

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist
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Coverage: MD/DC/VA/central and southern DE/WV panhandle
Reports, comments and questions: voice@anshome.org
Compiler: Bryan Henson
Sponsor: Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central
Atlantic States (independent of NAS)
Transcriber: Steve Cordle

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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 15 and was completed on Tuesday, January 22 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 BARROW'S GOLDENEYE* in Maryland, DOVEKIE* in Virginia and WOOD STORK* in Virginia.

Other birds of interest this week included blue phase SNOW GOOSE, ROSS'S GOOSE, GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, CACKLING GOOSE, COMMON EIDER, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, LONG-TAILED DUCK, SANDHILL CRANES, BAR-TAILED GODWIT*, COMMON MURRE*, BLACK-HEADED GULLS, ICELAND GULL, AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS, ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, SEDGE WREN, MARSH WREN, WOOD THRUSH, EVENING GROSBEAKS, LAPLAND LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS, CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, NELSON'S SPARROW, LINCOLN'S SPARROW, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, NASHVILLE WARBLER, NORTHERN PARULA and WESTERN Tanager.

TOP BIRDS

A continuing male BARROW'S GOLDENEYE* at the Elms Environmental Center (private) in St. Mary's Co, MD for at least the seventh consecutive winter was seen most recently on Jan 15.

A DOVEKIE* was photographed in flight near Tom's Cove in Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on Jan 19. Another individual was seen from Little Island Park, Virginia Beach, VA on Jan 16 with several RAZORBILLS.

On Jan 15, a WOOD STORK* found in a private yard located in the Suburban Acres neighborhood in Norfolk, VA on Jan 14 was observed in flight from the Thole Street bridge over Wayne Creek and the nearby intersection of Suburban Parkway and Yorktown Drive in Norfolk, VA.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

On Jan 15, a blue phase SNOW GOOSE visited Kershner's Pond in Frederick Co, MD. A ROSS'S GOOSE was seen near Whittier Lake and Rocky Springs Rd, Frederick Co, MD from Jan 16 to 21. Another was photographed at the Historic Crab Orchard Museum in Tazewell Co, VA from Jan 15 to 17. Individual ROSS'S GEESE were seen Jan 15 near Cods Rd, Jan 19 near Draper Rd and Jan 20 near Warwick Dr, Sussex Co, DE. A ROSS'S GOOSE was photographed Jan 18 on Turkey Island Rd, Henrico Co, VA. Another was seen at Daleville Pond, Botetourt Co, VA on Jan 21. Two GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE were photographed at Lake Campbell, Rockingham Co, VA on Jan 17. A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was photographed at Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD on Jan 19. Two CACKLING GEESE were photographed at Ben Brenman Park, Alexandria, VA on Jan 21. One CACKLING GOOSE was seen at Lake Artemesia, Prince George's Co, MD on Jan 20. Two more were photographed Jan 15 at Crewes Channel, Henrico Co, VA.

Between Jan 15 and Jan 20, as many as 29 TRUMPETER SWANS have been seen around Lake Brittle, Clifton Institute, and Airlie in Fauquier Co, VA.

On Jan 15, 18, 19, and 21 a single COMMON EIDER was seen and photographed at Fort Monroe NM in Hampton, VA.

Two WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS were seen at Masonville Cove, Baltimore Co, MD on Jan 18.

A LONG-TAILED DUCK was seen at Shannondale Lake, Jefferson Co, WV on Jan 20. Another was found at Lake Monticello, Fluvanna Co, VA on Jan 21. A continuing LONG-TAILED DUCK was seen Jan 16 and 18 at Holliday Lake State Park, Appomattox Co, VA.

Two continuing SANDHILL CRANES were photographed off Willard Rd in Poolesville, Montgomery Co, MD, most recently on Jan 19. Seven SANDHILL CRANES were seen flying over Mt. Vista Park, Baltimore Co, MD on Jan 19.

A BAR-TAILED GODWIT* was photographed at Tom's Cove in Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on Jan 18 and 19.

