

Voice of the Naturalist

Date: 9/29/09

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 29, at 5:30 pm.

Top bird this week is WESTERN KINGBIRD in MD and VA.

Other birds of interest include WHITE IBIS, hawks, shorebirds, BLACK TERN, EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE, BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO, flycatchers, PHILADELPHIA VIREO, thrushes, warblers, SUMMER TANAGER, sparrows, ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, and DICKCISSEL.

A WESTERN KINGBIRD was seen from the Sunset Beach Inn, Northampton Co, VA on September 25. The bird was relocated later in the day near Kiptopeke State Park. Another WESTERN KINGBIRD was perched on a dead snag on Collins Road off Muddy Creek Road, Anne Arundel Co, MD on September 29.

One adult and two juvenile WHITE IBIS were spotted at Bayside, Assateague Island, Worcester Co, MD on September 25.

With a few exceptions, the action at the area hawkwatches was subdued from last week with counts in the hundreds rather than thousands. The Harvey's Knob Hawkwatch recorded 1409 BROAD-WINGED HAWKS on September 23. The Mendota Hawkwatch recorded 2,014 BROAD-WINGED HAWKS on September 24. The Cromwell Valley Hawkwatch had a record breaking day on September 25 with a BROAD-WINGED HAWK count of 2,391. Plus Nine hundred BROAD-WINGED HAWKS passed over Columbia, Howard CO, MD also on September 25.

Seven eagles including six BALD EAGLES and one GOLDEN EAGLE were observed in a hay meadow in Blue Grass, Highland Co, VA on September 24.

A PIPING PLOVER was picked out of a small group of SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS at the north end of Cape Charles, Northampton Co, VA on September 27. An AMERICAN GOLDEN

PLOVER and a PIPING PLOVER were on the beach near the Back Bay NWR refuge/False Cape boundary on September 25.

On September 28 and 29 both a WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER and a BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER were seen in the north cell at Swan Creek, Anne Arundel Co, MD.

A BLACK TERN was seen at Violette's Lock, Montgomery Co, MD on September 23.

Three EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVES* were seen in downtown South Boston, Halifax Co, VA on September 28.

A BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO was at Leesylvania SP, Prince William Co, VA, seen on September 26.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS were observed throughout the region during the week.

An OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was seen September 25 from the Sunset Beach Inn, Northampton Co, VA. A YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER was seen near the stables at Rock Creek Park, NW DC on Sept 23. Also on September 23 a YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER was seen at Rock Run Mill, Susquehanna State Park, Harford Co, MD. A YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER was found on September 24 at Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA. A bright YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER was re-found at Brookside Gardens, Montgomery Co, MD on September 25 and seen again on September 28. One more YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER was noted at Leesylvania SP on September 26. A YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER was at Greenbelt Lake, Prince George's Co, MD on September 28. An ALDER FLYCATCHER was seen at Hains Point, DC in the trees around the maintenance yard on September 27.

A PHILADELPHIA VIREO turned up at Cromwell Valley Park, Baltimore Co, MD on September 26. Another PHILADELPHIA VIREO was seen in the Greenbelt/Lake Artemesia area while yet another was at Leesylvania SP on the same day. Another PHILADELPHIA VIREO was at Rock Creek Park, DC on September 27.

SWAINSON'S and GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSHES were seen at Monticello Park, Alexandria VA on September 25. Both thrushes were also seen at Cromwell Valley Park on the same day. Another GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH was seen at the Patuxent NWR, Prince George's Co, MD on September 25. Both SWAINSON'S and GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSHES were seen on a visit to the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in northwestern Loudon Co, VA on September 26. A SWAINSON'S THRUSH was at Morgan Run, Carroll Co, MD on September 27. A GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH was at Brookside Gardens, Montgomery Co, MD on September 28.

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, Rock Creek Park, NW DC and Cromwell Valley SP. Among the highlights were CAPE MAY WARBLERS at Aspen Hill, Montgomery Co, MD on September 24; the Sunset Beach Inn, Northampton Co, VA on September 25; Huntley Meadows Park, Fairfax Co, VA also on September 25; BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER at Parkview Trail, Baltimore Co, MD on September 25; BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS on the Quarantine Road path of Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA on September 24; Little Falls Parkway, Montgomery Co, MD on September 25 and a backyard in Silver Spring, Montgomery Co, MD also on September 25; CONNECTICUT WARBLERS at Gambrill SP, Frederick Co MD on September 23; Governor's Bridge, Prince George's Co. MD on September 28; MOURNING WARBLER on the campus of

Flint Hill School in Oakton, Fairfax Co, VA on September 28. On September 26, Leesylvania SP hosted CAPE MAY, BLACKBURNIAN, BAY-BREASTED and CONNECTICUT WARBLERS.

A SUMMER TANAGER was seen at Cromwell Valley Park on Sept 22. A SUMMER TANAGER visited a yard in Rockville, Montgomery Co, MD on September 23.

A LARK SPARROW was flushed from the road at Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach, VA on September 28. A LINCOLN'S SPARROW was seen at Cromwell Valley Park on Sept 26. Three LINCOLN'S SPARROWS appeared in a Howard Co, MD yard on September 28.

Small numbers of ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS popped up all over the area. A DICKCISSEL was seen at Bayside, Assateague Island NS, Worcester CO, MD on September 25 and 26.

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