

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 26, at 8:00 a.m.

Top birds this week are LITTLE EGRET* in DE and BLACK-HEADED GULL in MD.

Other birds of interest include WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL and other pelagic birds, GLOSSY IBIS, WHITE IBIS, MISSISSIPPI KITE, shorebirds, SANDWICH and BLACK TERNS, EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE*, CHIMNEY SWIFT, RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD, flycatchers including OLIVE-SIDED YELLOW-BELLIED, LEAST, and WESTERN KINGBIRD and warblers.

The LITTLE EGRET* was seen at varying spots in Shearneck Pool, Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE on Aug 23.

A BLACK-HEADED GULL in non-breeding plumage continues to be seen on the north side of Eagle Harbor at Trueman Point, south of Cedar River Park on the Patuxent River in MD, with the most recent report from Aug 23. 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.

The overnight pelagic trip out of Lewes, DE on Aug 22 found two WHITE-FACED STORM-PETRELS, 4 LEACH'S STORM-PETRELS, and 13 BRIDLED TERNS in Maryland waters and good numbers of CORY'S, AUDUBON'S, and GREATER SHEARWATERS.

Two GLOSSY IBISES were seen at Piney Run, Carroll Co, MD on Aug 20.

An immature WHITE IBIS was found on Aug 22, 24, and 25 at Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co, MD.

MISSISSIPPI KITES continued to be reported from several different locations this past week. There were reports from both the Waynewood and Kings Park areas of Fairfax Co, VA, with several reports from the latter where the birds were seen off of Braddock Rd on Victoria Rd near where it intersects with Thames St. Up to 4 MISSISSIPPI KITES were also seen at Piscataway Park, Prince George's Co, MD or nearby Hard Bargain Farm. The farm is private property, park at Piscataway Park and walk out the boardwalk.

Shorebird migration continues; be especially alert for juveniles. Water levels at Bombay Hook NWR have dropped significantly and birding there at high tide is the best bet.

An UPLAND SANDPIPER was reported from the Salisbury Airport, Wicomico Co, MD on Aug 20. An UPLAND SANDPIPER was seen at the Ocean City, Worcester Co, MD airport on Aug 24 and another was seen from Rt 13 north of Pocomoke City, MD that day. An AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER was seen on Aug 20 and 21 at a turf farm next to Wright's Market on Rt 50 west of Salisbury, Wicomico Co, MD. Another AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER was in Sheariness Pool, Bombay Hook NWR on Aug 21 and 25.

A HUDSONIAN GODWIT was in Sheariness Pool, Bombay Hook NWR on Aug 23. Two MARBLED GODWITS were seen on Skimmer Island, Ocean City, MD on Aug 20 and 24. A BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER was found in a dirt field about 1 mile outside Hurlock, Dorchester Co, MD on Aug 21.

Up to 3 SANDWICH TERNS were on Skimmer Island, Ocean City, MD on Aug 20, 23 and 24. Another SANDWICH TERN was in Tyaskin Park, Wicomico Co, MD on Aug 19.

Perhaps as many as 17 BLACK TERNS put on quite a show at the south end of Jug Bay on the Patuxent River, MD on Aug 24.

Two EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVES* were seen at South Point, Ocean City, MD on Aug 24.

Thousands of CHIMNEY SWIFTS are roosting in the chimney at Luther Jackson Middle School, Fairfax Co, VA; most recent report was on Aug 23.

An adult male RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD was coming to a feeder in Tracey's Landing, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Aug 21.

An OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was seen Aug 24 in Little Bennet Park, Montgomery Co, MD. Another OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was found at Finzel Swamp, Garrett Co, MD on Aug 21.

A YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER was found at the Rock Creek Park Maintenance Yard in Washington, DC on Aug 20 and 22; another was in Leesylvania State Park, Prince William Co, VA on Aug 24.

A LEAST FLYCATCHER was seen at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA on Aug 24. Another was at Hughes Hollow on Aug 25.

A WESTERN KINGBIRD was spotted on Aug 23 at the Sandy Hill Camp near North East, Cecil Co, MD.

Warbler migration is still a bit slow with reports of warblers at the usual hotspots, such as the Maintenance Yard in Rock Creek Park, DC and Monticello Park, Alexandria, VA. A GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER was in the Maintenance Yard on Aug 21. A first year MOURNING WARBLER was found off Military Road near Rock Creek Park on Aug 20.

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