

Date: November 27, 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, November 20 and was completed on Tuesday, November 27 at 6:00 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). This report does not provide information about likely escaped or released birds (e.g. various parrots and parakeets), non-established feral birds (e.g., Muscovy Duck) and introduced game birds (e.g., Ring-necked Pheasant).

The top birds this week were RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD in VA, CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD* in MD, ICELAND GULL (KUMLIEN'S) in VA, PACIFIC LOON* in VA, and EVENING GROSBEAK in VA and MD.

Other birds of interest this week were: ROSS'S GOOSE, GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, CACKLING GOOSE, EURASIAN WIGEON, COMMON EIDER, SURF SCOTER, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, TRUMPETER SWAN, RED-NECKED GREBE, SANDHILL CRANE, shorebirds including RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, PARASITIC JAEGER, RED-THROATED LOON, NORTHERN GANNET, GREAT CORMORANT, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, BROWN PELICAN, SNOWY EGRET, TRICOLORED and GREEN HERONS, BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERN, raptors including NORTHERN GOSHAWK, ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, GOLDEN EAGLE, NORTHERN SHRIKE*, MARSH WREN, SEDGE WREN, late WHITE-EYED and BLUE-HEADED VIREOS, HORNED LARK, NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW, BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, RED CROSSBILL, LAPLAND LONGSPUR, SNOW BUNTING, AMERICAN TREE, CLAY-COLORED, VESPER, LARK, NELSON'S and SALTMARSH SPARROWS, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, late warblers including YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK and DICKCISSEL.

TOP BIRDS

A RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD continued throughout the week at a private feeder along Fosters Branch Road in Albemarle Co, VA. Another stray *Selasphorus* hummingbird was photographed Nov 21 at a private feeder along Newport Road in Augusta Co, VA.

A hatch-year male CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD* continued throughout the week at a house on 977 Dogwood Tree Ln, Cape St Claire, Anne Arundel Co, MD. The owners have generously given permission for observers to visit between 9 am and 4 pm, but visitors are asked to stay on the cement pad on the left side of the house, be quiet and not to park in front of the neighbors' property across the street.

An ICELAND GULL (KUMLIEN'S)* was photographed at the Fairfax County Landfill in Fairfax Co, VA on Nov 25.

A continuing PACIFIC LOON* was seen on Nov 20, 22, 23 and 25 at Sherwood Lakes, Virginia Beach, VA.

A small number of EVENING GROSBEAKS continued to be seen in the reporting area. Sightings included an individual at a private feeder along Cremen Road in Anne Arundel Co, MD on Nov 20 and 21. A couple of EVENING GROSBEAKS were heard along Forestgate Place in Prince George's Co, MD on Nov 20 and 21. On Nov 23, an EVENING GROSBEAK flew over Corporate Village Parkway in Chesterfield Co, VA. Another was spotted at the Cape Henlopen Hawkwatch in Sussex Co, DE on Nov 23. One more was photographed at a private residence near Jacobs Ladder in Rockbridge Co, VA on Nov 24. Yet another was seen at a feeder in the Beaver Creek area of Washington Co, MD on Nov 24. A single EVENING GROSBEAK was photographed at private feeders along Hoyes Run Road in Garrett Co, MD on Nov 24 and 25. A flock of twelve EVENING GROSBEAKS was seen near an office building at 4114 Legato Road, Fairfax Co, VA on Nov 26.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

SNOW GOOSE flock flyovers were reported inland in Fairfax and Loudoun Cos, VA on Nov 20. Four SNOW GEESE and a single ROSS'S GOOSE were photographed flying by the Brandon area of Prince George Co, VA on Nov 21. A single ROSS'S GOOSE was nicely photographed among a large flock of SNOW GEESE at Tom's Cove in Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on Nov 20. Another single ROSS'S GOOSE was seen on Nov 23 along Lighthouse Road, Sussex Co, DE. A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was photographed at Blockhouse Pond Park, Sussex Co, DE on Nov 20. Two more individuals were photographed near Herrington Harbor in Anne Arundel Co, MD on Nov 22. A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was photographed along 9105 North Point Road, Baltimore Co, MD on Nov 24. CACKLING GEESE were reported in flight near the Brandon area of Prince George Co, VA on Nov 21. Single CACKLING GEESE were also spotted at Blockhouse Pond Park in Sussex Co, DE on Nov 21, Fletcher's Cove in Washington, DC on Nov 22, West Potomac Park in Washington, DC on Nov 25, Study Pond in Carroll Co, MD on Nov 26 and Goose Pond in Albemarle Co, VA on Nov 25. Two TRUMPETER SWANS continue at private ponds along Owensville Rd in Anne Arundel Co, MD on Nov 20 and 24. Two TRUMPETER SWANS were photographed at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on Nov 25. Two more were photographed in Rockingham Co, VA on Nov 23.