A COMMON MURRE* was seen at Indian River Inlet, Sussex Co, DE on Jan 19 and 20.

Two BLACK-HEADED GULLS were seen at Wolfe Neck WTP (restricted access) in Sussex Co, DE on Jan 15 and 18. Sightings of ICELAND GULL (kumlieni), all young birds, consisted of a single individual spotted on the ice at North East Community Park in Cecil Co, MD on Jan 15, three individuals at the Salisbury Landfill-Naylor Mill Road Pond in Wicomico Co, MD and one individual seen at Rudee Inlet, Virginia Beach, VA on the same day. An ICELAND GULL and a GLAUCOUS GULL were photographed at a private pier in Loreley Beach, Baltimore Co, MD on Jan 17 to 19.

On Jan 20, various number of AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were seen; fourteen at Oyster Harbor, Northampton Co, VA, fifteen at Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach, VA, and twelve at Hog Island, Surry Co, VA. On Jan 18, sixteen AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were seen at Kiptopeke State Park, Northampton Co, VA.

A light-morph ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was seen Jan 15 on Blean Avon Rd, Allegany Co, MD.

An ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER was photographed at Ancarrow's Landing in Richmond, VA on Jan 19, 20 and 21.

A BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE continues to visit feeders along Wilson Court in Charlottesville, VA with the most recent sighting on Jan 15.

On Jan 15 and 16, a continuing SEDGE WREN was encountered at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (Horsehead) in Queen Anne's Co, MD. A continuing MARSH WREN at Rattlesnake Spring in Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia in Clarke Co, VA was seen most recently on Jan 15. Another overwintering MARSH WREN was seen long the main ponds at Sandy Point State Park, Anne Arundel Co, MD as recently as Jan 20.

As recently as Jan 19, a continuing out-of-season WOOD THRUSH was photographed along the Gwynns Falls Trail South in Baltimore Co, MD.

Two continuing EVENING GROSBEAKS were observed at feeders along Union Springs Road in Rockingham Co, VA on January 15. Another individual was photographed off Gentry Lane, Charlottesville Co, VA on Jan 20. Three EVENING GROSBEAKS have been seen regularly as recently as Jan 21 at 18929 Manor Church Rd, Boonsboro, Washington Co, MD.

On Jan 15, a LAPLAND LONGSPUR was observed feeding with HORNED LARKS along and in flight over Skidmore Road in Rockingham Co, VA. On both Jan 15 and 17 a LAPLAND LONGSPUR was seen at the Woodward Turf Farm in Fauquier Co, VA. On Jan 19, three LAPLAND LONGSPURS were seen near 432 Airport Rd, Augusta Co, VA. SNOW BUNTINGS continue at North Point SP in Baltimore Co, MD, with a high of eight individuals counted on Jan 15 and the most recent sighting on Jan 21.

A continuing CLAY-COLORED SPARROW for the second consecutive winter at the Laurel Hill Equestrian Center in Fairfax Co, VA was seen most recently on Jan 21. A wintering NELSON'S SPARROW was seen at the Pleasure House Point Natural Area in Virginia Beach, VA on Jan 15. On Jan 15, a LINCOLN'S SPARROW was photographed at Occoquan Bay NWR in Prince William Co, VA.

An immature female BALTIMORE ORIOLE has been visiting feeders at a private residence at 18924 Alpenglw Lane in Montgomery Co, MD for over a week, with the most recent report on Jan 20. In Dickenson Co, VA, a BALTIMORE ORIOLE has been feeding at a private residence near Jackson St throughout the week.

A NASHVILLE WARBLER continued Jan 19 at Ancarrow's Landing, Richmond, VA. A continuing NORTHERN PARULA was seen most

recently on Jan 19 at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (Horsehead), Queen Anne's Co, MD.

A WESTERN TANAGER was photographed at a private residence off Pine Cove, Middlesex Co, VA on Jan 16.

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

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, e-mail or phone.

Thank you for your interest, and enjoy the birds.

*Of interest to the applicable state records committee