

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist
Date: 10/23/2018
Coverage: MD/DC/VA/central and southern 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, October 16, and was completed on Tuesday, October 23 at about 10:00 a.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: REDDISH EGRET in DE, SWAINSON'S HAWK in VA, RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD in VA, NELSON'S SPARROW in MD, CLAY-COLORED SPARROW in VA.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST: GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, CACKLING GOOSE, EURASIAN WIGEON, REDHEAD, LONG-TAILED DUCK, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, WHITE IBIS, GOLDEN EAGLE, NORTHERN GOSHAWK, SANDHILL CRANE, PIPING PLOVER, HUDSONIAN GODWIT, STILT SANDPIPER, RED PHALAROPE, SANDWICH TERN, BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO, COMMON NIGHTHAWK, EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE, YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, PHILADELPHIA VIREO, BANK SWALLOW, CLIFF SWALLOW, SEDGE WREN, BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, VEERY, GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH, WOOD THRUSH, ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, late warblers, GRASSHOPPER SPARROW, VESPER SPARROW, DICKCISSEL, PINE SISKIN

TOP BIRDS

The REDDISH EGRET continued in Cape Henlopen SP (Sussex Co DE) on Oct 16 & 17.

A SWAINSON'S HAWK was photographed Oct 18 from the Kiptopeke Hawk Watch (Northampton Co VA).

A RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD was reported Oct 17 & 18 in Hanover Co VA.

On Oct 20, two NELSON'S SPARROWs were seen in MD, one in Calvert Co at North Beach marsh, the other in Worcester Co at Assateague S. Beach Campground.

Two CLAY-COLORED SPARROWs were seen in VA. On Oct 18, one was at Silver Lake in Rockingham Co. The other was at Shenandoah River SP in Warren Co on Oct 22.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

On Oct 16, a GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was seen from the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, Augusta Co VA. Ten GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE were seen Oct 22 at Broadford Lake in Garrett Co MD. A CACKLING GOOSE was seen Oct 26 at Loch Raven Res in Baltimore Co MD, and Broadford Lake also hosted a CACKLING GOOSE, on Oct 22. An EURASIAN WIGEON was spotted Oct 18 at Snow Goose Pond in Chincoteague NWR (Accomack Co VA). On Oct 20, another EURASIAN WIGEON was seen, at Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary (private) in Montgomery Co MD. A REDHEAD was reported Oct 19 at Piney Run Pk in Carroll Co MD. Another REDHEAD was seen in MD, Oct 21 at Trout Run WWTP in Garrett Co. At Ocean City Inlet (Worcester Co MD), a LONG-TAILED DUCK was reported Oct 20.

Great Marsh, in Mason Neck NWR (Fairfax Co VA), hosted 1-2 AMERICAN WHITE PELICANs Oct 20-22. A YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON was seen Oct 16 & 19 at Baker Park, Frederick MD (Frederick Co).

Several GOLDEN EAGLEs were seen. Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch reported singles on Oct 17, 19, & 20; Kiptopeke Hawk Watch reported a single Oct 19; and Snicker's Gap Hawk Watch (Loudon Co VA) reported singles on Oct 20 & 21.

Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch also reported single NORTHERN GOSHAWKs on Oct 16, 20, & 21.

A SANDHILL CRANE was seen Oct 22 along Cods Road in Sussex Co DE.

A number of HUDSONIAN GODWITs were reported: in DE, there were sightings at Bombay Hook NWR (Kent Co) on Oct 16 & 18, and one Oct 18 at Milford Neck Wildlife Area Big Stone Beach Rd (also Kent Co). In MD, a HUDSONIAN GODWIT was seen Oct 19 in Perryman Pk, Harford Co, another Oct 20 at "Life of the Marsh", Assateague I. NS (Worcester Co); Oct 21 & 22 at 12 Stones Rd Pond (Harford Co); and Oct 21 in Franklin Manor (residential Community, Anne Arundel Co).

On Oct 19, a PIPING PLOVER was spotted in Tom's Cove of Chincoteague NWR (Accomack Co VA). On Oct 17, a STILT SANDPIPER was present at Gordon's Pond of Cape Henlopen SP (Sussex Co DE). A RED PHALAROPE was seen Oct 21 & 22 at Broadford Lake in Garrett Co MD.

A SANDWICH TERN was present Oct 16 at Skimmer Island west of Ocean City MD (Worcester Co MD). Possibly the same bird was seen 5 days later around Ocean City Inlet (Worcester Co MD)

Two BLACK-BILLED CUCKOOS were seen in VA, one Oct 17 in Waples Mill Meadow Pk (Fairfax Co), the other Oct 21 near the Chincoteague NWR Lighthouse. Four COMMON NIGHTHAWKS were seen Oct 17 over Lake Franklin in Montgomery Co MD.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEEs were present throughout the reporting area all week. A YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER was reported Oct 16 at Hillandale Park, Harrisonburg VA (Rockingham Co). Two late YELLOW-THROATED VIREOs were seen Oct 17 at the Patuxent Research Refuge, Prince George's Co MD. A PHILADELPHIA VIREO was seen Oct 17 at the Warrenton Aquatic and Recreation Facility (WARF) in Fauquier Co VA. A BANK SWALLOW was seen Oct 21 at Burke Lk Pk, Fairfax Co VA, and four CLIFF SWALLOWS were recorded around Kent Point marina, Queen Anne's Co MD.

On Oct 20, a SEDGE WREN was reported in Buchanan Co VA. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS were thinly scattered over much of the reporting area: one Oct 16 in Druid Hill Pk (Baltimore City MD); one Oct 17 at Pt Lookout SP in St Mary's Co MD; one Oct 19 near Kent Point marina; one Oct 20 in Sky Meadows SP (Fauquier Co VA); one Oct 21 in Patterson Pk, Baltimore City MD; and one Oct 21 at St Jones Reserve (Kent Co DE).

Maryland hosted two VEERIES, one Oct 16 in Washington Co east of the Clopper – Old Forge intersection, the other Oct 22 in Talbot Co at Black Walnut Point North (Private). A GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH was seen Oct 18 along Summerfield Hills Dr in Fauquier Co VA. White Oaks Pk, in Fairfax Co VA, hosted a WOOD THRUSH on Oct 19.

Two ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS were seen in MD: one Oct 16 at Cromwell Valley Pk (Baltimore Co), the other in Patterson Pk (Baltimore City). Quite a few late warblers were reported all over the reporting area: 4 CONNECTICUT, 1 HOODED, 3 CAPE MAY, 4 BAY-BREASTED, 1 BLACKBURNIAN, 4 YELLOW, 1 CHESTNUT-SIDED, 4 PRAIRIE. On Oct 17, a GRASSHOPPER SPARROW was spotted in St Mary's Co MD along Long Neck Rd. Two VESPER SPARROWS were seen. One was in MD Oct 17 at the Patuxent Research Refuge S. Tract (Prince George's Co), the other in VA Oct 20 at the Laurel Hill Equestrian Center (Fairfax Co). On Oct 16 NW DC hosted a DICKCISSEL at Rock Creek Pk. MD had two DICKCISSELS, one Oct 17 at Perryman Pk, the other Oct 19 at Kent Point marina. Finally, MD & VA split evenly a dozen PINE SISKINS, all on Oct 19. Six were at Leesylvania SP, Prince William Co VA, the other six at Woodbine in Carroll Co MD.

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