

Voice of the Naturalist

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Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

Telephone: 301-652-1088 option 1

Reports (voice): 301-652-1088 option 2

(email): voice@AudubonNaturalist.org

(deadline): midnight Mondays

Compiler: Helen Patton

Sponsor: Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States

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Transcriber: Steve Cordle (_scordle@capaccess.org)

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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Top birds this week are MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD* in VA and WESTERN MEADOWLARK* in MD.

Other birds of interest include ANHINGA, TRICOLORED HERON, MERLIN, shorebirds, CORY'S SHEARWATER, PARASATIC and LONG-TAILED JAEGERs, terns, flycatchers, PHILADELPHIA VIREO, warblers, and LARK SPARROW.

A MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD* was spotted flying over the Eastern Shore of VA NWR, Northampton Co, VA on September 7. The bird was headed south.

A WESTERN MEADOWLARK*--only once before recorded in MD--was re-found during the week in Dorchester Co, south of Hurlock. It was with other meadowlarks in the southernmost field of a turf farm on the west side of Rte 381, just north of Rte 14.

A sighting of an ANHINGA was received from an observer in Spotsylvania Co, VA. The bird was flying over Marshall Park on September 4.

A TRICOLORED HERON was present September 6 and 8 at North Beach, Calvert Co, MD.

A MERLIN was seen at Triadelphia Reservoir in Montgomery/Howard Counties, MD on September 4.

An AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER and a BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER were spotted on a turf farm on New Design Road, Frederick Co, MD on September 6. The Murray Sod Farm on Ebenezer Road in Worcester Co, MD hosted four AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVERS on Sept 7 while three AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS were at the Hagerstown Airport, Washington Co, MD on the same day. A BLACK-BELLIED

PLOVER was spotted at the Hains Point Golf Course on September 6. Another BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER was at Sandy Point SP, Anne Arundel Co, MD on September 8.

A visit to Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD on September 8 observed 19 species of shorebirds, including PIPING PLOVER, RUDDY TURNSTONE, 416 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS, plus WHITE-RUMPED, BAIRD'S and BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS.

Two HUDSONIAN and four MARBLED GODWITS plus 31 AMERICAN AVOCETS were found at Craney Island, Portsmouth VA on September 4 followed by a WHIMBREL and WILSON'S PHALAROPE on September 5. The MARBLED GODWITS continue at Skimmer Island, Ocean City, Worcester Co, MD with a sighting of one on September 6 and two on September 7. A RED KNOT was present at Skimmer Island, Worcester Co, MD on September 7.

A RUDDY TURNSTONE and a RED-NECKED PHALAROPE were seen at North Branch, Allegany Co, MD on September 3. A RUDDY TURNSTONE plus a BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER were there on September 6. A RUDDY TURNSTONE was at the Hagerstown Airport, Washington Co, MD on September 6. One remaining RUDDY TURNSTONE was accompanied by a STILT SANDPIPER at North Branch on September 7.

On September 6, many observers gathered to watch for the effects of Tropical Storm Hanna. Species seen from the Ocean City Inlet, Worcester Co, MD included 9 Tern species including SANDWICH, BRIDLED and SOOTY plus a CORY'S SHEARWATER and PARASITIC JAEGER. A SABINE'S GULL was seen from Sandy Point SP, Anne Arundel Co, MD. More SOOTY TERNS were reported from Hains Point; Fort Washington, Prince George's Co, MD; Riley's Lock, Montgomery Co, MD; Nansemond River in Suffolk, VA; Pocomoke Sand Pits, Somerset Co, MD; Sandy Point SP and Herrington Harbour, Anne Arundel Co, MD and Lake Anna, Spotsylvania Co, VA. LONG-TAILED JAEGERs were noted at North Point SP, Baltimore Co, MD. Sightings of SANDWICH and SOOTY TERNS continued on September 7 with a report from Point Lookout, St. Mary's Co, MD. Also on September 7, there were PARASITIC and LONG-TAILED JAEGERs plus RED-NECKED PHALAROPES at the CBBT, Northampton Co, VA.

Flycatchers were on the move this week. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS were sighted Sept 3 at Sunset Beach Resort, Cape Charles, VA; a yard in Jarrettsville, Harford Co, MD on Sept 7 and a yard in Monrovia, Frederick Co, MD on September 8.

Reports of YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER came from Rock Creek Park, Sept 3; Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co, Sept 4; Finzel Swamp, Garrett Co, MD, Sept 5 and 7; a yard in Hyattstown, Montgomery Co, MD and Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA, Sept 7 and Kings Landing Park, Calvert Co, MD, Sept 8; .

PHILADELPHIA VIREOS were observed at Finzel Swamp on September 3; near Pocomoke City on September 5 and Huntley Meadows Park on September 7;

Warbler migration continues apace with reports from throughout the region. A BLUE-WINGED WARBLER was seen at Rocky Gap State Park, Allegany Co, MD and a GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER was noted at the Aspen Hill Recreation Area, Rockville, MD, on September 3. A BLUE-WINGED WARBLER was observed at Milltown Landing, Prince George's Co, MD on September 8. A GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER was seen at Rock Creek Park on September 5. A CAPE MAY WARBLER was at Fort McHenry NM,

Baltimore, MD and another was seen at Finzel Swamp on September 7. A YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, Subspecies Albilora, was seen at Maxwell Hall Park, Charles Co, MD on September 8. A BAY-BREASTED WARBLER was reported from Milford Mill Park, Baltimore Co, MD on September 3 while another BAY-BREASTED WARBLER was seen at Finzel Swamp on September 4. A CONNECTICUT WARBLER was seen near Pocomoke City on September 5 and another was at Cromwell Valley on September 7. A MOURNING WARBLER was noted Sept 4 at Milford Mill Park and another MOURNING WARBLER was seen at Spruce Creek Park, Nelson Co, VA on September 5.

A LARK SPARROW was observed at Sunset Beach Resort, Cape Charles, VA on September 3. Another LARK SPARROW was found on the Black Duck Trail at the Chincoteague NWR, VA during the week.

The BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER reported in last week's Voice to be at North Beach, Calvert Co, MD was in fact the bird found at North Branch, Allegany Co, MD.

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.