A EURASIAN WIGEON was seen at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on Nov 25.

COMMON EIDERS were seen at several locations. Three were seen at Little Island Park, Virginia Beach, VA on Nov 23; two at Rudee Inlet, Virginia Beach, VA on Nov 22 and 24; one at 21 Street Bay Beach, Norfolk VA on Nov 21; and three at Prime Hook NWR, Sussex DE on Nov 25. A single COMMON EIDER was spotted at Stone Beach in Kent Co, DE on Nov 21. And a continuing individual was photographed at Indian River Inlet, Sussex Co, DE on Nov 21.

A SURF SCOTER continued all week at Lake Frederick, Frederick Co, VA. Two SURF SCOTERS were also found at Mill Creek Lake in Amherst, VA on Nov 22. A WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was photographed at Violette's Lock, Montgomery Co, MD on Nov 21. Several WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS were reported at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on Nov 23 and 24. Two more were reported at a gated community in Frederick Co, VA on Nov 23. Another was photographed at Shot Tower Historical State Park, Wythe Co, VA on Nov 25.

A RED-NECKED GREBE was seen off Assateague Island in Worcester Co, MD on Nov 21 and 23.

Six SANDHILL CRANES were briefly sighted near Payne's Hay and Straw in Culpeper Co, VA on Nov 23. Four more were spotted in a field near 1520 Hites Road in Frederick Co, VA on Nov 23. Three were spotted flying near Cavey Lane in Howard Co, MD and three more were observed flying near Patapsco Valley State Park in Baltimore Co, MD on Nov 23.

A BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER was seen on Nov 21 at Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach, VA. Four more were seen Nov 21 at Grandview Nature Preserve, Hampton, VA. On the same day, a single BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER was seen at Wire Narrows Marsh, Accomack Co, VA. As many as four Plovers were seen at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on Nov 22 and 23.

Continuing HUDSONIAN GODWITS and MARBLED GODWITS were spotted at Raymond's Pond at Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE on Nov 20 and 23. On Nov 21, one LEAST SANDPIPER was seen at Aquatic Center Pond, Manassas, VA. Another was photographed at Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE on Nov 23. Seven RED-NECKED PHALAROPES were seen at Prime Hook State WMA, Sussex Co, DE on Nov 25.

A single PARASITIC JAEGER was spotted at the Ocean City Inlet, Worcester Co, MD on Nov 24. Another individual was seen at Little Island Park, Virginia Beach, VA on Nov 26.

A RED-THROATED LOON was seen at Broadford Lake in Garrett Co, MD on Nov 20 and 21. Six flew by the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch, Northampton Co, VA on Nov 23. Hundreds of RED-THROATED LOONS were reported flying past Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, MD on Nov 24.

A NORTHERN GANNET was spotted on the bayside of Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE on Nov 20.

As many as eighteen GREAT CORMORANTS were seen at Kent Point Marina in Queen Anne's Co, MD on Nov 21 and Nov 25. Another was seen at First Landing State Park, Virginia Beach VA on Nov 21. On Nov 22, another individual was spotted from CBBT Island 3, Northampton Co, VA.

An AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN was seen at Deal Island WMA, Somerset Co, MD on Nov 23. An inland BROWN PELICAN was spotted from Route 213 crossing the Bohemia River in Cecil Co, MD on Nov 24.

A SNOWY EGRET was seen on Nov 23 at Deal Island WMA, Riley Roberts Road turnoff, Somerset Co, MD. A TRICOLORED HERON seen on Nov 22, 23 and 26 at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA. A late GREEN HERON was seen on Nov 20 to 26 at the Ashby Pond Conservancy Site, Fairfax City, VA. A BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON continues at Baker Park in Frederick Co, MD, with the most recent sighting on Nov 23. On Nov 21, five BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS were seen at Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD.

A GOLDEN EAGLE flew over a private residence in Howard Co, MD on Nov 22. On Nov 23, a GOLDEN EAGLE was seen from Briery Branch Road in Rockingham Co, VA, and another was seen at the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch, Northampton Co, VA on Nov 23. On Nov 20, one GOLDEN EAGLE and two NORTHERN GOSHAWKS flew over the Rockfish Gap Hawkwatch in Augusta Co, VA. Another NORTHERN GOSHAWK was spotted at the Cape Henlopen Hawkwatch, Sussex Co, DE on Nov 23. A ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK continued at Prime Hook NWR in Sussex Co, DE on Nov 20 and 25. Another was seen on Nov 25 at Eastern Neck NWR, Kent Co, MD.

A well photographed NORTHERN SHRIKE* was seen at Sully Woodlands in Fairfax Co, VA Nov 20 to 25.

A well photographed MARSH WREN was seen at Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke Co, VA on Nov 20.

