

Date: November 6, 2018

Coverage: MD/DC/VA central and southern DE/WV panhandle

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

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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 30, and was completed on Tuesday, November 6, at 10:00 a.m.

Information on noteworthy birds is presented below in taxonomic order, as set forth in the American Ornithological Society Checklist for North and Middle American Birds, as revised through the 59th Supplement (June 2018).

Top Birds this Week: PACIFIC LOON* in VA, RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD in VA, FRANKLIN'S GULL* in MD, NORTHERN SHRIKE* in VA, EVENING GROSBEAK in MD, and LECONTE'S SPARROW* in MD.

Other Birds of Interest: EURASIAN WIGEON, MUTE SWAN, waterfowl, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER and SURF SCOTER, RED-NECKED GREBE, RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, VIRGINIA RAIL and SORA, COMMON GALLINULE, SANDHILL CRANE*, shorebirds including a BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, PARASITIC JAEGER, gulls, terns, RED-THROATED LOON, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, herons, WHITE IBIS, raptors, WHITE AMERICAN KESTREL (link to photos included), EASTERN KINGBIRD, HORNED LARK, swallows, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE*, SEDGE WREN and MARSH WREN, BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, thrushes, PURPLE FINCH and PINE SISKIN, LAPLAND LONGSPUR, SNOW BUNTING, sparrows, wood warblers, and DICKCISSEL.

TOP BIRDS

A continuing PACIFIC LOON* was seen among COMMON LOONS through November 5 (latest report per eBird) at Sherwood Lakes Virginia Beach, VA. Another observation was made on November 1 at 2069 Princess Anne Rd also in Virginia Beach.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRDS were reported, with photographs, at several locations including in Albemarle Co, VA on Fosters Branch Road through November 4; through November 3 on Ox Road Augusta Co, VA; and in Chesterfield Co, VA. Please keep your hummingbird feeders up until the New Year, as hummingbirds seen this late in the year can be western vagrants!

An adult FRANKLIN'S GULL* was seen on November 3 at Chesapeake Beach Veterans Memorial Park in Calvert Co. On the same day, one bird was seen at Sandy Point State Park in Anne Arundel Co, MD and another was seen at Violette's Lock along the C&O Canal in Montgomery Co, MD. The Violette's Lock bird is the same bird observed at this location from across the Potomac River in Loudoun Co, VA. The latest sighting was on November 4 at Chesapeake Beach Marina in Calvert Co, MD.

A (possibly) returning NORTHERN SHRIKE* was last reported at Sully Woodlands in Fairfax Co, VA on November 4.

Forty-five EVENING GROSBEAKS visited a residential yard on Catchfly Court (Private) in Howard Co, MD. The location is private, but the birds were visible from the street. Last sighting was reported on November 1. One bird was reported in VA at Occoquan Bay NWR Prince William Co and another on Morning Calm Ln (39.3704x-77.7508) in Jefferson Co, WV.

A LECONTE'S SPARROW* has been observed by several birders at Swan Harbor Farm Park in Harford Co, MD. This life bird, for many, was continuing through November 4. A LECONTE'S SPARROW* was also seen at 817-893 Timber Ln, Havre De Grace US-MD (39.5209,-76.1141) in Harford Co, MD on November 4.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

A male EURASIAN WIGEON was reported through November 4 at Chincoteague NWR in Accomack Co, VA. Two males were reported at the same location on November 3.

One ROSS'S GOOSE was documented at Carroll Mill Rd in Howard Co, MD on November 5. Please do not enter the property it is restricted to University of Maryland.

Two adult and one immature MUTE SWAN continued to be observed, through November 4, at the West Ocean City Pond in Ocean City, MD.

Winter waterfowl continued to arrive in the region including: a continuing REDHEAD at Kerr Reservoir in VA, seen through November 4; a CACKLING GOOSE in Accomack Co, VA at Chincoteague NWR on the Wildlife Loop, last seen November 3; a BRANT at 711 S 2nd St. Richmond City, VA seen on November 2 and 3; two female HOODED MERGANSER were seen at Prime Hook NWR--Cods Rd - 13 Curves Rd in Sussex Co, DE; and a COMMON GOLDENEYE as observed at Big Water Farm (Private) Queen Anne's Co, MD along with a LONG-TAILED DUCK.

A WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was seen at Falls Mills Lake in Tazewell Co, VA on November 1. Another bird was seen on November 5 at Herrington Manor SP in Garrett Co, MD.

Three SURF SCOTER were seen at Violette's Lock in Montgomery Co, MD on November 3.

A RED-NECKED GREBE was reported on October 31 at Broadford Lake, Mountain Lake Park US--MD in Garrett Co, MD.

A RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD was reported at a home on Willow Glen Rd in Chesterfield Co, VA.

A VIRGINIA RAIL was heard on October 30 at Little Island Park in Virginia Beach, VA. One was also described as being heard at Chincoteague NWR--Wildlife Loop in Accomack Co, VA on November 3.

Four late SORA were heard at the Gala Wetlands in Botetourt Co, VA. One was found injured on November 4 at Edgebrier Park in Rockingham Co, VA. The bird was taken to a rehabilitation center.

A COMMON GALLINULE was seen on October 30 at Little Island Park in Virginia Beach, VA. An immature bird was seen at the West Ocean City Pond in Worcester Co, MD on November 4, and a juvenile was reportedly seen on Deal Island WMA in Somerset Co, MD.

A continuing SANDHILL CRANE* was heard from the refuge side of the creek off Cods Road from a residential property in Sussex Co, DE.

On October 30 a BAIRD'S SANDPIPER was seen on Draper Rd. in Sussex Co, DE.

A light morph adult PARASITIC JAEGER was seen at Little Island Park in Virginia Beach, VA on October 30.

Three HUDSONIAN GODWITS continued to be seen in the Southern end of Bear Swamp Pool, at Bombay Hook in Kent Co, DE through October 31.

An AMERICAN WOODCOCK was flushed, then seen and heard, at UVA--Dell in Charlottesville, VA on November 4.

SPOTTED SANDPIPERS were spotted on October 31 at Huntley Meadows Park in Fairfax Co, VA and on November 4 at the John H. Kerr Reservoir Tailrace Park in Mecklenburg Co, VA. They were also spotted at North Beach--Marsh Calvert Co, MD.

Eight juvenile HERRING GULLS, and two adults, were observed, and photographed, on Ivy Road in Charlottesville, VA.

A LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was seen November 5 at the Salisbury Landfill - Naylor Mill Rd. Pond in Wicomico Co, MD.

Late CASPIAN TERNS were reported in both VA and MD. One was reported in York Co, VA at Colonial Parkway--Falgates Creek on November 3; one on November 1 at Craney Island Disposal Area (restricted access) in Portsmouth, VA; and one in Baltimore Co, MD at North Point State Park.

Late COMMON TERNS were reported to be seen on November 3 at Rudee Inlet in Virginia Beach, VA. One was observed on November 4 at Beverly-Triton Beach in Anne Arundel Co, MD. Another was seen at Chesapeake Beach Marina and one at Chesapeake Beach Veterans Memorial Park, both in Calvert Co, MD.

A RED-THROATED LOON was spotted between Riley's Lock and Violette's Lock in Montgomery Co, MD on November 5.

Several reports of AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN were made in Sussex Co, DE at Cape Henlopen--SP Gordon's Pond and at the Hawkwatch, with a high count of two for both locations. The pelicans continued through November 5. A single flock of 28 were seen flying north over Back Bay NWR in Virginia Beach, VA.

This week, continuing late herons included: a SNOWY EGRET, reported on November 4, was seen flying over Bluewater Marina in Hampton, VA. In MD one was seen at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Dorchester Co and also at nearby at Maple Dam Rd.

A continuing GREAT EGRET was seen on November 2 at Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia in Clarke Co, VA.

Four first-year LITTLE BLUE HERONS were seen at the Whitehurst Tract in Virginia Beach on November 4 and one juvenile was also seen at Back Bay NWR in Virginia Beach, VA.

