

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: **8/18/09**

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 18, at 9:00 am.

Top bird this week is ROSEATE SPOONBILL* in DE.

Other birds of interest include ducks, WILSON'S STORM-PETREL, NORTHERN GANNET, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, WHITE IBIS, MISSISSIPPI KITE, COMMON MOORHEN, shorebirds, terns, MONK PARAKEET*, LEAST FLYCATCHER, LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, PURPLE MARTIN, and BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH.

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 14 and 15.

Eight NORTHERN SHOVELERS showed in Shearneck Pool at Bombay Hook NWR on Aug 16. A RUDDY DUCK was spotted at Tuckahoe State Park, Queen Anne's Co, MD on Aug 14. Other RUDDY DUCKS were at Hurlock Waste Water Treatment Plant, Dorchester Co, MD, on Aug 15.

WILSON'S STORM PETRELS were spotted on Aug 13 offshore from Chincoteague NWR, VA. A trip to Assateague Island, Worcester Co, MD, on Aug 14 reported an immature NORTHERN GANNET on the water and WILSON'S STORM PETRELS in the distant sky over the water.

An AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN was observed in the Little Blackwater River at Seward, Dorchester Co, MD on Aug 14.

A juvenile WHITE IBIS was seen in the Ten Mile Creek area of Little Seneca Creek Lake, Black Hill Regional Park, Montgomery Co, MD on Aug 16.

Three MISSISSIPPI KITES were seen over the Kings Park subdivision, Fairfax Co, VA on Aug 13 and another was seen in the same area on Aug 15. A MISSISSIPPI KITE was flying southwest of the intersection of routes 29 and 215, Fauquier Co, VA on Aug 16.

A COMMON MOORHEN was found at Swan Creek, Anne Arundel Co, MD, on Aug 12.

There are many shorebird reports. Notable locations for their migration include 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. Over 100 BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS were seen on Aug 16 adjacent to Edgewater Farm Lane, Kent Co, DE. A single BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER was on the south part of the polo fields along Hughes Road, Montgomery Co, MD on Aug 17. An AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER was spotted along Route 9 between Leipsic and Little Creek, Kent Co, DE on Aug 11. Four UPLAND SANDPIPERS were seen at the turf farm south of Hurlock Waste Water Treatment Plant, Dorchester Co, MD on Aug 15. UPLAND SANDPIPER reports have also come from the Cartanza Road area, near Route 9, Kent Co, DE with sightings on Aug 11, 15, and 16. An UPLAND SANDPIPER was seen southwest of the intersection of Route 85 and Oland Road, Frederick Co, MD on Aug 17. A HUDSONIAN GODWIT was in the south end of Sheariness Pool, Bombay Hook NWR on Aug 14. Two MARBLED GODWITS were seen at Mispillion Harbor, Sussex Co, DE on Aug 13. Twenty-six PECTORAL SANDPIPERS were among shorebirds at Rigby's Folly/Ferry Neck, Field 1, Talbot Co, MD on Aug 11. A BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER was reported along Route 9 between Leipsic and Little Creek, Kent Co, DE on Aug 11. A RUFF was spotted next to Broadkill Beach Road, Sussex Co, DE on Aug 13. Three WILSON'S PHALAROPES and two RED-NECKED PHALAROPES were reported from a trip to Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD on Aug 17, which included many shorebird sightings.

SANDWICH TERNS were seen at Bayside at Assateague Island, Worcester Co, MD on Aug 13 and 14 as were LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS. A GULL-BILLED TERN was spotted next to Route 9 between Leipsic and Little Creek, Kent Co, DE on Aug 11. A BLACK TERN was spotted close to the river in Williamsport, Washington Co, MD on Aug 17.

A possibly wild MONK PARAKEET* was seen at the Education Center at Woodland Beach, Kent Co, DE on Aug 16.

A LEAST FLYCATCHER was reported from a trip to Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD on Aug 17.

Sightings of the LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE continued with reports on Aug 13, 14, 15, and 17 near the new Hagerstown Shopping Center west of I-81 and the area of a drainage pond, Washington Co, MD.

A flock of PURPLE MARTINS was seen on Aug 12 north of Mt. Vernon, VA, heading down the Potomac River. The roost of PURPLE MARTINS in Chantilly, Fairfax Co, VA had a reported 600 to 1,000 of these birds on Aug 15.

A BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH was found at Southern Park baseball field, off Route 257 on Wilson Road, Charles Co, MD on Aug 15.

Scattered warbler sightings are beginning across our region and should increase in the coming weeks.

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.