

## Voice of the Naturalist

Date: **6/4/2008**

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

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Please consider joining ANS, especially if you are a regular user of the Voice (Individual \$40; Family \$50; Nature Steward \$75; Audubon Advocate \$150). The membership number is 301-652-9188 x12, the address is 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Thursday, June 5, at 5 pm.

Top birds this week are MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD in DE and FRANKLIN'S GULL in DC.

Other birds of interest include herons, MISSISSIPPI KITE, rails, shorebirds, nightjars, OLIVE-SIDED and ALDER FLYCATCHERS, GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH, warblers, SUMMER TANAGER, sparrows, DICKCISSEL, and BOBOLINK.

A MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD was seen from Prime Hook, DE, flying south toward Oyster Rocks on May 30.

A FRANKLIN'S GULL was located at Hanes Point, DC on June 5.

A LEAST BITTERN was seen at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, NE DC on May 31 while another was spotted by a kayaker in Mattaponi Creek, Prince George's Co, MD on the same day. A LEAST BITTERN perched nicely at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA on June 1 and one was seen there on June 2, also.

MISSISSIPPI KITES were spotted at a wide variety of locations in VA: in the King's Park development in Burke, Fairfax Co; soaring above the Marshall Elementary School, Prince William Co; soaring over the intersection of Braddock Road and Backlick Road in Annandale and at Huntley Meadows.

Swan Harbor Farm Park proved to be a productive visit for participants at the MOS Conference in Harford Co, MD with LEAST BITTERN, SORA and three WHITE-

RUMPED SANDPIPERS tallied on May 31 followed by LEAST BITTERN and KING RAIL on June 1.

A BLACK RAIL called persistently along Elliott Island Road, Dorchester Co, MD on June 1. The VIRGINIA RAIL family, reported last week, was seen again on May 28, 30 and June 1 and 2 at Huntley Meadows Park. Both SORA and VIRGINIA RAIL were heard at Finzel Swamp, Garrett Co, MD on June 1.

On May 31, three WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS were noted at Rumbly Point, Somerset Co, MD in the company of 102 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS and one DUNLIN. The 17 species of shorebirds/waders seen on Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD on May 29 included BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, AMERICAN AVOCET, WILLET, WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, WILSON'S PHALAROPE and RED-NECKED PHALAROPE. An AMERICAN WOODCOCK strolled around center field during batting practice at Camden Yards, Baltimore, MD on May 28.

Two WHIP-POOR-WILLS and five CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOWS were heard at Soldier's Delight, Baltimore Co, MD on May 31.

An OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was spotted May 29 along the Kingsley Trail at Little Bennett RP, Montgomery Co, MD. On June 1, an OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was found at Sky Meadows SP, Fauquier Co, VA, off the South Ridge trail.

An ALDER FLYCATCHER was discovered May 31 at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, and seen again June 1, 2, and 3--consistently at the end of the shorter boardwalk. ALDER FLYCATCHERS were also in evidence in Garrett Co, MD, with a report May 29 from Mt Nebo WMA, May 30 from Snaggy Mt Rd, and June 1 from Finzel Swamp.

A GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH was found May 29 at Chesapeake Landing, Kent Co, MD. That same day a GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH was noted in the parking lot at the Eastport-Annapolis Post Office, Anne Arundel Co, MD.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS were again singing along Old Legislative Rd, Allegany Co, MD, on June 1. A LAWRENCE'S WARBLER appeared June 2 in Garrett Co; it was on Mt Zion Rd above Jennings-Randolph Lake. Two MOURNING WARBLERS were found June 2 in Garrett Co, along Table Rock Rd south of Oakland. Two MOURNING WARBLERS were reported from Paddy's Knob, Bath Co, VA, in the traditional haunt--along a dirt tract that leads northeast off FR 55. One of the last BLACKPOLLS of the season was registered at Cabin John, Montgomery Co, on June 3.

A SUMMER TANAGER was enjoyed at Chesapeake Landing, Kent Co, MD, on May 29.

A VESPER SPARROW was observed June 2 in Carroll Co, MD, along Baptist Rd just north of Bowers Rd, as well as along the Cornfield Trail at Antietam National Battlefield, Washington Co, MD. HENSLOW'S SPARROWS were found again along Old

Legislative Rd June 1 and 2. A newly deceased NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW was found May 31--on the ground near a window--in Ellicott City, Howard Co, MD. SEASIDE SPARROWS were present May 29 on Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD, and June 1 at Black Marsh, Baltimore Co, MD.

DICKCISSELS were still singing along Egypt Rd (2 miles south of Rte 16) I Dorchester Co, MD, on June 1 and 2. They were found May 31 at Antietam, near the intersection of Hagerstown Pike and Mansfield Rd. On June 4, the alfalfa fields along Hunting Quarter Rd south of Deep Grass in southern DE, held at least 6 singing male DICKCISSELS.

On May 31 a BOBOLINK was found at KAG, NE DC. That same day BOBOLINKS galore were bubbling in fields off Norris Welch Rd, Garrett Co. And on June 2, BOBOLINKS were reported from Carroll Co, MD, along Walnut Grove Rd 3/4 mile north of Bowers Rd.

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

Finding Birds in the National Capital Area by Claudia Wilds is an excellent source for directions to many birding sites. The [Audubon Sanctuary Shop](#) (301-652-3606) is an excellent source for this and many other nature-related titles.

To report bird sightings, e-mail your report to [voice@AudubonNaturalist.org](mailto: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.