

## Voice of the Naturalist

Date: **9/22/09**

Coverage: MD/DC/VA/DE

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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.

This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report was completed Tuesday, September 22, at 11:30 am.

Top bird this week is SWAINSON'S HAWK in DE.

Other birds of interest include AMERICAN BITTERN, hawks, KING RAIL, SANDHILL CRANE, shorebirds, BLACK-HEADED GULL, BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO, YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, flycatchers, PHILADELPHIA VIREO, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, thrushes, warblers, SUMMER TANAGER, sparrows, ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, and PURPLE FINCH.

An immature SWAINSON'S HAWK flew over the Cape Henlopen Hawkwatch, Lewes, DE, on Sept 19.

An AMERICAN BITTERN was spotted Sept 19 at the Gap Run pond at Sky Meadows State Pk, Fauquier Co, VA.

There was a great deal of action at a number of area hawkwatches this past week. BROAD-WINGED HAWKS were seen in large numbers at most of the hawk watches in the area. On Sept 16, 4,631 were reported from the Rockfish Gap Hawkwatch, Waynesboro, VA; 2,901 were reported from the Snickers Gap Hawkwatch, Clarke Co, VA, on Sept 18; and 2,024 were seen there on the 21st. However, BROAD-WING HAWK migration wasn't limited to hawkwatches as approximately a thousand passed over the Wolf Run Raptor Refuge in Fairfax Station, Fairfax Co, VA, in less than an hour on Sept 19.

A very early GOLDEN EAGLE was seen Sept 19 from the dock at Rigby's Folly, Ferry Neck, Talbot Co, MD. One was also reported from Taylor's Island, Dorchester Co, MD the same day.

On Sept 16, 240 AMERICAN KESTRELS, 34 MERLINS, and 8 PEREGRINE FALCONS flew over the Kiptopeke St Pk Hawkwatch, Northampton Co, VA and on Sept 17, 270 MERLINS flew over the Hawkwatch. The 17 PEREGRINE FALCONS that flew over the Kiptopeke St Pk Hawkwatch on Sept 21 tied their best flight of the season to date. On Sept 19 two

PEREGRINE FALCONS flew around the Suntrust building at the intersection of E. Byrd and S. 7th Street, Richmond, VA.

Three KING RAILS put on a show during the regular weekly bird walk at Huntley Meadows Pk, Fairfax Co, VA on Sept 21.

Two SANDHILL CRANES were seen soaring overhead at Brightwell Mill, Amherst Co, VA on Sept 19.

Among the many shorebirds seen on the Sept 19 trip to Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD were 13 AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS. Four AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS and a BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER were found Sept 15 at the Tull Road Turf Farm, Worcester Co, MD. Two juvenile AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS and a STILT SANDPIPER were found Sept 17 and 19 at North Branch C&O Canal, Allegany Co, MD. A BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER was found in the south dredge pond at Swan Creek, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Sept 17.

On Sept 16 a WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER was seen on the north side of the bridge at Browns Bridge Rd, Howard Co, MD; there were three there on the 19th. A BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER was on the polo fields along Hughes Rd in Montgomery Co, MD on Sept 16.

A BLACK-HEADED GULL was photographed on Sept 20 at the Anacostia Boathouse near the 11th Street Bridge, SE DC.

A BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO was found Sept 15 at Bayside, Assateague Island, Worcester Co, MD. One was also found at Rock Run Mill, Susquehanna SP, Cecil Co, MD, on Sept 18.

Flycatcher sightings seemed to come from everywhere. An OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was seen Sept 15 on the northeast side of Purnell Crossing Rd, Worcester Co, MD at the border with Wicomico Co, and one flew over the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch on Sept 15. Another was seen Sept 17 at Schoolhouse Pond, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's Co, MD. An OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was found from Sept 16 through the 20th on a snag at the Willow Fall barn in Cromwell Valley Park, Baltimore Co, MD. An OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was seen in Rock Creek Park on Sept 20. It was on a dead snag and seen from the horse trail as it enters the woods, almost at the junction with the longer trail to the Maintenance Yard.

A YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER was seen near the stables at Rock Creek Park, NW DC on Sept 15. On Sept 19 both YELLOW-BELLIED and LEAST FLYCATCHERS were seen in the maintenance yard at Rock Creek Park and at Cromwell Valley Pk. A YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER was found again at Brookside Gardens/Wheaton Regional Park, Montgomery Co, MD on Sep 16. A LEAST FLYCATCHER was observed at Morgan Run, Benrose Lane, Carroll Co, MD on Sep 18. There was also a LEAST FLYCATCHER at Leesylvania SP, Prince William Co, VA on Sept 19. Two LEAST FLYCATCHERS were reported from the Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area, Carroll Co, MD on the 20th.

An ALDER FLYCATCHER and a PHILADELPHIA VIREO were found Sept 17 at the Brighton Dam on Triadelphia Reservoir, Montgomery Co, MD.

PHILADELPHIA VIREOS turned up at several locations this past week including the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, Howard Co, MD on Sept 15, at Millford Mills Park, Baltimore Co, MD on the 17th and 19th, and one on Sept 18 at Morgan Run, Benrose Lane, Carroll Co, MD. Some of the other sightings included Cromwell Valley Park on Sept 19 and 20, Russell

Rd in Garrett Co, MD on the 19th, and on Sept 19, 20 and 21 at the maintenance yard at Rock Creek Park.

A RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH visited a feeder in a yard in Gaithersburg, Montgomery Co, MD, on Sept 18.

Migrating thrushes were seen in several locations including a GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH on Sept 19 in a yard in Colesville, Montgomery Co, MD and two in Rock Creek Park on Sept 20. A BICKNELL'S THRUSH was heard along with over 200 GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSHES at Finzel Swamp, Garrett Co, MD early the morning of Sept 19.

A wide variety of warblers seemed to be almost everywhere this past week. However, they were most commonly found in the normal hotspots such as Monticello Park, Alexandria, VA, several locations in Rock Creek Park, NW DC, and Schoolhouse Pond, Upper Marlboro, Prince George's Co, MD. Among the highlights were a GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER on Sept 16 at Little Bennett Regional Park, Montgomery Co, MD; a MOURNING WARBLER at the ridge in Rock Creek Park on Sept 17, and one was at the lower area of the Dog Run there on the 21st. Another MOURNING WARBLER was seen at Cromwell Valley Park on Sept 19 and 20.

A SUMMER TANAGER was seen at Rock Creek Park on Sept 19.

A LINCOLN'S SPARROW was seen at Cromwell Valley Park on Sept 19. A WHITE-THROATED SPARROW was found at Occoquan Bay NWR, on the 20th.

Small flocks of ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS popped up all over the area.

A PURPLE FINCH was heard and seen Sept 19 at Oregon Ridge Pk, Baltimore Co, MD.

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](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.