

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist  
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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, January 1, and was completed on Tuesday, January 8 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, RED-NECKED GREBE in MD, BAR-TAILED GODWIT, NORTHERN GOSHAWK, and RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER in VA, VARIED THRUSH in MD, EVENING GROSBEAK in VA

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST: SNOW GOOSE, ROSS'S GOOSE, GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, CACKLING GOOSE, TRUMPETER SWAN, SANDHILL CRANE, LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, PARASITIC JAEGER, RAZORBILL, GLAUCOUS GULL, RED-THROATED LOON, GREAT CORMORANT, TRICOLORED HERON, GOLDEN EAGLE, MERLIN, NORTHERN SHRIKE, COMMON RAVEN, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH, SEDGE WREN, RED CROSSBILL, CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, HARRIS'S SPARROW, LINCOLN'S SPARROW, ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER

#### TOP BIRDS

The BARROW'S GOLDENEYE continued Jan 1-6 at The Elms Environmental Education Center (private), St. Mary's Co MD. Other sightings in St. Mary's Co, possibly the same bird, were at St. James Church Rd on Jan 6 and Cornfield Harbor (wherever that is), also on Jan 6.

Usually an exciting find around here, a RED-NECKED GREBE WAS seen Jan 1 at Le Compte Bay in Dorchester Co MD, this time just an "also-ran".

The BAR-TAILED GODWIT continued through the week at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co VA.

A NORTHERN GOSHAWK was reported Jan 6 around the International Conservation House in Fauquier Co VA.

The RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER seen Jan 7 at the Piney Grove Preserve (Sussex Co VA) was outside our normal reporting area, but still an exciting find.

The VARIED THRUSH along Philip Dr in Leonardtown MD (St. Mary's Co) continued through Jan 7.

EVENING GROSBEAKs continue in VA. One was at "Church Neck" (Northampton Co) Jan 1 & 2, and up to 6 were seen Jan 2-5 around Union Springs (Rockingham Co).

#### OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

Apparently all the unpaid federal workers went birding all week, and found a lot of good birds.

SNOW GEESE were seen in small numbers throughout the reporting area, but those were overshadowed by the 12000+ seen over Hart-Miller Island (Baltimore Co MD) Jan 7. ROSS'S GEESE were just scattered singles over the area: at Broadkill Beach Jan 6 in Sussex Co DE; continuing Jan 2 along John S Mosby Hwy in Fauquier Co VA; along Willisville Rd in Loudon Co VA; at Silver Lk (near Rehoboth) Jan 4 in Sussex Co DE; and continuing Jan 1-3 at Black Walnut Point in Talbot Co MD. Over a dozen GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE were reported, most at Broadford Lake (Garrett Co MD), where there were 9. Singles were seen in Baltimore Co MD (Jan 4 & 7), Carroll Co MD (Jan 1-6), Prince George's Co MD (Jan 2), and Fauquier Co VA (Jan 2). Single CACKLING GEESE were seen, Jan 6 at Bombay Hook NWR (Kent Co DE), Jan 1-6 at Belle Haven Park (Fairfax VA), Jan 5-6 at Occoquan Sewage Plant (Fairfax VA), Jan 6 at Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve (Fairfax VA), and Jan 5 at Sunrise Valley Park (Fairfax VA). Loudon Co had them more concentrated: up to 5 along Willisville Rd, 6 along Piney Swamp Rd. A number of TRUMPETER SWANS were reported: 1-2 continuing Jan 1-5 in Anne Arundel Co MD; up to 7 Jan 1-7 in Fauquier Co VA; 1-3 Jan 2 & 5 in Loudon Co VA; one

Jan 1-5 in Prince George's Co MD; and 1-4 in Sussex Co DE Jan 2 & 6.

Up to 18 SANDHILL CRANES were reported (Jan 4) from Baltimore Co MD, but only one (Jan 1) from Harford Co MD, and 1-2 from Montgomery Co MD Jan 1-7).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS were reported, two Jan 1 from Oyster VA (Northampton Co) and 6 from Chincoteague NWR Jan 4.

Cape Henlopen Hawk Watch (Sussex Co DE) reported one Parasitic Jaeger on Jan 1, and 6 RAZORBILLS were spotted from Chincoteague NWR on Jan 4.

GLAUCOUS GULLS were reported: one continuing Jan 3 at Loreley Beach Community Pier (private) (Baltimore Co MD), one Jan 2 at Indian River Inlet (Sussex Co DE); 1-2 continuing Jan 1-3 at the Prince William Co (VA) landfill; and one at Sandy Point SP (MD) on Jan 6. RED-THROATED LOONS continued at North Point SP (Baltimore Co MD) Jan 1 - 5, with a high count of 21 on Jan 3. Hart-Miller Island had 5 RED-THROATED LOONS on Jan 7. Kent Point Marina (Queen Anne's Co MD) hosted GREAT CORMORANTS Jan 3 - 5, with a high count of 18 on Jan 5. Bayside peninsula, at Assateague Island NS (Worcester Co MD), had a single TRICOLORED HERON on Jan 6.

Two GOLDEN EAGLES were spotted in MD, one at Little Pipe Creek Pk (Carroll Co, Jan 4) and the other Jan 7 at Pickering Creek Audubon Center (Talbot Co). One Merlin continued Jan 2 at Rocky Gap SP, Allegany Co MD. One NORTHERN SHRIKE continued through the week around Sully Woodlands in Fairfax VA. One to three COMMON RAVENS were in Harford Co MD through Jan 1-6.

On Jan 2, a BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE was reported from Red House Rd in Nanticoke River WMA (Wicomico Co MD). On Jan 1 & 4, up to 3 BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCHES were reported from around Big Stone Beach in Kent Co DE. SEDGE WRENS were seen in MD, one Jan 4 & 7 at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (Horsehead) (Queen Anne's Co), and one Jan 1 at Cornfield Harbor (St Mary's Co). DE had one also, Jan 2 at Beachview court, Selbyville (private) (Sussex Co).

One RED CROSSBILL made an appearance, Jan 4 at the Spooks Hill boat ramp of Prettyboy Reservoir (Baltimore Co MD). A CLAY-COLORED SPARROW continued Jan 1-4 at Laurel Hill Equestrian Center (Fairfax VA), and a HARRIS'S SPARROW CONTINUED at "Church

Neck" MD (Northampton Co VA) Jan 1-4. A single LINCOLN'S SPARROW CONTINUED Jan 4 at Muddy Hole Farm Pk (Fairfax VA).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS were sparsely distributed over DE and MD: one Jan 2 at Bombay Hook NWR and several more in Kent Co DE Jan 2-5. In MD there was one near Aberdeen Jan 1 & 5 (Harford Co), 1-2 at Pickering Creek Audubon Center Jan 1-4, and one at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center on Jan 4.

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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](mailto: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