

Voice of the Naturalist

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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, August 12, at 9:00 AM.

Top birds this week are MISSISSIPPI KITES in VA and BLACK-HEADED GULL in MD

Other birds of interest include ANHINGA, LEAST BITTERN, BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, WHITE IBIS, shorebirds, HUDSONIAN GODWIT, BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, WILSON'S PHALAROPE, RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE, SEDGE WREN, and warblers.

MISSISSIPPI KITES were reported on August 11 on a nest in the Fort Hunt area of Alexandria, Fairfax County, VA, and also in flight close to Braddock Road in the King's Park vicinity. Another MISSISSIPPI KITE flew above Duncan Road in Dinwiddie County, VA on August 10.

A BLACK-HEADED GULL in non-breeding plumage has been reported on the north side of Eagle Harbor at Trueman Point, south of Cedar River Park on the Patuxent River in MD. Birders should note that Trueman Point is private property. Searches for the bird should be by boat or scope from a public land position such as Trueman Point Road.

An ANHINGA was seen at Stumpy Lake, Virginia Beach, VA, and at Lake Maury in Newport News, VA - both sightings were on August 9.

LEAST BITTERNS continue to be spotted with reports at the Oxbow Lake Nature Preserve in Anne Arundel Co, MD, on August 6 and Lilypons, Frederick Co, MD, on August 9.

A BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON was seen as a flyover on August 6 in Hagerstown, MD and also resting in a tree in Hagerstown west of the intersection of Centre Boulevard and Garland Groh Boulevard on August 10. Another was spotted at Kent Narrows, Queen Anne's Co, MD, on August 11.

WHITE IBIS sightings occurred at Jug Bay from the Anne Arundel Co., MD, shore on August 6 and close to the intersection of Brown Station Road and the Prince George's Co Landfill in MD on August 7.

Shorebird and wader reports for both migrants and residents came from many locations this past week including Paper Mill Flats, Baltimore Co, MD; Bombay Hook NWR, DE; Hart-Miller Island in Baltimore Co, MD; Poplar Island in Talbot Co, MD, and other spots.

A HUDSONIAN GODWIT was seen at Taylor's Gut close to Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, DE, and at Raymond Pool at Bombay Hook, DE, on August 8.

A molting BAIRD'S SANDPIPER was reported in the southeast corner of Bear Swamp at Bombay Hook in the company of large numbers of STILT SANDPIPERS and LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS on August 6.

WILSON'S PHALAROPES were spotted at Raymond Pond at Bombay Hook on August 6 and at Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD, on August 11.

A RED-NECKED PHALAROPE was seen at Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD, on August 11.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVES were seen on Faughts Road in Winchester, VA on August 10.

A SEDGE WREN was heard at Sky Meadows State Park in Fauquier Co, VA, in the vicinity of Gap Run Trail/Boston Mill Road.

Warblers are migrating and starting to appear at widespread locations. Reports come from many areas including a BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER at Dyke Marsh Trail in Fairfax Co, VA, MAGNOLIA WARBLER, BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, and BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER at New Germany State Park, MD; AMERICAN REDSTART at Ferndale in Anne Arundel Co, MD, and PINE WARBLER at Kent Narrows, MD.

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