

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist
Date: 3/19/2019
Coverage: MD/DC/VA/central and southern DE/WV panhandle
Reports, comments and questions: voice@anshome.org
Compiler: Bob Hartman
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, March 12, and was completed on Tuesday, March 19 at about 11:30 a.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 BIRD THIS WEEK: ROCK WREN in MD

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST: TRUMPETER SWAN, KING EIDER, COMMON EIDER, WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, BLACK SCOTER, LONG-TAILED DUCK, RED-NECKED GREBE, SANDHILL CRANE, AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER, WILSON'S PLOVER, BAR-TAILED GODWIT, RUDDY TURNSTONE, BLACK-HEADED GULL, GREAT CORMORANT, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, AMERICAN BITTERN, TRICOLORED HERON, YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, WHITE IBIS, GOLDEN EAGLE, BROAD-WINGED HAWK, ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, SNOWY OWL, RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, MERLIN, NORTHERN SHRIKE, HORNED LARK, SEDGE WREN, MARSH WREN, GRAY CATBIRD, EVENING GROSBEAK, GRASSHOPPER SPARROW, VESPER SPARROW, LINCOLN'S SPARROW, ORCHARD ORIOLE, BALTIMORE ORIOLE, ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, PALM WARBLER

TOP BIRDS

The ROCK WREN in Bushwood MD (St Mary's Co) continued on March 17.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

TRUMPETER SWANS were reported in both VA and MD. In VA, all were in Fauquier Co, one March 13 at the Clifton Institute (restricted access), and four on March 15 at Airlie South (also restricted access). In MD, two were reported March 13 at Jackson Landing, Patuxent River Pk (Jug Bay), Prince George's Co. One TRUMPETER SWAN was seen March 14 at Alter Pond / Soil Conservation Road (Prince George's Co), and two were reported the same day at Patuxent Research Refuge (Anne Arundel Co).

EURASIAN WIGEONS were seen in MD, one drake continuing March 12-14 at Deal Island WMA in Somerset Co, another bird March 13 at Hart-Miller Island in Baltimore Co. A single KING EIDER was reported, March 14 at Ocean City Inlet (Worcester Co MD). Sussex Co DE hosted COMMON EIDERS, one March 14 at Roosevelt Inlet, Lewes, and more were seen at Indian River Inlet (also Sussex Co), including

11 on March 16. A single WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was reported March 16 at Hughes Hollow in Montgomery Co MD. Montgomery Co MD also had the only BLACK SCOTER, reported on March 16&18 at Violette's Lock. Two LONG-TAILED DUCKS were reported, one March 14-17 at Boonsboro WWTP, Washington Co MD, the other March 17 at Bootlegger to Potomac Heritage Trail, Fairfax Co VA.

RED-NECKED GREBES were widely distributed in MD, up to 6 at Broadford Lake in Garrett Co. VA had 3 single RED-NECKED GREBES, and DE had one March 17 in Sussex Co along Hog Island Rd. SANDHILL CRANES were reported, one March 12 at Seneca Trailhead Park/Seneca Tract (Loudoun Co VA), two March 13 at Patuxent River SP (Hipsley Mill Rd, Howard Co MD), and two more March 18 along Peat Moss Rd in Garrett Co MD.

Somerset Co MD hosted two early American Oystercatchers on March 16 along Center Street on Smith Island. A BAR-TAILED GODWIT was seen March 13-15 at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co VA. Two RUDDY TURNSTONES were seen March 18 on tiny Bodkin Island in Queen Anne's Co MD.

A single BLACK-HEADED GULL was reported March 17&18 at Lapidum in Harford Co MD.

GREAT CORMORANTS were seen in Queen Anne's Co MD, four on March 13 at Bloody Point Bar Lighthouse, and 14 on March 17 at Kent Point Marina. The AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS in Somerset Co MD continued most of the week along Riley Roberts Rd in Deal Island WMA. Two AMERICAN BITTERNs were reported, one March 13 in a private yard along Cavey Lane in Howard Co MD, the other at Bombay Hook NWR in Kent Co DE. The TRICOLORED HERONS reported last week at Deal Island WMA continued March 15&16. A YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON made an early appearance March 18 in Frederick MD at Baker Park. Bayside Peninsula in Assateague Island NS (Worcester Co MD) hosted a single WHITE IBIS March 14.

A GOLDEN EAGLE was spotted March 16 over Seven Fountains Pond in Shenandoah Co VA. An early BROAD-WINGED HAWK was seen March 17 at Huntley Meadows Pk, Fairfax Co VA. At C&O Canal's Spring Gap (Allegany Co MD), a ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was seen March 14. SNOWY OWLS haven't been around much this winter, but the one near Kent Narrows (Queen Anne's Co MD) continues, with a sighting on March 12.

A RED-HEADED WOODPECKER was reported March 13 along Fowler Beach Rd in Prime Hook NWR, and four more were sighted in central & north central MD March 13 & 16. In VA, six were reported March 16 at Widewater SP, Stafford Co.

Western MD had 2 reports of MERLIN, both on March 17; one was in Garrett Co at Swallow Falls SP, the other in Washington Co at Antietam National Battlefield. Also, in Talbot Co MD, at PCAC Wetland Overlook Trail EAST, a single NORTHERN SHRIKE was reported March 18.

HORNED LARKs continued at Washington Dulles International Airport, Chantilly VA, with 3 seen March 17. A SEDGE WREN was reported March 16 in Somerset Co MD, at Fairmount WMA, East Impoundment. Clarke Co VA had an early MARSH WREN March 12 at the Blandy Experimental Farm. MD and VA each had a single early GRAY CATBIRD, one March 14 along Kennedy Ln in Fredericksburg VA, the other March 17 in Woodbridge MD, Carroll Co.

DE and MD each had 1-3 EVENING GROSBEAKs, but Rockingham Co VA took the prize with 10, six on March 15 on private land near Union Springs Dam and four more March 17 along Woodcock Lane.

An early GRASSHOPPER SPARROW showed up March 14 along Cross Keys Rd in Mount Crawford VA, Rockingham Co. VESPER SPARROWS were seen March 16 in MD, one at Cromwell Valley Pk in Baltimore Co, two more at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad NP in Dorchester Co. MD also hosted LINCOLN'S SPARROWS: one was at the Cromwell Valley Hawk Watch (Baltimore Co) on March 14; another was at the campus of UMBC (Prince George's Co) on March 15. A third continued at CCBC (Baltimore Co) on March 17.

A very early ORCHARD ORIOLE was seen March 15 at UMCP (Prince George's Co MD).

MD had a corner on the small numbers of warblers this week. An ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER was reported March 14 from along Northway Dr in Baltimore Co; another was seen in a private yard in Kent Co on March 16. A COMMON YELLOWTHROAT was spotted March 17 at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (Queen Anne's Co), and a PALM WARBLER was seen March 12 along Egypt Rd in Dorchester Co.

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.

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