

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: **8/5/2008**

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

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[Reporting Guidelines](#)

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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, August 5, at 1:00 p.m.

Top bird this week is WHITE-FACED IBIS* in DE.

Other birds of interest include TRUMPETER SWAN, ANHINGA, herons including TRICOLORED, WHITE IBIS, MISSISSIPPI KITE, shorebirds, FRANKLIN'S GULL, GULL-BILLED TERN, EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE, swallows, DICKCISSEL, and PURPLE FINCH.

A WHITE-FACED IBIS* continued to be reported from Raymond Pool, Bombay Hook, NWR, DE this past weekend.

TRUMPETER SWAN #960 was seen again last week at the Oxbow Lake Nature Preserve, Anne Arundel Co, MD.

A male ANHINGA was seen July 30 circling above the entrance causeway at Stumpy Lake, Virginia Beach.

LEAST BITTERNs continue to be seen at the Oxbow Lake Nature Preserve with a report of three on July 29 and one on Aug 2.

A TRICOLORED HERON in juvenile plumage was noted north of the Occoquan marina on Aug 3. It was in the shallows near Fairfax Co, VA.

A YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON was sitting under the Kelly Avenue Bridge on July 31 near Lake Roland, Baltimore Co, MD. Five different YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS were seen Aug 2 at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, NE DC and four were there on the 4th.

An immature WHITE IBIS was seen on a farm in Leedstown, Westmoreland Co, VA on July 30. A juvenile WHITE IBIS was seen July 31 at the Farm Point area of the Jug Bay

Sanctuary, Anne Arundel Co, MD. Nearby on Aug 1, a juvenile WHITE IBIS was seen flying north over the Patuxent River, Anne Arundel/Prince George's Co, MD on Aug 1.

MISSISSIPPI KITES were seen over Springfield, Fairfax Co, VA several times during the past week. On July 29 a MISSISSIPPI KITE flew over West Springfield near Carrleigh Parkway. On Aug 1 a MISSISSIPPI KITE soared in lazy circles and then glided off to the southeast over the eastern part of Springfield Golf & Country Club, also in West Springfield. And on Aug 2 one was seen flying over a yard in North Springfield.

On Aug 3, two MISSISSIPPI KITES were soaring over Runt Powell's farm on Wolf Trap Rd in Halifax Co, VA.

Shorebirds and waders were also reported from a number of other locations this past week including Paper Mill Flats, Baltimore Co, MD, Leonard's Pond, Rockingham Co, VA, and Hog Island WMA, Surry County, VA.

A first summer FRANKLIN'S GULL and two BLACK TERNS, along with a lot of shorebirds, were seen at Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD, on Aug 2.

A GULL-BILLED TERN was found Aug 2 at Truitt's Landing, Worcester Co, MD along with a lot of shorebirds.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVES were seen in Townsend, Northampton County, VA on July 31 near their usual haunts on the Eastern Shore.

Impressively large flocks of gathering swallows were seen in several locations this past week. PURPLE MARTINS are massing in the thousands in Shockoe Bottom in downtown Richmond, VA. And over 1500 BANK SWALLOWS were seen perched on wires and corn plants the morning of July 30 along Cottage Farm Rd between Oak Grove and Leedstown, Westmoreland, Co, VA.

A singing male DICKCISSEL was seen July 30 near the ruins of the Old Whitemarsh Church in Talbot Co, MD, just off US 50 south of Easton. A singing male DICKCISSEL was seen Aug 2 south of Winchester in Frederick Co, VA.

A female PURPLE FINCH was seen July 30 pecking around in a front yard in Falls Church, VA.

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.