

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist
Date: 4/16/2019
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, April 9 and was completed on Tuesday, April 16 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 are EARED GREBE in DC and ROCK WREN* in MD.

Other birds of interest this week included TRUMPETER SWANS, SURF SCOTER, LONG-TAILED DUCKS, RED-NECKED GREBES, SANDHILL CRANES, WHIMBREL, LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS, AMERICAN BITTERN, LEAST BITTERN, LITTLE BLUE HERON, CATTLE EGRET, NORTHERN SHRIKE*, MARSH WREN, EVENING GROSBEAKS, and PAINTED BUNTING.

TOP BIRDS

An EARED GREBE was photographed at Hains Pt, East Potomac Park, Washington DC on April 9.

The ROCK WREN* was last seen on Tuesday, April 9 in St. Mary's Co, MD and has not been seen since. It was first photographed in late January/early February 2019. We'd like to thank the property owner for being so accommodating and thank Kyle Rambo and Tyler Bell for all their efforts to allow birders to see this wonderful rarity. If you saw the bird and haven't yet thanked them, please do.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

Two TRUMPETER SWANS were seen near 769 Bayard Rd, Anne Arundel Co, MD as recently as April 6. Two TRUMPETER SWANS were seen at Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract, Anne Arundel Co, MD on April 14. Two TRUMPETER SWANS continued at the Home Depot pond in Edgewood, Harford Co, MD on April 9. A lone TRUMPETER SWAN was seen near 12318 Southampton Dr, Worcester Co, MD on April 10. Another was seen near Lighthouse Sound, Worcester Co, MD on April 9.

A SURF SCOTER was seen April 9 at Hains Pt, East Potomac Park, Washington, DC.

Three LONG-TAILED DUCKS were photographed April 9 at Broadway Wastewater Treatment Plant (restricted access), Rockingham Co, VA. One was seen at Lake Frederick, Frederick Co, VA on April 9. Another was photographed at Silver Lake, Rockingham Co, VA on April 11 through 14. Two more LONG-TAILED DUCKS were photographed April 13 at Indian River Inlet, Sussex Co, DE.

On April 11, a RED-NECKED GREBE was seen at Liberty Lake, Carroll Co, MD. As many as seven continuing RED-NECKED GREBES were photographed at Broadford Lake, Garrett Co, MD on April 9 through 11.

A SANDHILL CRANE was photographed April 14 along Shipps Cabin Rd and Muddy Creek Rd, Virginia Beach, VA. Another possibly injured SANDHILL CRANE was photographed along and near Antioch Rd, Caroline Co, VA on April 11, 13 and 14. On April 12, a SANDHILL CRANE was photographed at Lickinghole Creek, Albemarle Co, VA.

On April 12 through 15 a RUFF also was seen a short distance north of the reporting area, at the Augustine WA-Port Penn Impoundments in New Castle Co, DE.

Four WHIMBREL were photographed at Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach, VA on April 13. Another was seen at Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD on April 12.

A LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was seen April 12 at Swan Creek Wetland (restricted access), Anne Arundel Co, MD.

Thirteen AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were seen flying over Interstate 95, Fredericksburg Co, VA on April 10. Twenty-three AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were photographed along Morgantown Rd, Charles Co, MD on April 13.

An AMERICAN BITTERN was photographed at King Family Vineyard, Albemarle Co, VA on April 13 to 15. Two AMERICAN BITTERNS were seen at Bles Park, Loudoun Co, VA on April 12 and 13. A LEAST BITTERN was heard April 9 at Bestpitch Ferry Rd, Dorchester Co, MD.

A continuing LITTLE BLUE HERON was photographed at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA on April 9. Two LITTLE BLUE HERONS were photographed at Sandy Bottom Nature Park, Hampton, VA on April 9. A LITTLE BLUE HERON was photographed at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington, DC on April 10. A CATTLE EGRET was photographed April 14 at Henricus Historical Park, Chesterfield Co, VA.

The NORTHERN SHRIKE* was photographed this week at Sully Woodlands, Fairfax Co, VA on April 9 to 13.

A continuing MARSH WREN was seen April 12 and 13 at Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum in Clarke Co, VA. A MARSH WREN was heard April 9 at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington, DC.

As many as six continuing EVENING GROSBEAKS were photographed at feeders along Union Springs Road in Rockingham Co, VA as recently as April 12. A continuing EVENING GROSBEAK was seen on Longview Drive, Bath Co, VA at a private residence on April 12. An EVENING GROSBEAK continues at a private feeder in Columbia, Howard Co, MD on April 10.

Neotropical migration seems to be well underway with at least 19 species of warbler seen in the reporting area this week.

A PAINTED BUNTING was seen on Tracy's Lane, Anne Arundel Co, MD on April 9 and 10.

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