CATTLE EGRETS were reported in Baltimore and Harford Counties, MD; three in Staunton, VA; and one Rockingham Co, VA.

Late BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS were also reported in Montgomery Co, MD; and in Frederick Co, MD.

GREEN HERONS were seen, and also flagged as late, in Montgomery Co, MD; and in Fairfax City, VA. November records are possible!

A juvenile WHITE IBIS was documented on November 1 at Craney Island Disposal Area (restricted access) in Portsmouth, VA. Twenty-five were seen lifting off at Cape Henlopen SP--North Gordon's Pond Trail in Sussex Co, DE. One juvenile was observed at Oyster Rocks Rd in Sussex Co, DE.

A late BROAD-WINGED HAWK was reported at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in Anne Arundel Co, MD.

GOLDEN EAGLES continued to be spotted through the region, this week two were seen at Cape Henlopen Hawkwatch Sussex Co, DE. One sub-adult was photographed at Cromwell Valley Park during a Hawk Watch in Baltimore Co, MD.

An immature NORTHERN GOSHAWK was reported, and photographed, on October 31 and another reported on November 3 at the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch in August Co, VA.

A WHITE AMERICAN KESTREL was found near Kiptopeke in Northampton Co, VA at Bull's Lane and Rt. 600. Follow this link to view photos of this extraordinary bird:
<http://coastalvirginiawildlifeobservatory.blogspot.com/2018/11/white-kestrel-and-bald-eagle-record.html>

A late EASTERN KINGBIRD was seen on November 5 Schoolhouse Pond Prince George's Co, MD.

Thirteen HORNED LARKS were observed in flight over Kenilworth Park in Washington, DC on November 4.

Late SWALLOWS included a NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED photographed in VA and seen in MD, TREE SWALLOWS in VA and MD, and BARN SWALLOW in MD.

A BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE* was seen in VA, in the city of Charlottesville.

One SEDGE WREN was seen at Baker Park in Frederick Co, MD on November 4, the bird was not relocated.

A MARSH WREN was recorded on November 4 at Mount Pleasant Farm Howard Co, MD.

Two BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS were reported at Ancarrow's Landing in Richmond City, VA on November 4 and viewed by several birders. One was also seen in Sussex Co, DE at Cape Henlopen State Park.

An expected GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH was seen on November 3 at Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center in Botetourt Co, VA.

A SWAINSON'S THRUSH was reportedly seen and heard on October 31, and then seen on November 1 at Elklick Woodlands Natural Area Preserve in Fairfax Co, VA. One was noted in Howard Co, MD at Blandair.

A VEERY was seen on November 3 at New Quarter Park in York Co, VA.

A WOOD THRUSH was reportedly seen on November 4 in Westmoreland Circle, DC.

Sightings of PURPLE FINCHES continued to be reported throughout the Voice of the Naturalist reporting area.

PINE SISKINS have been reported throughout the area. Per the finch forecast (<http://jeaniron.ca/2018/wff18.htm>) due to poor food conditions in the north, during the 2018-2019 winter season, the mid-Atlantic area will host an irruption event — continued sightings are expected in the region. Sightings have already happened in the following areas: the National Arboretum, DC; 5529 Potomac Ave NW, Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens; Rock Creek Park; Whitehaven Park; the C&O canal at Fletcher's Cove/Boathouse; Little Island Park, Virginia Beach, VA; and all across Frederick Co, MD.

Two LAPLAND LONGSPURS, reported last week, continued to be observed by a handful of birders at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Prince George's Co, MD. Access to this location is limited.

A SNOW BUNTING was seen on October 30 at Crystal Pier in North Point State Park, Baltimore Co, MD. This species has been seen at this location throughout the years. The bird was continuing as of November 3.

A variety of sparrows are viewable now and have been widely reported in the past few weeks. This week's little brown job report includes: CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS seen at Albemarle County Community Park, in Albemarle Co, VA; Chincoteague NWR Visitor Center in Accomack Co, VA; and at Masonville Cove in Baltimore Co.