A SEDGE WREN was heard and briefly seen at Prime Hook NWR, Sussex Co, DE on Nov 21.

A late WHITE-EYED VIREO was photographed in Charles City Co, VA on Nov 23. A late BLUE-HEADED VIREO was photographed on Nov 24 at Ancarrow's Landing in Richmond, VA. Another was heard at Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, Fairfax Co, VA on Nov 25.

Six HORNED LARKS were encountered at Kenilworth Park in Washington, DC on Nov 20.

A NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW was seen on Nov 23 at Lake Frederick, Frederick Co, VA.

A late BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER was seen on Nov 21 at First Landing State Park, Virginia Beach, VA. Another was seen on Nov 23 and 25 at Petersburg National Battlefield Park – City Point Unit in Hopewell, VA. Three more were found at Ancarrow's Landing, Richmond, VA on Nov 24. Another late BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER was seen at Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD on Nov 22. On Nov 26, another individual was seen at Piney Orchard Nature Preserve, Anne Arundel Co, MD.

Nine RED CROSSBILLS were observed in flight and recorded at Prettyboy Reservoir at the Spooks Hill Road Boat Ramp, Baltimore Co, MD on Nov 24 and ten were found on Nov 26 at the same location. Two RED CROSSBILLS were heard flying over a middle school on East Wallace Ave, Cecil Co, MD on Nov 25.

On November 24, two LAPLAND LONGSPURS were seen at Prime Hook NWR, Sussex Co, DE.

SNOW BUNTINGS continued at North Point State Park, Baltimore Co, MD through Nov 25. Two SNOW BUNTINGS were seen at Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach, VA on Nov 25.

An AMERICAN TREE SPARROW was seen at Kenilworth Park in Washington, DC on Nov 23. Another was seen at Pleasure House Point Natural Area, Virginia Beach, VA on Nov 21. A CLAY-COLORED SPARROW was photographed at a private feeder near Quail Run, Kent Co, DE on Nov 26. A VESPER SPARROW was seen at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington DC, on Nov 20. A LARK SPARROW continues at the stream restoration area near the intersection of Valley Road and Meadow Road at the National Arboretum in Washington, DC with the most recent sighting on Nov 23. A NELSON'S SPARROW was seen at the Pleasure House Point Natural Area, Virginia Beach, VA on Nov 21. Another was seen at Indian River Inlet, Sussex Co, DE on Nov 25. Three SALTMARSH SPARROWS were seen on Nov 23 along Lighthouse Road, Sussex Co, DE. Another individual was seen at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on Nov 25.

Four BALTIMORE ORIOLES were seen at Charles City Co, VA on Nov 23. On Nov 23, BALTIMORE ORIOLE returned to last year's location at a private feeder in Lynchburg, VA. Another BALTIMORE ORIOLE was photographed on Nov 25 at the Laurel Hill Equestrian Center, Fairfax Co, VA. A BALTIMORE ORIOLE was seen at Crest Lawn Memorial Gardens in Howard Co, MD on Nov 25.

An ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER was seen on Nov 22 through 25 at Fort Smallwood Park in Prince George Co, VA. Another was reported at Terrapin Nature Park in Queen Anne's Co, MD on Nov 22. Another was seen at a private residence in Henrico Co, VA on Nov 23. Yet another was seen in Hopewell, VA on Nov 25. An OVENBIRD was reported near the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC on Nov 23. Another was seen at Blackwater NWR Dorchester Co, MD. On Nov 25, one COMMON YELLOWTHROAT was seen at Eastern Neck NWR, Kent Co, MD, one was seen at Huntley Meadows Park in Fairfax Co, VA and two were seen at Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co, MD. A BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER was seen on Nov 22 at a private residence in Virginia Beach, VA. Two BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLERS and a NASHVILLE WARBLER were seen at Ancarrow's Landing, Richmond, VA on Nov 24. A BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER was photographed at a private feeder in Sussex Co, DE on Nov 25. PALM WARBLERS were seen at several locations throughout the area during the reporting period. A high of four PINE WARBLERS were seen at the LBJ Memorial Grove in DC on Nov 22, 23 and 25. Another was seen on Nov 24 at Conquest Beach, Queen Anne's Co, MD. A third was seen at Crest Lawn Memorial Gardens in Howard Co, MD on Nov 25. A YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER was seen at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA on Nov 25. A late immature INDIGO BUNTING was photographed in Charles City Co, VA on Nov 20.

A late ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK was photographed at the visitor's center of Marshy Point Nature Center, Baltimore Co, MD on Nov 25.

A late DICKCISSEL was observed flying low over Big Water Farm (private) in Queen Anne's Co, MD on Nov 24.

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, 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, e-mail or phone.

Thank you for your interest, and enjoy the birds.

*Of interest to the applicable state records committee