

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: **6/10/2008**

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 Tuesday, June 10, at 8 am.

Top bird this week is LITTLE EGRET* in DE.

Other birds of interest include HARLEQUIN DUCK, COMMON LOON, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, WHITE IBIS, BROAD-WINGED HAWK, AMERICAN KESTREL, PEREGRINE FALCON, BLACK RAIL, LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, ALDER FLYCATCHER, SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER*, LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE*, SWAINSON'S THRUSH, KENTUCKY WARBLER, DICKCISSEL, and the birds of Garrett County, MD and Highland Co, VA.

A LITTLE EGRET* was found June 7 at Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE and seen again June 8 and 9. The bird frequents the northern end of Shearneck Pool or Bear Swamp in the early morning hours.

A male HARLEQUIN DUCK was seen at the west jetty at Crocheron, Dorchester Co, MD on June 6.

A COMMON LOON was in the Shenandoah River near Harper's Ferry, Jefferson Co, WV last week.

An AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN appeared in the Fairfield section of Baltimore on June 5.

A fly-over flock of WHITE IBIS was reported from southern Loudoun Co, VA on June 4.

Three BROAD-WINGED HAWKS were seen at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, Loudoun Co, VA on June 7. An AMERICAN KESTREL was observed in NE Washington, DC on Jun 9. A PEREGRINE FALCON perched on the I395 bridge in Washington, DC on June 4.

A BLACK RAIL was heard along Elliott Island Road, Dorchester Co, MD on June 5.

A Maryland record count of 101 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS was found on Assateague Island, Worcester Co on June 8.

An OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was spotted June 5 at Governor Bridge Natural Area, Prince Georges Co, MD. An ALDER FLYCATCHER continued at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington DC. It was seen on June 7 and 8 at the first boardwalk. A SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER* was found along Rt 621 in Montgomery Co, VA on June 6, approximately .6 mile east of the Caldwell Fields parking area.

A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE* was seen on Rt 15 near Middleburg, Loudoun Co, VA on June 6.

A backyard in Ferndale, Anne Arundel Co, MD had a SWAINSON'S THRUSH on June 5.

Four KENTUCKY WARBLERS were seen at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, Loudoun Co, VA on June 7. KENTUCKY WARBLERS were also found in Clifton Town Park and Balmoral Greens Forest in Fairfax Co, VA on June 8. Two other KENTUCKYS were seen along Warner Hollow Road, Washington Co, MD on June 7.

DICKCISSELS were still singing along Egypt Rd (2 miles south of Rte 16) Dorchester Co, MD, on June 6. Another was found June 7 on Harney Road between Bullfrog Rd and Bollinger School Rd, Frederick Co, MD. One was seen along Leedstown Rd, Westmoreland Co, VA on June 8. The alfalfa fields along Hunting Quarter Rd south of Deep Grass in southern DE, have several singing male DICKCISSELS along with EASTERN MEADOWLARKS, GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS, and HORNED LARKS.

The higher elevations of Garrett Co, MD and Highland Co, VA are exceptionally good this time of year. Garrett Co highlights include SORA, NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, VEERY, WILD TURKEY, ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, and ALDER FLYCATCHER at Finzel Swamp; MOURNING WARBLER, DARK-EYED JUNCO, WINTER WREN, and HERMIT THRUSH at Table Rock; UPLAND SANDPIPER and CLIFF SWALLOW along Red House Road; BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER and CANADA WARBLER on Snaggy Mountain Road; HENSLOW'S SPARROW*, GRASSHOPPER SPARROW, GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER, and BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO along Old Legislative Road and BOBOLINKS on Pleasant Valley Road. Many of these species were also reported from the NW corner of Highland Co, VA; also seen there was RUFFED GROUSE and LEAST FLYCATCHER. Four MOURNING WARBLERS were at Paddy's Knob.

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 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.

