

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist  
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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 22 and was completed on Tuesday, January 29 at 8:00 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 GREEN-WINGED TEAL (COMMON) in MD, BAR-TAILED GODWIT\* in VA, SNOWY OWL in DE, ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER\* in VA, SAY'S PHOEBE\* in VA and VARIED THRUSH\* in MD.

Other birds of interest this week included ROSS'S, GREATER WHITE-FRONTED and CACKLING GEESE, MUTE and TRUMPETER SWANS, BLUE-WINGED TEAL, GREATER SCAUP, COMMON EIDER, HARLEQUIN DUCK, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, VIRGINIA RAIL, SANDHILL CRANE, RED KNOT, PURPLE SANDPIPER, RED PHALAROPE, PARASITIC JAEGER, DOVEKIE, COMMON and THICK-BILLED MURRES, RAZORBILL, ATLANTIC PUFFIN, BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, BLACK-HEADED, ICELAND, LESSER BLACK-BACKED and GLAUCOUS GULLS, BLACK SKIMMER, AMERICAN WHITE and BROWN PELICANS, AMERICAN BITTERN, GREAT EGRET, LITTLE BLUE HERON, BLACK-CROWNED

NIGHT-HERON, RED-TAILED HAWK (NORTHERN), ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, GOLDEN EAGLE, NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL, RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, SEDGE and MARSH WRENS, BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, EVENING GROSBEAK, LAPLAND LONGSPUR, SNOW BUNTING, AMERICAN TREE, CLAY-COLORED, VESPER, LINCOLN'S, LARK and WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, several out-of-season warblers, including YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, WESTERN TANAGER, PAINTED BUNTING and DICKCISSEL.

#### TOP BIRDS

On January 27 a Eurasian GREEN-WINGED TEAL, which is considered a separate species known as EURASIAN or COMMON TEAL by European authorities, was spotted in a flock of GREEN-WINGED TEAL in pool no. 1 at Blackwater NWR in Dorchester Co, MD.

After a several day absence of reports, on January 24 a continuing BAR-TAILED GODWIT\* was spotted again at Chincoteague NWR-Tom's Cove in Accomack Co, VA.

On January 23 a continuing SNOWY OWL was observed perched on a snow bank by the runway at Dover Air Force Base (restricted access) in Kent Co, DE.

A continuing ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER\* was at Ancarrow's Landing in Richmond, VA all week.

A continuing SAY'S PHOEBE\* in Amherst Co, VA was relocated on January 25, on fence wire and posts near hay bales between the Buffalo River and Piney Grove Baptist Church along Puppy Creek Road south of US Route 60.

After not being seen since January 17, a continuing VARIED THRUSH\* at 22070 Philip Drive and nearby in St. Mary's Co, MD was seen again on January 22. Persons interested in looking for this bird should follow the guidelines of the homeowners of the property and include these guidelines in any report of this bird on eBird, Facebook or other forum. These guidelines may be found in posts by Tyler Bell on MD Birding on January 9 and 23, 2019.

#### OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

A continuing ROSS'S GOOSE was seen all week at Whittier Lake and in a marshy area bordered by Rocky Springs Road

and Rosemont Avenue in Frederick Co, MD. A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was photographed at Jefferson Patterson Park in Calvert Co, MD on January 22 and Knills Farm Pond in Carroll Co, MD on January 26 and 28. In Virginia, three GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE and two SNOW GEESE visited Smith Lake in Augusta Co on January 24. CACKLING GEESE were found at several locations in Virginia during the week, including seven individuals at Ben Lomond RP in Prince William Co on January 26 and two individuals at Ben Brenman Park in Alexandria on January 22. In addition, one CACKLING GOOSE was spotted at Sherwood Lakes in Virginia Beach on January 22, Occoquan Sewage Plant in Fairfax Co on January 26, Silver Lake RP in Prince William Co on January 26 and Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co and Dyke Marsh WP in Fairfax Co on January 27.

A MUTE SWAN continues at Piney Run Park in Carroll Co, MD, with the most recent sighting on January 26. A MUTE SWAN also was seen off 1905 Cape May Road in Baltimore Co, MD on January 25. A tagged TRUMPETER SWAN (T87) visited Alter Pond along Soil Conservation Road in Prince George's Co, MD on January 22 and 25, and two TRUMPETER SWANS were photographed along Cold Springs Road in Rockingham Co, VA on January 28.

