

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: **8/11/09**

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, August 11, at 8:00 am.

Top bird this week is ROSEATE SPOONBILL* in DE.

Other birds of interest include BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK*, KING EIDER, WILSON'S STORM-PETREL, NORTHERN GANNET, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, LEAST BITTERN, WHITE IBIS, MISSISSIPPI KITE, shorebirds, JAEGER species, terns, LEAST FLYCATCHER, LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, PURPLE MARTIN, VESPER SPARROW, and DICKCISSEL.

The ROSEATE SPOONBILL* seen intermittently the last few weeks on Fenwick Island, Sussex Co, DE was reported again from the vicinity of the Catch 54 Restaurant on Aug 8.

The BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK* continues at Silver Lake in Rehoboth Beach, Sussex Co, DE. There is a late report of an unusual summering KING EIDER on the boat trip out to Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD on Aug 3.

Two AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS flew over Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE on Aug 5. Two AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were found in Thousand Acre Marsh, New Castle Co, DE on Aug 6 and 8. The birds were near the intersection of Rt 9 and South Reedy Point Rd.

A seawatch from the OSV parking lot on Assateague Island, Worcester Co, MD turned up 8 WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS, a second year NORTHERN GANNET, and a JAEGER of undetermined species on Aug 8.

A DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT seen in Highland Co, VA on Aug 6 was a rare

find for the county.

A female LEAST BITTERN highlighted a kayak trip on Jug Bay, Prince Georges Co, MD on Aug 6. A canoe trip on Jug Bay flushed three LEAST BITTERNS on Aug 9.

Three juvenile WHITE IBIS were at the Dulles Greenway Wetlands Mitigation Project, Loudoun Co, VA, on Aug 4 and 8.

Three MISSISSIPPI KITES were seen over the Kings Park subdivision, Fairfax Co, VA on Aug 7. One MISSISSIPPI KITE was found there on Aug 9.

Notable spots for the shorebird migration included the Delaware refuges, especially Bombay Hook and Prime Hook NWRs and Taylor's Gut, Skimmer Island in Ocean City, MD, and the ORV zone on Assateague Island, MD. A BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER and 10 PECTORAL SANDPIPERS were among 9 shorebird species on the Summit Hall Turf Farm near Poolesville, Montgomery Co, MD on Aug 6. Two MARBLED GODWITS were included in the species on Skimmer Island in Ocean City on Aug 5, 7, and 9. Two MARBLED GODWITS were seen at Mispillion Harbor, Sussex Co, DE on Aug 5 and 6.

A SANDWICH TERN was spotted at Skimmer Island on Aug 5 and two were there with a GULL-BILLED TERN on Aug 7. Thirteen SANDWICH TERNS and some BLACK TERNS were seen in the ORV zone on Assateague Island on Aug 9; 7 SANDWICH TERNS were seen there on Aug 8. Five BLACK TERNS were found at the West Ocean City pond on Aug 8.

A LEAST FLYCATCHER was seen at Dyke Marsh, Fairfax Co, VA; a bird was along the haul road on Aug 8 and on the boardwalk on Aug 9.

A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE was seen Aug 5 through 9 at the Center at Hagerstown, Washington Co, MD; it was near 12608 Sedgwick Way.

Large flocks of PURPLE MARTINS continue to impress birders in our region. Flocks totaling 855 birds were counted at Fort Howard Veterans Hospital, Baltimore Co, MD on Aug 7. The roost in Chantilly, Fairfax Co, VA had grown to 1300 birds by Aug 8. The roost in the Schockoe Bottom neighborhood in Richmond, VA was estimated at 5000 birds on Aug 10.

A VESPER SPARROW was seen near West Willard Rd, Montgomery Co, MD on Aug 6. A DICKCISSEL was spotted outside of Easton, Talbot Co, MD on Aug 7. 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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