

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: **6/17/2008**

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed **Tuesday, June 17, at 2:30 p.m.**

Top birds this week are LITTLE EGRET* in DE and HENSLOW'S SPARROW* in MD.

Other birds of interest include TRUMPETER SWAN, NORTHERN BOBWHITE, HORNED GREBE, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, LEAST BITTERN, MISSISSIPPI KITE, RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, LEAST FLYCATCHER, BLUE-HEADED VIREO, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, VEERY, warblers including SWAINSON'S, SUMMER Tanager, VESPER SPARROW, CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, DICKCISSEL, and BOBOLINK.

The LITTLE EGRET* was found again this past week with reports from June 10 through the 14th at Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE. It was seen at Shearneck Pool and Bear Swamp.

A HENSLOW'S SPARROW*, very unusual anywhere west of Allegany Co, MD, was found near Poolesville, Montgomery Co, MD on June 15 and again on the 16th & 17th. It is in a grassy field, part of the NIH Animal Facility, across from a house at 23021 Club Hollow Rd. HENSLOW'S SPARROWS were also found at the Old Legislative Road site in Allegany County on June 12.

TRUMPETER SWAN #962 was seen June 16 at Schoolhouse Pond, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's Co, MD.

Two NORTHERN BOBWHITES were found June 12 on Nature Conservancy land on the SW edge of Sharptown, Wicomico Co, MD.

A HORNED GREBE in breeding plumage was found June 14 at the boat launch at Point Lookout State SP, St. Mary's Co, MD.

The AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN in the Fairfield area of Baltimore was seen again on June 12 and 13 by looking across the Patapsco River from Ft. McHenry.

Two LEAST BITTERNS were seen flying over Neabsco Marsh from Neabsco Rd just before the entrance to Leesylvania State Park, Prince William Co, VA, on June 15. On the same day, a LEAST BITTERN put on a fine show flying this way and that over the cattails on the west side of the island between the boardwalk platform and the marina during the weekly Dyke Marsh, Fairfax Co, VA, bird walk.

A pair of MISSISSIPPI KITES was seen soaring over Waynewood Elementary School on Waynewood Boulevard in southeast Fairfax County near Fort Hunt on June 13. On June 14, while kayaking on the Blackwater River that divides Isle of Wight and Southampton Counties, VA, a MISSISSIPPI KITE was seen soaring at treetop level above the river just south of the SR 619 bridge crossing near a pumping station.

Two possibly nesting RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS were found at Calvert Cliffs State Pk, Calvert County, MD on June 15. They were active in the dead trees in the marshy area off the Red trail that links the car park with the beach.

Higher elevations continued to be the place to be this past week with reports of a LEAST FLYCATCHER and 8 BLUE-HEADED VIREOS on Poor Mountain and Bent Mountain in Roanoke Co, VA on June 10. Another visit to higher elevations in Augusta Co, VA in the Rte 610, Big Levels and Reddish Knob area yielded 24 BLUE-HEADED VIREOS along with 5 BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES and 17 VEERYS, mostly in the Reddish Knob area. Two BLUE-HEADED VIREOS and 3 VEERYS were found on the Front Royal BBS (north section of the Shenandoah NP) on June 14. Two BLUE-HEADED VIREOS and 23 VEERYS were found on the Big Meadows BBS in Shenandoah NP, VA, on June 15.

Two BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLERS and two WORM-EATING WARBLERS were found on the Prince William Forest Park (Prince William Co, VA) BBS on June 12.

Eight PRAIRIE WARBLERS and two WORM-EATING WARBLERS were found during a June 12 blitz of Nature Conservancy land on the SW edge of Sharptown, Wicomico Co, MD. Two WORM-EATING WARBLERS and a SUMMER TANAGER were found June 13 along the Bull Run near Clifton, VA.

A SWAINSON'S WARBLER was found from the boardwalk near the visitor center at the Nature Conservancy's Nassawango Creek Preserve, Worcester Co, MD on June 13.

A SUMMER TANAGER was found on the Prince William Forest Park BBS on June 12. The MAPS banding team at the Mason Neck NWR, Fairfax Co, VA banded their first-ever, for that location, SUMMER TANAGER on June 13.

On June 14 two VESPER SPARROWS and a SAVANNAH SPARROW were found along Stauffer Road in an area of alfalfa and wheat fields southeast of Walkersville in Frederick Co, MD. On June 15 two VESPER SPARROWS were reported from Carroll Co, MD, one on Jasontown Rd and another on Sixes Bridge Rd.

A CLAY-COLORED SPARROW was found along Burning Mines Rd in Allegany Co, MD on both the 12th and 13th of June.

A DICKCISSEL was found June 10 in Hightown, Highland Co, VA on the north side of 250 just west of the 640 intersection. Two DICKCISELS were found in a weedy field on the north side of Valley View Dr, about a half mile NE of its intersection with Parkgate Rd in the Nokesville area of Prince William Co, VA. In the New Hope area of Augusta Co there were at least 5 DICKCISELS on June 15.

BOBOLINKS were also seen in several different locations including along Ebenezer Church Rd in western Loudoun Co, VA near Bluemont, where they were seen and heard singing in several fields all week long. There were at least two BOBOLINKS singing in the Lucketts area of Loudoun Co, along Rte 662. There was also a singing BOBOLINK in the fields west of the North Entrance of Old Whitewood Farm on Rte 704 north of the Plains, Fauquier Co, VA on the 15th.

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.