Noteworthy dabbling ducks during the week included an out-of-season BLUE-WINGED TEAL found at Piney Run Park in Carroll Co, MD on January 27 and a EURASIAN WIGEON photographed near Lynnhaven Inlet in Virginia Beach, VA on January 27. Noteworthy diving ducks included an inland GREATER SCAUP at C. M. Crockett Park in Fauquier Co, VA on January 23. During the week COMMON EIDERS were found at several coastal locations, including Indian River Inlet in Sussex Co, DE, Ocean City Inlet in Worcester Co, MD and Fort Monroe in Hampton, VA. The only HARLEQUIN DUCKS in the reporting area during the week were single individuals at the Ocean City Inlet in Worcester Co, MD on January 23-28 and photographed off Lynnhaven Inlet in Virginia Beach, VA on January 26. On January 25 a WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was photographed at King-Lincoln Park in Newport News, VA. On January 28 three LONG-TAILED DUCKS were at the Georgia-Pacific Settling Ponds in Bedford Co, VA. During the week an inland LONG-TAILED DUCK also was found at Temple Lake (Red Lobster Pond) in Colonial Heights, VA and Lake Monticello (gated community/restricted access) in Fluvanna Co, VA on January 22 and Holliday Lake SP in Appomattox and Buckingham Cos, VA on January 28.

A RED-NECKED GREBE was found at Ivy Lake in Bedford Co, VA on January 28.

VIRGINIA RAILS were encountered at several locations during the week, with a high of three individuals at Newport News Park-Swamp Bridge in York Co, VA on January 24.

On January 25 three SANDHILL CRANES returned for the second consecutive winter to a field along Harry James Road in St. Mary's Co, MD. In Virginia, two likely continuing SANDHILL CRANES were photographed in a field in the Lucketts area of Loudoun Co on January 25 and a small flock of SANDHILL CRANES was beautifully photographed in flight over Edinburg in Shenandoah Co on January 27.

Shorebird highlights included a RED KNOT photographed at the Indian River Inlet in Sussex Co, DE on January 22 and three PURPLE SANDPIPERS on the south jetty at Chesapeake Beach Veterans Memorial Park in Calvert Co, MD on January 22 and 23.

On January 22 a PARASITIC JAEGER was seen off Virginia Beach, VA by an observer on a Whales & Wildlife Sea Adventure.

A flyby DOVEKIE was reported at Little Island Park in Virginia Beach, VA on January 25. A THICK-BILLED MURRE, a rare visitor to the reporting area, was photographed in the Ocean City Inlet in Worcester Co, MD on January 23 and reported again there on January 26. A continuing COMMON MURRE was seen at the Indian River Inlet in Sussex Co, DE on January 22. A high of five RAZORBILLS were seen at this location on January 22 and 25-27, and a high of 12 RAZORBILLS were seen from the Lewes-Cape May Ferry (DE waters) and Lewes Beach on January 26. A RAOZORBILL also was found swimming offshore at Cape Henlopen SP in Sussex Co, DE on January 27. One or two RAZORBILLS were seen at the Ocean City Inlet in Worcester Co, MD on January 23, 26 and 27. The continued southbound movement of RAZORBILLS also was evident at several coastal locations in southeastern Virginia during the week, with week highs of 281 and 229 individuals counted at Little Island Park and Rudee Inlet in Virginia Beach on January 25 and 28, respectively.

Highlights of a pelagic trip out of Rudee Inlet in Virginia Beach, VA on January 26 included four RED PHALAROPES, over 30 ATLANTIC PUFFINS, two COMMON MURREs and five BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES in Northampton Co, VA waters.