VESPER SPARROWS were reported at Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens in DC; Dick Cross WMA in Mecklenburg Co, VA; Dutch Gap Conservation Area in Chesterfield Co, VA; Petersburg National Battlefield in Dinwiddie Co, VA; Pickering Creek Audubon Center (PCAC Audubon Lane)(0.4 mi) in Talbot Co, MD; and Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Prince George's Co, MD.

A continuing LARK SPARROW was seen in DC at the National Arboretum through November 3.

A SALTMARSH SPARROW was reported on October 30 at Prime Hook NWR--Fowler Beach in Sussex Co, DE.

There were multiple reports of LINCOLN'S SPARROW throughout the reporting area.

A NELSON'S SPARROW was observed on November 1 at Bay Tree Beach Rd (Private) in York Co, VA.

Late migrating and winter warblers have been observed throughout the region. Get them while you can! The warblers include:

* A MAGNOLIA WARBLER at Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, DC; and at the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR--Butterfly Trail in Northampton Co, VA.

* PALM WARBLERS are rolling through MD and have been reported at Big Water Farms (Private) in Queen Anne's Co, Harford Co at Swan Harbor Farm Park, and Lily Pons Rd (Private) Frederick Co.

* BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS were seen in DC at the Rock Creek Park--Dog Run, the National Arboretum, and at East Potomac Park--Hains Pt.

* Four BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLERS were seen in Montgomery Co, MD on Massachusetts Ave. An individual bird was seen at Back Bay NWR in Virginia Beach, VA. Another individual, closer to MD, was seen at Dumbarton Oaks Park in DC. There was one more report at Killens Pond State Park in Kent Co, DE.

* Dumbarton Oaks Park in DC also hosted a late NORTHERN PARULA.

* COMMON YELLOWTHROATS continue to appear throughout the Piedmont regions in MD and VA, and in DC and DE.

* An individual NASHVILLE WARBLER was seen on Geid Rd in Talbot CO, MD. More individuals were reported in Prince William Co, VA, Cavalier Trail Park in Falls Church, VA, and the National Arboretum in DC.

* In MD, a continuing ORANGE-CROWNED was enjoyed, at Oregon Ridge Park in Baltimore Co MD, by several birders. More were reported in MD at: North Point State Park in Baltimore Co, the Anacostia River Trail, Patuxent Research Refuge in Anne Arundel Co, and at Riverview Park in Charlottesville, VA.

* BLACKPOLL WARBLERS continued to migrate through the region with different sightings in Harford, Baltimore, Calvert, Montgomery, and Howard Counties, MD; Prince William, Fairfax, and Clarke Counties, VA; Harrisonburg, Virginia Beach, and Richmond City, VA; Kent Co, DE; Jefferson Co, WV; and DC.

* BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLERS were observed in Accomack and Northampton Counties, VA and at Virginia Beach, VA.

* CAPE MAY WARBLERS were reported in VA in Botetourt, Northampton, Pulaski, York, and Accomack counties; Richmond City; and Charlottesville. In MD they were seen in Howard, Worcester, Somerset, and Queen Anne's Counties.

* TENNESSEE WARBLERS were reported in Harford and in Calvert Counties, MD; at the National Arboretum in DC; and Richmond City, VA.

* An Ovenbird was reported in Botetourt Co, VA at Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center on November 4 and at Gwynns Falls Trail South in Baltimore Co, MD.

* A YELLOW WARBLER was noted on November 3 in York Co, VA at Colonial Parkway--Felgates Creek.

A single DICKCISSEL continued through November 1 at North Beach-9119 Bay Avenue in Calvert Co, MD. One bird was reported, and identified by ear, on October 30 in Kent Co, DE.

This week's report was based on reports on the DE, MD, VA, and WV list servers, eBird records and various birding pages on Facebook.

The Audubon Sanctuary Shop (301-652-3606, <https://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, email or phone.

Thank you for your interest and enjoy the birds.

*Of interest to the applicable state records committee