

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: 7/21/09

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

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Reporting Guidelines

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Archives

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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, July 21, at 8 am.

Top birds this week are GREAT WHITE EGRET* in VA, ROSEATE SPOONBILL* in DE, and WHITE-WINGED DOVE* in DE.

Other birds of interest include BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK*, GREATER SHEARWATER, WILSON'S STORM-PETREL, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, ANHINGA, WHITE IBIS, MISSISSIPPI KITE, RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, terns, SHORT-EARED OWL, HENSLOW'S SPARROW, ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, and DICKCISSEL,

The GREAT WHITE EGRET* was seen again at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on Jul 18. The bird was in Swan Pool. Birders noted that the black bill, characteristic of this subspecies, is beginning to turn yellow.

ROSEATE SPOONBILLS* continue to be seen in DE with reports during the week of one bird in the vicinity of the Catch 54 Restaurant off Rte 54 on Fenwick Island, Sussex Co, DE. Another ROSEATE SPOONBILL was found in Thousand Acre Marsh near the intersection of Rt 9 and Dutch Neck Road, New Castle Co, DE on Jul 16, 17, and 18.

A WHITE-WINGED DOVE* was spotted on Jul 18 along Rt 9 in Kent Co, DE about one-half mile south of the intersection with Rt 6.

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

A GREATER SHEARWATER floated and flew close to shore at Assateague Island National Seashore, Worcester Co, MD on Jul 19. Nine WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS were seen from Assateague Island National Seashore on Jul 15. A WILSON'S STORM-PETREL was spotted

from Point Lookout, St Mary's Co, MD on Jul 19.

Two AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS accompanied the Spoonbill at Thousand Acre Marsh in DE on Jul 15 and 17. One of the birds was seen on Jul 20.

An ANHINGA was found on Betts Pond on Betts Bottom Road near Heathsville, Northumberland Co, VA on Jul 18.

An immature WHITE IBIS was seen at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA on Jul 18, 19, and 20.

Three MISSISSIPPI KITES were spotted over North Springfield, Fairfax Co, VA on Jul 15 and three kites were seen over Burke in Fairfax Co on Jul 17.

A RED-NECKED PHALAROPE in partial alternate plumage was seen at Taylor's Gut near Woodland Beach, Kent Co, DE on Jul 18.

A GULL-BILLED TERN and three SANDWICH TERNS were found July 19 from Castaways Campground overlooking Assateague Island, MD. A ROSEATE TERN and three BLACK TERNS were seen from the ORV/OSV Zone of Assateague Island National Seashore on July 19. Two GULL-BILLED TERNS and a juvenile BLACK TERN were spotted at Chincoteague NWR on Jul 18. A trip to Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD on Jul 14 produced at least 175 LEAST TERNS and three BLACK TERNS.

Two SHORT-EARED OWLS were reported from Elliott Island Rd, Dorchester Co, MD on Jul 18.

One HENSLOW'S SPARROW was spotted at Pea Ridge, Garrett Co, MD this week and three more were found along Old Legislative Rd, Allegany Co, MD on Jul 15.

A male ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK foreshadowed the fall songbird migration at Fort Smallwood Park, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Jul 17.

A DICKCISSEL was found on Dunker Church Rd, Antietam National Battlefield, Washington Co, MD on Jul 15. DICKCISSELS were also seen at Beauvue Ponds, St Mary's Co, MD on Jul 19.

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](#)**