As many as three continuing BLACK-HEADED GULLS were seen all week at Wolfe Neck WTP (restricted access) in Sussex Co, DE. On January 23 two pale ICELAND GULLS (*kumlieni*) and a darker, more western ICELAND GULL (*thayeri*), which was considered a separate species known as Thayer's Gull until recently, were photographed at North East Community Park in Cecil Co, MD. Elsewhere in Maryland an ICELAND GULL (*kumlieni*) was seen at Lorely Beach Community Pier in Baltimore Co on January 25, the Annapolis Junction Transfer Station (restricted access) in Anne Arundel Co and in flight over nearby Howard Co on January 23, at the Route 50 bridge across the Choptank River in Talbot Co on January 26 and at the Salisbury Landfill-Naylor Mill Road Pond in Wicomico Co on January 28. In Virginia an ICELAND GULL (*kumlieni*) was photographed at the 85<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge in Virginia Beach on January 26. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were found at several locations, including a high of four individuals at North East Community Park in Cecil Co, MD on January 22, 23, 26 and 27 and one individual far inland at the Kerr Reservoir in Mecklenburg Co, VA on January 27. A young GLAUCOUS GULL was observed at the Ocean City Inlet and nearby West Ocean City Marina in Worcester Co, MD on January 25, 27 and 28 and off Greenbank Road in Baltimore Co, MD on January 28, and two were found at the Cecil County Landfill (restricted access) in Cecil Co, MD on January 26 and at North East Community Park in Cecil Co, MD all week. In Virginia a continuing young GLAUCOUS GULL was seen at the Prince William County Landfill on January 26.

Two BLACK SKIMMERS were a surprise flyby at Little Island Park in Virginia Beach, VA on January 26.

During the week small numbers of GREAT CORMORANTS were seen at several expected coastal locations in DE, MD and VA. On January 25-27 a high of 21 AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were observed flying south from several locations in southeastern VA: New Point Wharf in Mathews Co, Kiptopeke SP in Northampton Co and Hog Island WMA in Surry Co. A high of 41 wintering AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were counted at Blackwater NWR-Wildlife Drive in Dorchester Co, MD on January 26. During the week a single BROWN PELICAN was seen

as far north as the Ocean City Inlet in Worcester Co, MD on January 27.

An AMERICAN BITTERN was observed flying over Port Mahon Road in Kent Co, DE at dusk on January 24, and two were seen in flight in marsh at the Little Creek Wildlife Area in Kent Co, DE on January 28. Noteworthy herons and egrets included a GREAT EGRET found at the Spotsylvania Sportsplex/Publix Virginia Soccer Training Center or nearby in Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Co, VA on January 23 and 25 and a LITTLE BLUE HERON photographed at Assateague I. NS-Life of the Forest in Worcester Co, MD on January 26. Three overwintering BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS were found in barges at Poplar Island in Talbot Co, MD on January 23.

On January 26 a so-called NORTHERN RED-TAILED HAWK, a dark form that is not uniformly recognized as a subspecies, was photographed along 24309-24639 River Road in Montgomery Co, MD. A ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was reported at several locations during the week, including along Parkersburg Turnpike a short distance east of the intersection with Swoope Road in Augusta Co, VA on January 25 and the Blue Mash Nature Trail in Montgomery Co, MD on January 27 and 28. Raptor highlights during the week also included several GOLDEN EAGLES, including an individual seen in flight from Russell Road and Gleason Knob in Garrett Co, MD on January 26, which may have been the same bird, and two individuals at a deer carcass along Savage River Road in Garrett Co, MD on the same day. A GOLDEN EAGLE also was reported at Jenkin's Pond (private) in Worcester Co, MD on January 27. In Virginia a young GOLDEN EAGLE was observed on January 26 in flight from Puppy Creek Road a short distance south of the intersection with Route 60 in Amherst Co.

At dusk on January 26 a NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL was heard calling along Annapolis Rock Road in Patuxent River SP, Howard Co, MD.

Area RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS included an individual found along Fowler Beach Road in Sussex Co, DE on January 25.

A continuing LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE was seen along Featherbed Road in Clarke Co, VA on January 23, along Cartersville Road-Oak Forest Road Junction in Cumberland Co, VA on January 26 and at the Smith Farm in Lunenburg Co, VA on January 24. A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE also was spotted perched on a shrub at 621 East Colonial Trail Highway in Burkeville,

Nottoway Co, VA on January 22 and along Bell's Lane in Augusta Co, VA on January 24.

A BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE continues to visit feeders along Wilson Court in Charlottesville, VA, most recently on January 28.

A continuing SEDGE WREN was encountered along Bennetts Pier Road in Kent Co, DE on January 26 and at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (Horsehead) in Queen Anne's Co, MD on January 27. A continuing MARSH WREN at Rattlesnake Spring in Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia in Clarke Co, VA was seen most recently on January 25.

