at Hart-Miller Island in Baltimore Co MD. On Feb 9, Assateague SP, in Worcester Co MD, hosted, and still another was seen at Tom's Cove, Chincoteague NWR, in Accomack Co VA. Then on Feb 10, far to the west in

Ranson WV (just N of Charles Town), another SNOWY OWL was spotted.

The HARRIS'S SPARROW* in Prince George's Co MD continued with sightings on Feb 8, 10, and 12. A green PAINTED BUNTING was seen on Feb 10 and 12 at the Masonville Cove Education Center in Baltimore City (MD).

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

TRUMPETER SWANS were scattered over MD and VA: on Feb 6 and 7, one in Columbia MD (Howard Co) in a storm water pond at Broken Land Parkway and US29; on Feb 7, 8, 10, 11, one tagged R24 at Lk Frederick (Frederick Co VA); also on Feb 7, five were reported SE of Laurel MD (Prince George's Co); on Feb 8, the one tagged P61 was spotted again in Waynesboro VA; on Feb 10, as many as 12 were reported in and N of Airlie VA (Fauquier Co); also on Feb 10, one reported on Lakeside Lk, Frederick Co VA.

A single hen KING EIDER was present Feb 8-10 off Point Lookout SP, St. Mary's Co MD. A WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was spotted Feb 10 on Wharf Rd in Prince George's Co MD. A pair of LONG-TAILED DUCKS were seen Feb 8 in Black Hill Regional Park (Montgomery Co MD), seen from the MD121 bridge. The RED-NECKED GREBE continued Feb 8 at Occoquan Bay NWR (Prince William Co MD), at Deephole Pt Rd where Catamount Creek enters the Potomac River. Another RED-NECKED GREBE was seen Feb 10 in Crownsville MD (Anne Arundel Co), at Little Round Bay (on the Severn River).

Unexpected at that location was an American Bittern seen well on Feb 11 at the Oaks Landfill (private) in Montgomery Co MD.

On Feb 6, the ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK continued at Prime Hook NWR in Sussex Co DE. Two (one) more ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were seen Feb 9 and 11 (1) at Pemberton Manor, Queen Anne's Co MD.

The COMMON GALLINULE continued Feb 9 at Bayside Development Pond, Worcester Co MD.

A SANDHILL CRANE was seen Feb 8 along Harry James Road in St. Mary's Co MD. Another was present Feb 9 and 11 along Sanctuary Trail, Algonkian Nature Preserve, in Loudon Co VA. Two SANDHILL CRANES were present Feb 11 in Prime Hook NWR, Sussex Co DE.

Two RAZORBILLS were present Feb 6-10 at Indian River Inlet, Sussex Co DE.

On Feb 10, the Iceland Gull continued at the Annapolis Junction Transfer Station, Howard/Anne Arundel Counties MD. Another Iceland Gull was seen, Feb 11 at Hunting Creek Rd & Blades Rd in Caroline Co MD.

A single fly-catching TREE SWALLOW was spotted Feb 8 over the Potomac River at Great Falls (Montgomery Co MD).

The out-of-season HOUSE WREN continued Feb 9 at Lake Artemesia in Prince George's Co MD. SNOW BUNTINGS were reported: two on Feb 6 at Poplar Island in Talbot Co MD, and two more Feb 8 at Kiptopeke SP, Northampton Co VA. Also out-of-season were BALTIMORE ORIOLES, both seen Feb 10 in MD: one was along Lighthouse Road in St. Mary's Co, the other in Parkville, Baltimore Co.

This report was based on reports on the DE, MD, VA, and WV list servers via the ABA Internet links, and on eBird records.

The Audubon Sanctuary Shop (301-652-3606, <http://anshome.org/naturalist-shop>) is an excellent source for guidebooks and many other nature-related titles.

To report bird sightings, e-mail your report to voice@anshome.org. Please post reports before midnight Monday, identify the county as well as the state, and include your name and a Tuesday morning contact, either e-mail or phone.

Thank you for your interest, and enjoy the birds.

*Of interest to the applicable records committee