

Voice of the Naturalist

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Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

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Reporting Guidelines

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Archives

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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, May 12 at 8:30 AM.

Top birds this week are ANHINGA* in VA and SWALLOW-TAILED KITE* in VA.

Other birds of interest include BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK*, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, LEAST BITTERN, MISSISSIPPI KITE, rails, COMMON MOORHEN, NORTHERN BOBWHITE, RED KNOT, BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO, CHUCK WILL'S WIDOW, RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, flycatchers, WARBLING VIREO, SEDGE WREN, thrushes, warblers, sparrows, BOBOLINK, RUSTY BLACKBIRD, and PINE SISKIN.

An ANHINGA* flew across Bedford Co, VA, heading west toward Botetourt Co on May 8. Another ANHINGA* was seen soaring above Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William Co, VA, on May 10.

A SWALLOW-TAILED KITE* crossed above Route 123 near Burke Lake, Fairfax Co, VA, on May 9. Other SWALLOW-TAILED KITE* reports came from both the areas of Painter and Quinby in Accomack Co, VA, on May 7.

The BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK* continues at Silver Lake, Rehoboth, DE, with a report on May 9.

An AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN was spotted at Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD, on May 9.

A LEAST BITTERN was reported at Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William Co, VA, on May 9 and another at Blackwater, NWR, Dorchester Co, MD, on May 9. Reports of a LITTLE BLUE HERON and six CATTLE EGRETS came from Hains Point, Washington, DC, on May 6. A

LITTLE BLUE HERON was found at Sandy Point SP, Anne Arundel Co, MD, on May 7.

A MISSISSIPPI KITE was observed from the College Creek Hawkwatch, Williamsburg, VA, on May 7. A MISSISSIPPI KITE was soaring above Annandale, Fairfax Co, VA, on May 9, and another was above Braddock Road, Fairfax Co, VA, on May 10.

A SORA was found at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, Howard Co, MD, on May 5. A KING RAIL showed at Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William Co, VA, on May 10. BLACK RAIL, CLAPPER RAIL, KING RAIL, VIRGINIA RAIL, and SORA were all reported at Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD, on May 9. BLACK RAIL, VIRGINIA RAIL, and SORA were at the Dulles Greenway Wetlands Mitigation Project, Loudon Co, VA, on May 10. A COMMON MOORHEN continues at the wildlife end of Centennial Park, Howard Co, MD, with a sighting as recently as May 10.

NORTHERN BOBWHITE were at Prime Hook NWR, DE, on May 9. A NORTHERN BOBWHITE was heard from the Fredericksburg City Canal Path near Snowden Wetlands, Fredericksburg City, VA, on May 11.

RED KNOTS are arriving at Mispillion Harbor, Sussex Co, DE, for their annual visit to Delaware Bay. Reports of sandpipers are coming from many areas. A Hart-Miller Island trip on May 9 found two WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS, three STILT SANDPIPERS, and a BLACK TERN.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO sightings have come from a number of areas including Centennial Lake, Howard Co, MD, on May 5; Ft. C.F. Smith, Arlington Co, VA, on May 7; Little Bennett Park, Montgomery Co, MD, on May 8; and Woodbine, Montgomery Co, MD, on May 10.

A CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW was found near Aquasco Road, Prince George's Co, MD, on May 7. Two CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOWS were reported at Weinberg Park, Anne Arundel Co, MD, on May 10 and another was at Truxton Park, Annapolis, Anne Arundel Co, MD, on May 10.

A RED-HEADED WOODPECKER was observed in Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC, on May 8. Four RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS were at Sky Meadows SP/Thompson WMA, Fauquier Co, VA, on May 10.

Flycatcher reports come from many areas including a LEAST FLYCATCHER heard at Hains Point, Washington, DC, on May 7 and another LEAST FLYCATCHER at Ft. Bayard Park, Washington, DC, on May 8. An OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER report came from Seneca Creek, Montgomery Co, MD, on May 8 and a WILLOW FLYCATCHER was heard at Blue Mash, Montgomery Co, MD, on May 9.

Vireos are arriving in many areas. Two WARBLING VIREOS were singing at Centennial Park, Howard Co, MD, on May 6. Two WARBLING VIREOS were heard around Lucketts, Loudon Co, VA, on May 9.

A SEDGE WREN was singing on the Patuxent Branch Trail, Columbia, Howard Co, MD, on May 5, 6, and 7. A SEDGE WREN continued by the pond in Patterson Park, Baltimore on May 5, 6, and 7.

Thrush reports come from throughout our region including WOOD THRUSH on Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, DC, on May 7; GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH at Patterson Park,

Baltimore, MD, on May 9; VEERY at Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington Co, VA, on May 10; and SWAINSON'S THRUSH at Milford Mill Park, Baltimore County, MD, on May 7.

Warbler sightings continue to grow with almost all parks having multiple views. As examples, reports have included a TENNESSEE WARBLER in Monticello Park, Arlington Co, VA, on May 8; a NASHVILLE WARBLER at Thompson WMA, Fauquier Co, VA, on May 11; a CAPE MAY WARBLER in Ft. Bayard Park, Washington, DC, on May 8; a CERULEAN WARBLER at Upper Watts Branch Park, Montgomery Co, MD, on May 6; a PROTHONOTARY WARBLER at Dyke Marsh, Fairfax Co, VA, on May 10; a SWAINSON'S WARBLER report from Weyanoke Sanctuary, Norfolk, VA, on May 11; a KENTUCKY WARBLER at Bombay Hook NWR, DE, on May 8; a MOURNING WARBLER in Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC, on May 10; a HOODED WARBLER at Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert Co, MD, on May 6; and a WILSON'S WARBLER at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA, on May 11.

Two SEASIDE SPARROWS were reported at Swan Creek, Anne Arundel, Co, MD, on May 7. Many SEASIDE SPARROWS were seen at Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD, on May 9. A LINCOLN'S SPARROW was at Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC, on May 8. Two LINCOLN'S SPARROWS were seen at White Oaks Park, Fairfax Co, VA, on May 8. A SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROW was at Blackwater NWR, MD, on May 9. Two SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS were spotted at Gordon's Pond, Cape Henlopen SP, DE, on May 9. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW sightings continue from various locations in our region.

BOBOLINK flocks continue to move through the area with reports from various sites during the week including a flock of 25 at Dyke Marsh, Fairfax Co, VA, on May 10.

Two RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were at Governor's Bridge Natural Area, Prince George's Co, MD, on May 7. Two other RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were at Occoquan Bay NWR, Prince William Co, VA, on May 9.

PINE SISKINS remain in small flocks in numerous locations including Colesville, Montgomery Co, MD; Severn, Anne Arundel Co, MD; Columbia, Howard Co, MD; Easton, Talbot Co, MD; Huntingtown, Calvert Co, MD, and other sites.

Some of this week's reports have been gleaned from the MDOsprey, VA-Bird, and Delaware list servers.

The [Audubon Sanctuary Shop](#) (301-652-3606), is an excellent source for guidebooks and many other nature-related titles.

To report bird sightings, e-mail your report to voice@AudubonNaturalist.org or call 301-652-1088 and select menu option 2. Please post reports before midnight Monday, identify the county as well as state, and include your name and a Tuesday morning contact, either e-mail or phone.

Thank you for calling, and GOOD BIRDING.

*Of interest to the records committee.

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