

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: **7/7/09**

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, July 7, at 8:45 a.m.

Top birds this week are NEOTROPIC CORMORANT* in MD, GREAT WHITE EGRET* in VA, and ROSEATE SPOONBILL* in DE and MD

Other birds of interest include AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, LEAST BITTERN, BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK*, waterfowl, WILSON'S STORM-PETREL, MISSISSIPPI KITE, PIPING PLOVER, SHORT-EARED OWL, WHITE-WINGED DOVE, BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO, CHUCK WILL'S WIDOW, PURPLE MARTIN, SUMMER TANAGER, DICKCISSEL, field birds, and PINE SISKIN

A NEOTROPIC CORMORANT* was observed again on June 30 in the area of Violette's Lock and the Potomac River in Montgomery Co, MD but has not been reported since.

A GREAT WHITE EGRET* was reported at Chincoteague NWR, VA on July 1, 2, and 3. The bird showed as a great egret of the melanorhyncos subspecies, which is resident in Africa and has the appearance of a great egret with black bill and facial skin. The bird sightings were on the left of the wildlife drive just beyond the entry point where the road opens in the proximity of Snow Goose Pool.

A ROSEATE SPOONBILL* first discovered on June 24 in the area near the Catch 54 Restaurant off Route 54 on Fenwick Island, Sussex Co, DE continued through July 6 with daily sightings including a few visits to Maryland mostly as a flyover. On July 6 there was also a report of a ROSEATE SPOONBILL* at Fowler's Beach, Sussex Co, DE. It was not clear if this was the same bird.

An AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN was found on the Little Blackwater River, Dorchester Co, MD on July 4.

Three LEAST BITTERNs were spotted at Dyke Marsh on the boardwalk overlook at the end of Haul Road, Fairfax Co, VA on July 5. A BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON was found at the Swan Creek dredge containment facility, Anne Arundel, Co, MD on July 1. Another BLACK- CROWNED NIGHT HERON was at the eastern end of Sewell's Orchard Ponds on the dock near the dam in Columbia, Howard Co, MD on July 1.

The BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK* continues at Silver Lake in Rehoboth Beach, Sussex Co, DE.

Some waterfowl are showing in unusual summer locales. A male BUFFLEHEAD was on the Potomac River close to Violette's Lock, Montgomery Co, MD on June 30. A female BUFFLEHEAD showed at Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay, Prince George's Co, MD on June 30. Two adult male RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were found west of Savage's Ditch, Rehoboth Bay, DE on July 4. A RUDDY DUCK was swimming offshore of the Belle Haven Picnic Area in Alexandria, Fairfax Co, VA on July 5.

A WILSON'S STORM PETREL was spotted flying past the Ocean City Inlet, Worcester Co, MD on July 5.

On July 2 and 3, a sub-adult MISSISSIPPI KITE flew over Long Island near the south channel of the Staunton River, Campbell Co, VA. A MISSISSIPPI KITE flew over the intersection of Braddock Road and Burke Lake Road in Springfield, Fairfax Co, VA on July 6.

On July 5, 19 PIPING PLOVERS were at Eagle's Nest Campground, south of Ocean City, Worcester Co, MD.

Two SHORT-EARED OWLS were observed in the marshes at Elliott Island, Dorchester Co, MD on July 5.

On July 1, a WHITE-WINGED DOVE was seen about a half mile south of the intersection of Route 6 and Route 9 near Woodland Beach, Kent Co, DE.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO reports have come from Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay, Prince George's Co, MD on June 30; McIntosh Road in St. Mary's Co on July 2; Harwood in Anne Arundel Co, on July 5, and other locations.

CHUCK-WILL'S WIDOWS were heard in Union Springs, Rockingham Co, VA on June 30; also at the intersection of Perryman, Perryman Church, and Dublin Roads in Somerset Co, MD on June 30; and at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Park in Pasadena, Anne Arundel Co, MD on July 2.

On July 4, a flock of PURPLE MARTINS numbering 500 or more were moving close to Walney Road and Route 5 in Chantilly, Fairfax Co, VA.

Two SUMMER TANAGERS were seen at Blackwater NWR, MD about 100 yards past auto stop number 7 on July 3.

Reports of DICKCISSELS came from many locations including: one on Bradley Road, Caroline Co, MD on June 30; six along Sixes Bridge Road, Frederick Co, MD on July 1; two on Fleatown Road close to Milford Neck, Kent Co, DE on July 1; four along Route

615/Redhouse Road, southeast of Rustburg, Campbell Co, VA on July 2; and two at Prime Hook NWR, Sussex Co, DE on July 5. The DICKCISSELS were sometimes in the company of other field and grassland birds such as GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS, EASTERN MEADOWLARKS, and BLUE GROSBEAKS.

A PINE SISKIN showed at George Washington's Ferry Farm, on the right side of the meadow, Stafford Co, VA on July 2.

Some of this week's reports have been gleaned from the MDOsprey, 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.

back to top