

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: 8/4/09

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, August 4, at 10:45 am.

Top birds this week are, ROSEATE SPOONBILL* in DE and VA, and YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD* in MD.

Other birds of interest include BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK*, BROWN PELICAN, AMERICAN BITTERN, TRICOLORED HERON, WHITE IBIS, shorebirds, terns, BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO, RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, WILLOW FLYCATCHER and PURPLE MARTINS.

A distant ROSEATE SPOONBILL* was noted in the north cell of Craney Island, Portsmouth, VA on July 28. Please note that Craney Island is currently closed to the public. Another ROSEATE SPOONBILL, sometimes hiding in the reeds, was spotted in Raymond Pool, Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE

An immature YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD* was caught in a banding operation at Indian Springs WMA, Washington Co, MD on August 3.

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

A BROWN PELICAN was seen on the Susquehanna River just above Conowingo Dam, Cecil/Harford Co, MD on August 2.

An AMERICAN BITTERN was seen on the road between Blackwater NWR and Elliott Island, Dorchester Co, MD on July 30. A TRICOLORED HERON was seen at Violette's Lock, Montgomery Co, MD on July 28.

An immature WHITE IBIS continues to be seen at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA,

with reports from July 31 and August 3. Two immature WHITE IBIS were reported from Staunton View Park, Mecklenburg Co, VA on August 1. Three juvenile WHITE IBIS were at the Dulles Greenway Wetlands Mitigation Project, Loudoun Co, VA, seen on August 4.

Two BLACK-NECKED STILTS were spotted at Deal Island, Somerset Co, MD on July 31. Three BLACK-NECKED STILTS were at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, Queen Anne's Co, MD on August 1, 2 and 3. Twelve BLACK-NECKED STILTS and five AMERICAN AVOCETS were on Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD on August 3

Two PIPING PLOVERS were seen at the point in Cape Henlopen SP, DE. Another three PIPING PLOVERS were observed at Skimmer Island, Ocean City, Worcester Co, MD on July 31. Three juvenile UPLAND SANDPIPERS were at the Patton Turf Farm, Montgomery Co, MD seen on August 2. A MARBLED GODWIT was at Skimmer Island on August 3. Shorebirds seen at the North Beach Marsh, Calvert Co, MD on July 31 included LEAST and PECTORAL SANDPIPERS plus SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS. A CURLEW SANDPIPER and a REEVE were at Taylor's Gut, Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, Kent Co, DE. Shorebirds seen at Bombay Hook included LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER plus SPOTTED, SOLITARY, WESTERN, PECTORAL and STILT SANDPIPERS. A group of 56 WHIMBRELS were resting and foraging on the beach at Assateague Island, Worcester Co, MD on July 31. A PECTORAL SANDPIPER was at North Branch, Allegany Co, MD on July 31 and August 1. Forty five to fifty SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS were at Oxbow Lake Nature Preserve, Anne Arundel Co, MD on July 29. Included in the 11 shorebird species seen at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center on August 3 were LEAST, PECTORAL and STILT SANDPIPERS plus SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS. Shorebirds seen at Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD on August 3 included SOLITARY, WESTERN, LEAST, WHITE-RUMPED and STILT SANDPIPERS plus SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER and WILSON'S PHALAROPE,

A GULL-BILLED TERN was spotted at Skimmer Island, Ocean City, Worcester Co, MD on July 31. Two flying LEAST TERNS were joined by nine sitting on a log at the North Beach Marsh, Calvert Co, MD on July 31. The number increased to 35 during the day. LEAST, CASPIAN, COMMON, ROYAL, SANDWICH and BLACK TERNS were seen from Skimmer Island on July 31 while 6 SANDWICH TERNS were there on August 3.

A BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO paid a visit to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in DC, spotted on July 28.

Five RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS were spotted at Blackwater NWR on July 30.

A WILLOW FLYCATCHER was seen at Schoolhouse Pond, Prince George's Co, MD on August 3.

A flock of at least 800 PURPLE MARTINS were observed at a roost in Chantilly, Fairfax Co, VA with a report from August 1.

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.

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