

# Voice of the Naturalist

Date: 6/16/09

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

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## Reporting Guidelines

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## Archives

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, option 12; the address is 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. [Join online](#)

This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, June 16 at 2:30 pm.

Top birds this week are ROSEATE SPOONBILL\* and LONG-BILLED CURLEW\*, both in VA.

Other birds of interest include waterfowl, NORTHERN BOBWHITE, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, ANHINGA, LEAST BITTERN, LITTLE BLUE HERON, MISSISSIPPI KITE, COMMON MOORHEN, shorebirds including RED KNOT, FRANKLIN'S GULL, flycatchers, warblers, sparrows including HENSLOW'S, and DICKCISSEL.

A ROSEATE SPOONBILL\* was found on June 15 in a Waynesboro Nurseries corn field next to the South River in Augusta Co, VA, south of Waynesboro, VA. The corn field is off of VA Rte 632 (N 38.04434, W 078.94883). This morning, June 16, it was seen as it flew over a field along Shalom Road, Rte 632, very near South River, a short distance SW from the cornfield at the Waynesboro Nursery. Birders who look for this bird are asked to please not block main roadways and NOT trespass onto private property.

A LONG-BILLED CURLEW\* which was found on May 30 at Elkins Marsh was seen again on June 14, a fourth of a mile north of there at Buckhorn Point, Northampton Co, VA.

Waterfowl sightings include a nesting COMMON MERGANSER at the end of Mill Run Rd, Garrett Co, MD on June 12 and a GREATER SCAUP in the Potomac River from Dyke Marsh, Fairfax Co, VA on June 14.

NORTHERN BOBWHITES were reported from Taylors Island, Dorchester Co, MD on June 13.

An AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN was seen at Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD on June 13. An AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN was seen June 10 in the vicinity of Fort McHenry, Baltimore when it flew from the Harbor Hospital area, past the Fort, and to the Fairfield

area.

A nesting pair of ANHINGAS was found June 11 at Harwood Mills Reservoir, Oriana Rd, York Co, VA and seen again on June 14. Please only observe these birds from a distance and do not get too close to the nest. An adult male ANHINGA was found June 12 at a swamp on Cabin Point Rd, Co Rd 602, 2.7 miles east of where Rte 602 intersects with Rte 35, Jerusalem Plank Rd, in Sussex Co, VA.

LEAST BITTERNs were reported from several locations on June 13 including Elliott Rd, Dorchester Co, MD, Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD, and Swan Harbor Farm, Harford, Co, MD. A LEAST BITTERN was also spotted June 15 at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA.

A LITTLE BLUE HERON was found June 13 at the Dulles Greenway Wetland Mitigation Project, Loudoun Co, VA.

An adult MISSISSIPPI KITE was seen June 9 flying NNE from Fort Smallwood Park, Anne Arundel Co, MD. A MISSISSIPPI KITE was found in southeastern Greenville Co, VA on June 13 during the VSO Foray. During the same foray, two MISSISSIPPI KITES were seen soaring over Steel Bridge Rd, Rte 624, in SE Greenville Co on the 14th. And another was seen later in the day over Emporia.

A COMMON MOORHEN was found at the Bethel WMA, Cecil Co, MD, on June 13.

A few shorebirds could still be found at Mispillion, Sussex Co, DE with 2 AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS and 19 RED KNOTS reported there one day last week. Two BLACK-NECKED STILTS and a WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER were found June 13 along Elliott Island Rd, Dorchester Co, MD. A WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER was also found on June 10 at Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD.

The FRANKLIN'S GULL that was found June 12 at the Jamestown Ferry which runs between Surry Co and James City Co, VA was also seen every day through the 15th.

Last week's flycatcher reports included several widely-scattered reports of WILLOW FLYCATCHERS. A trip to Allegany and Garrett Co, MD early last week yielded an ALDER FLYCATCHER June 10 at Mount Nebo WMA, Garrett Co, MD and WILLOW and LEAST FLYCATCHERS at Trout Run on the 9th. LEAST FLYCATCHERS were also reported from other locations in Garrett Co this past week. There was a LEAST FLYCATCHER at Roops Mill Rd/Rockland Rd., Westminster, Carroll Co., MD, on June 13.

On June 13 a BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER was found during a breeding bird survey in Oakton, VA. A GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER was found June 10 from the bluff at parking lot on Mt Zion Rd, Garrett Co, MD. Another was found June 13 along Old Legislative Road, Allegany Co, MD. Trips to Garrett Co, MD, and Allegany Co, MD early in the week yielded 22 species of warblers.

Four VESPER SPARROWS were found along Russell Rd, Garrett Co, MD, on June 13. HENSLOW'S SPARROWS were singing along Old Legislative Road, Allegany Co, MD on June 13.

DICKCISSELS were reported from several locations this past week. On the 11th one was

seen on Hagerstown Pike just before the corner with Mansfield Avenue and on the 13th there was one singing from the wires along Dunker Church Road just east of MD Rte 65 and south of Mansfield R, both reports from the Antietam National Battlefield, near Sharpsburg, Washington Co, MD. On June 11 at least 4 DICKCISSELS, two of them singing males, were found along Grassdale Road, Rte 755, in Fauquier Co, VA. . On June 14 at least four and possibly as many as 8 DICKCISSELS and four HORNED LARKS were found in Campbell Co, VA on Rte 615, Red House Road, about 0.9 miles east of the intersection of State Rte 805. On June 15 there was one on Woodland Ferry Rd, one mile south of Reliance, DE at an organic cow farm.

Some of this week's reports have been gleaned from the MD Osprey, VA-Bird, and DE-Birds 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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