

Hotline Voice of the Naturalist
Date 03/12/2019
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, March 5 and was completed on Tuesday, February 12 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 bird this week is the continuing ROCK WREN* in MD.

Other birds of interest this week included ROSS'S GEESE, GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE, CACKLING GOOSE, TRUMPETER SWANS, EURASIAN WIGEON, COMMON EIDER, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, LONG-TAILED DUCK, RED-NECKED GREBE, WESTERN GREBE, SANDHILL CRANES, BAR-TAILED GODWIT*, RED-THROATED LOONS, AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS, TRICOLORED HERON, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, MARSH WREN, EVENING GROSBEAKS, SNOW BUNTINGS, BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, WESTERN Tanager, PAINTED BUNTING and DICKCISSEL.

TOP BIRDS

A continuing ROCK WREN* was seen regularly throughout the week at a private residence in St. Mary's Co, MD. Viewing at this private residence is permitted under a strict set of ground rules and by appointment only. Email Kyle Rambo at kerambo+rockwren@gmail.com for a reservation and copy of the ground rules, including a request for your preferred viewing date and choice of 4 available time slots: 8-10 AM, 10 AM-12 Noon, 12-2 PM, or 2-4 PM.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

A continuing ROSS'S GOOSE was photographed at Britts Park, Tazewell Co, VA on March 6 and 8. On March 10, a ROSS'S GOOSE was photographed at Princess Anne WMA, Beasley Tract, Virginia Beach, VA. Three GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE were photographed on Howard Hannah Rd, Craig Co, VA on March 7 and 8. Thirty GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE were photographed on the pond near the New River Valley Fairgrounds, Pulaski Co, VA on March 5 through 10. Five GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE were photographed at McCune's Pond, Augusta Co, VA on March 8 and 9.

CAACKLING GEESE were seen at several locations: one at Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, Fairfax Co, VA on March 9; two at Occoquan Sewage Plant, Fairfax Co, VA on March 5; five at McCune's Pond, Augusta Co, VA on March 8 and 9; one at 11800 New Gate Blvd, Washington Co, MD on March 6 and 7; three at Broadford Lake, Garrett Co, MD on March 5 through 9; two at Hog Island CW, Surry Co, VA on March 9.

Two TRUMPETER SWANS were seen off Muddy Creek Rd, Anne Arundel Co, MD on March 5. Two TRUMPETER SWANS were seen at Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract, Anne Arundel Co, MD on March 8 through 10.

A continuing EURASIAN WIGEON was photographed at Riley Roberts Rd at Deal Island WMA, Somerset Co, MD on March 5, 9, and 11. Another continuing EURASIAN WIGEON was photographed at Ted Harvey WMA, Logan Lane Tract North, Kent Co, DE on March 5, 6, and 8. Another EURASIAN WIGEON was photographed in Long Creek west of First Landing State Park, Virginia Beach, VA on March 5.

A continuing COMMON EIDER was seen as recently as March 10 at Fort Monroe, Hampton, VA.

A continuing WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was photographed March 5 and 8 at Claytor Lake State Park, Pulaski Co, VA.

Three LONG-TAILED DUCKS were photographed March 10 at C.M. Crockett Park, Fauquier Co, VA. An individual LONG-TAILED DUCK was seen at Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William Co, VA on March 9. Another individual was seen at Broadford Lake, Garrett Co, MD on March 9. Another was photographed at Lapidum, Harford Co, MD on March 8. Yet another was seen on Pinto Pond, Allegany Co, MD on March 9. A LONG-TAILED DUCK was seen March 10 at Rocky Gap State Park, Allegany Co, MD. A LONG-TAILED DUCK was photographed at a pond near Chase City, Mecklenburg Co, VA on March 11.

A continuing RED-NECKED GREBE was photographed March 5 at Silver Lake Regional Park, Prince William Co, VA. As many as eight RED-NECKED GREBES were photographed at Broadford Lake, Garrett Co, MD on March 5 through 11. Another was photographed March 10 and 11 at Loch Raven Reservoir, Baltimore Co, MD. Two RED-NECKED GREBES were photographed March 5 through 11 at Lapidum, Harford Co, MD. Another was seen March 11 at Claiborne Landing, Talbot Co, MD. A continuing WESTERN GREBE was seen at John H. Kerr Reservoir – Dam Area, Mecklenburg Co, VA on March 9 and 10.

A SANDHILL CRANE was photographed near the 11800 block of New Gate Blvd, Washington Co, MD on March 6, 7 and 10. Another lone crane was seen March 9 on Dion Rd, Caroline Co, MD. Two continuing SANDHILL CRANES were photographed at Hughes Rd in Poolesville, Montgomery Co, MD, most recently on March 11.

A BAR-TAILED GODWIT* continued at Tom's Cove in Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA as recently as March 5.

A continuing RED-THROATED LOON was seen at Briery Creek WMA, Prince Edward Co, VA on March 5. Another was photographed at Lake Merriweather, Rockbridge Co, VA on March 7 and 10. A pair were photographed at East Potomac Park, Hains Point, Washington, DC on March 10. A pair of RED-THROATED LOONS continued near Violette's and Riley's Lock, Montgomery Co, MD as recently as March 11. A continuing RED-THROATED LOON was last photographed at Lake Needwood, Montgomery Co, MD on March 5.

Five AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were photographed at the CBBT Scenic Overlook, Northampton Co, VA on March 7. As many as 29 were photographed at Hog Island WMA, Surry Co, VA on March 5 through 11. Three AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were photographed at Deal Island WMA on Riley Roberts Road, Somerset Co, MD on March 9 through 11. Five more were seen at Salisbury City Park, Wicomico, MD on March 9.

A TRICOLORED HERON was seen March 7 at Pleasure House Point Natural Area, Virginia Beach, VA. Another was seen at Deal Island WMA on Riley Roberts Road, Somerset, MD on March 8, 9, and 11.

A GOLDEN EAGLE was seen at Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Talbot Co, MD on March 10.

A continuing BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE was seen March 11 at Wilson Ct, Charlottesville, VA.

A continuing MARSH WREN was seen March 7 and 10 at Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum in Clarke Co, VA.

As many as six continuing EVENING GROSBEAKS were observed at feeders along Union Springs Road in Rockingham Co, VA as recently as March 10. Four continuing EVENING GROSBEAKS were seen on Longview Drive, Bath Co, VA at a private residence on March 9. Three EVENING GROSBEAKS continue to be seen in Boonsboro at a private residence on Manor Church Rd, Washington Co, MD as recently as March 10. Two EVENING GROSBEAKS continue as recently as March 11 at Riley's Lock, Montgomery Co, MD.

SNOW BUNTINGS continue at North Point SP in Baltimore Co, MD, with a high of nine individuals; the most recent sighting was on March 10.

As many as 18 BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS were photographed on March 8, 9 and 10 at Breeze Farms, Virginia Beach, VA.

A WESTERN TANAGER was photographed at Yorktown Wild Birds Unlimited, York Co, VA on March 7.

A PAINTED BUNTING was photographed at a private feeder on River Arch Dr, Chesapeake, VA on March 6. Another was photographed March 10 at a private feeder on Chesapeake Ave, Chesapeake, VA. A private feeder in Jefferson Co, WV also hosted a PAINTED BUNTING on March 10. Another was photographed March 9 at a private feeder in Baltimore Co, MD.

A continuing DICKCISSEL was seen March 5 and 11 near Fletcher's Cove, C&O Canal, Washington, DC.

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, <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, e-mail or phone.

Thank you for your interest, and enjoy the birds.

*Of interest to the applicable state records committee