One or two out-of-season BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS were seen again at Ancarrow's Landing in Richmond, VA on January 23, 25 and 26.

As many as six EVENING GROSBEAKS continue to visit residential feeders in Union Springs, Rockingham Co, VA, with the most recent report of six individuals on January 26. On January 27 a resident of Warm Springs in Bath Co, VA reported without details a COMMON REDPOLL at a feeder.

On January 28 three LAPLAND LONGSPURS were spotted in a flock of HORNERED LARKS along Skidmore Road in Rockingham Co, VA. Continuing SNOW BUNTINGS were seen all week at North Point SP in Baltimore Co, MD, with a high of eight individuals counted on January 26. During the latter part of the week fifty or more wintering SNOW BUNTINGS were found at each of Prime Hook NWR-Fowler Beach Road and Cape Henlopen SP in Sussex Co, DE.

The few AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS found in the reporting area during the week included a high of four individuals at Occoquan Bay NWR in Prince William Co, VA on January 25, 26 and 27 and two individuals at Leopold's Preserve in Prince William Co, VA on January 26. 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 January 27. At least a couple of breeding VESPER SPARROWS appear to be wintering at Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad NHP in Dorchester Co, MD, with reports on January 22, 26 and 27. A LINCOLN'S SPARROW was found at several locations, including at CCBC Catonsville in Baltimore Co, MD, Silver Lake RP in Prince William Co, VA and Elklick Woodlands Natural Area Preserve in Fairfax Co,

VA on January 26, the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Prince George's Co, MD on January 27 and the Blue Mash Nature Trail in Montgomery Co, MD on January 28. On January 27 a LARK SPARROW was found in a mixed-species sparrow flock about 50 yards before the parking lot on Violette's Lock Road in Montgomery Co, MD. Area WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS included a continuing juvenile in the stream restoration area at the National Arboretum in Washington, DC on January 28.

On January 27 a YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT was photographed along the canal south of Browns Island in Richmond, VA.

A BALTIMORE ORIOLE was photographed at Crest Lawn Memorial Gardens in Howard Co, MD on January 22, a residential feeder on Lake Windsor in Virginia Beach, VA on January 22 and a residential feeder in the Wyndhurst section of Baltimore Co, MD on January 24 and 25.

An ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER was found at several locations, including along Cods Road in Sussex Co, DE on January 22, at feeders in the Wyndamere Park section of Virginia Beach, VA on January 23 and at the BARC-Old Sewage Pond in Prince George's Co, MD on January 27. On January 25 an ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER was seen again near the side entrance to the shopping center along Diamond Point Road in Baltimore Co, MD.

Out-of-season warblers seen during the week included the following:

- o a continuing OVENBIRD at 1221 East Broad Street in Richmond, VA on January 23;
- o a BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER at the Stumpy Lake Natural Area in Virginia Beach, VA on January 26;
- o a NASHVILLE WARBLER at Ancarrow's Landing in Richmond, VA on January 26 and 27;
- o a NORTHERN PARULA at Ancarrow's Landing in Richmond, VA on January 27;
- o PALM WARBLERS at several locations, including Ancarrow's Landing in Richmond, VA on January 23 and the Laurel Hill Equestrian Center in Fairfax Co, VA on January 23;

- o PINE WARBLERS at several locations, including three individuals at Crest Lawn Memorial Gardens in Howard Co, MD on January 23 and 26 and at least one continuing individual at the LBJ Memorial Grove/Columbia Island Marina in Washington, DC on January 26; and
- o a continuing YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER at the northern end of the channel side of East Potomac Park in Washington, DC on January 26, 27 and 28 and at feeders in the Wyndamere Park section of Virginia Beach, VA on January 22.

A continuing WESTERN TANAGER was photographed at a residential feeder along Lake Windsor in Virginia Beach, VA on January 22.

A male PAINTED BUNTING visited a feeder at a private location in Hanover Co, VA on January 26 and 27 and was again observed at a feeder in Chesapeake, VA on January 28.

Many persons enjoyed watching an out-of-season DICKCISSEL foraging with WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS and other songbirds along the C & O Canal at Fletcher's Cove in Washington, DC on January 24-27.

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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](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, e-mail or phone.

Thank you for your interest, and enjoy the birds.

\*Of interest to the applicable state records committee