

# Voice of the Naturalist

Date: **9/16/2008**

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, September 16, at 8:00 a.m..

Top birds this week are BROAD-WINGED HAWKS.

Other birds of interest include BROWN PELICAN, SORA, shorebirds, SANDWICH TERN, RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, flycatchers, PHILADELPHIA VIREO, COMMON RAVEN, GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH, BREWSTER'S AND CONNECTICUT warblers.

Raptor migration is increasing. Particularly notable were BROAD-WINGED HAWKS: Two hundred at Washington Monument SP, Washington Co, MD on Sep 13, 206 at Cromwell Valley Park, Baltimore Co, MD on Sep 15, 208 at Snickers Gap near Leesburg, VA on Sep 15, 430 at Rockfish Gap near Waynesboro, VA on Sep 15, 497 at Harvey's Knob near Roanoke, VA on Sep 15, and 664 at the Ashland Nature Center west of Wilmington, DE on Sep 15.

A probable BROWN PELICAN was seen near Memorial Bridge, Washington, DC on Sep 9.

Sixteen SORAS and one LEAST BITTERN were found at Jug Bay, Patuxent River Park, Prince Georges Co, MD on Sep 13.

Shorebird migration is still in full swing. Two AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS were seen at the Murray Sod Farm on Ebenezer Road in northern Worcester Co, MD on Sep 10. Ten AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS and a RED KNOT were found on Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on Sep 12.

A PIPING PLOVER was seen on the 3rd street flats in Ocean City, Worcester Co, MD on Sep 9.

A visit to Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD on September 13 observed 20 species of shorebirds, including a RED KNOT, two BAIRD'S and one CURLEW SANDPIPER.

A BAIRD'S SANDPIPER was found on the Youghiogheny River flats, Garrett Co, MD on Sep 11 and Sep 13. Three other BAIRD'S were at North Branch, Garrett Co, MD on Sep 13. At least two and possibly four BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS and two BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS were on the Broadkill Beach road, Prime Hook NWR, Sussex Co, DE on Sep 11.

One hundred SANDWICH TERNS were seen at Chincoteague NWR on Sep 12.

An adult RED-HEADED WOODPECKER was spotted at the impoundments upstream of Pennyfield Lock, C&O Canal, Montgomery Co, MD on Sep 14.

Migrant flycatchers continue in good numbers across the region. Two OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS were sighted on Manassas Battlefield NP, Prince William Co, VA on Sep 13. Another OLIVE-SIDED was seen near the Nature Center, Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC on Sep 11.

A YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER was in the Nature Center/Maintenance Yard area of Rock Creek Park on Sep 12 and Sep 13. An ALDER FLYCATCHER was found in Cromwell Valley Park on Sep 9. A LEAST FLYCATCHER was seen in Terrapin Park, Queen Anne's Co, MD on Sep 13 and another was in the Nature Center area in Rock Creek Park on Sep 11.

A WESTERN KINGBIRD was seen at Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland Co, VA on Sep 14.

Single PHILADELPHIA VIREOS were found near the Youghiogheny River flats on Sep 11; Lake Needwood, Montgomery Co, MD on Sep 10, Rock Creek Park Maintenance Yard on Sep 11; Elk Neck SP, Cecil Co, MD on Sep 14 and Cromwell Valley Park on Sep 15.

A flock of seven COMMON RAVENS flew over Banshee Reeks, Loudoun Co, VA on Sep 13.

A GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH was seen at Carey Run Sanctuary, Garrett Co, MD on Sep 10.

Warbler migration continues albeit somewhat slowly. BREWSTER'S WARBLER hybrids made several appearances. One was in Monticello Park, Alexandria, VA on Sep 11. One was in Little Bennett Regional Park, Montgomery Co, MD on Sep 10 and another possible Brewster's was seen in North Laurel, Prince Georges Co, MD on Sep 10. The only reported LAWRENCE'S WARBLER was a bird in PA just north of Finzel, MD on Sep 14.

An adult CONNECTICUT WARBLER was found near the entrance to the Woodcock Meadow in Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA on Sep 14.

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](mailto: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.