

# Voice of the Naturalist

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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, July 22, at 3:00 p.m.

Top birds this week are LITTLE EGRET\* in DE, REDDISH EGRET\* in VA, and WHITE-FACED IBIS\* in DE.

Other birds of interest include WILD TURKEY, BROWN PELICAN, ANHINGA, LITTLE BLUE HERON, YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, WHITE IBIS, VIRGINIA RAIL, COMMON MOORHEN, shorebirds, COMMON NIGHTHAWK, COMMON RAVEN, CLIFF SWALLOW, warblers, BOBOLINK, and PINE SISKIN.

The LITTLE EGRET\* was again reported at the Bombay Hook NWR, DE, with a sighting at Raymond Pool on July 16 and a sighting on the 18th at Shearneck Pool.

A REDDISH EGRET\* was found July 22 at the Craney Island landfill, Portsmouth, VA, in the southwest corner near the admin buildings.

A WHITE-FACED IBIS\* was reported from Raymond Pool, Bombay Hook, NWR, DE on July 19.

A WILD TURKEY and her 3 poults were seen in Prince George's Co, MD on July 15 near Lottsford Road and Campus Dr North in the woodland area.

Immature BROWN PELICANS were reported from the Dewey, DE area on July 21.

An ANHINGA was seen at Lake Maury, Mariner's Museum Park, Newport News, VA on July 18 and 19.

Two immature LITTLE BLUE HERONS were at the shallow end of Clopper Lake in Seneca Creek State Park, Montgomery Co, MD on July 19 and were seen again there on the 20th & 21st. Another immature LITTLE BLUE HERON was seen at the Brown Station Rd landfill in Upper Marlboro, Prince George's Co, MD, on July 22.

On July 16 a YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON returned to Roland Run next to Royal Farms on Joppa Rd, one of its normal spots in the Towson, Baltimore Co, MD area. Three YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS, of various ages, were seen at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, NE DC, on July 19.

An immature WHITE IBIS was seen the morning of July 17 at the Halethorpe Farms Ponds (Patapsco Ponds #4 & #5) in Baltimore Co, MD.

A VIRGINIA RAIL was observed at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA, on July 21.

A COMMON MOORHEN with one young bird was seen July 16 in the marsh area of the Dutch Gap Conservation Area, Chesterfield Co, VA. A COMMON MOORHEN was also found on Hart-Miller Island on July 19 along with several different species of shorebirds.

Shorebirds were also reported from a number of other locations this past week. On July 15, four AMERICAN AVOCETS were spotted in one of the cells at Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD as well as both Yellowlegs, LEAST SANDPIPERS, and SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS. On July 20 an AMERICAN AVOCET was found at Leonard's Pond in Rockingham Co, VA, on Faughts Rd just around the first bend after the turn off from Weyers Cave Rd near Penn Laird. On July 17 a flock of nine WHIMBREL was seen flying south over the Rte 50 bridge where it crosses the Ocean City, MD inlet. A flock of 7 WHIMBREL was seen July 21 flying south just offshore from the ocean beach at Dewey, DE. A WESTERN SANDPIPER was found at Rumbly Point, Somerset Co on both the 19th and 20th. On July 19, 4 WILSON'S PHALAROPES were seen in the southwestern corner of Raymond Pool, Bombay Hook, NWR, DE.

COMMON NIGHTHAWKS were seen flying over Old Town Portsmouth, Portsmouth, VA on Court St in the vicinity of London and North St on July 15.

A COMMON RAVEN was seen flying west along U.S. Rt. 60 in Powhatan Co, VA, two miles west of the Rt. 522 intersection.

A large flock of CLIFF SWALLOWS (about 55 birds) continues to be seen flying around a property in Sykesville with the latest report from July 16 - presumably from the colony that nests on the nearby Sykesville/Rte 32 Bridge.

A PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, uncommon in Garrett Co, MD, was found about 65 meters from the parking area at the Youghiogheny Reservoir July 18.

Nesting BOBOLINKS, including fledged juveniles, were observed and photographed in the fields along Ebenezer Church Rd in western Loudoun Co, VA, near Bluemont this past week. As many as 10 different BOBOLINKS were seen in one field there on July 20.

A PINE SISKIN joined goldfinches at a thistle feeder on Compton Mountain in Buchanan Co, VA on July 17.

Some of this week's reports have been gleaned from the MDOsprey, VA-Bird, and DE-bird list servers.