

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist
Date: 5/8/2018
Coverage: MD/DC/N. VA/C. & S. DE/WV panhandle
Reports, comments, questions: voice@anshome.org
Compiler(s) Bob Hartman
Sponsor: Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central
Atlantic States (independent of NAS)
Transcriber: Steve Cordle

Please consider joining ANS, especially if you are a regular user of the Voice (Senior \$35; Individual \$50; Family \$65; Nature Steward \$100; Audubon Advocate \$200). The membership number is 301-652-9188, option 12; the address is 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815; and the web site is <http://www.anshome.org>.

This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report covers the week starting Tuesday, May 1, and was completed on Tuesday, June 8 at about 11:00 a.m.

Information on noteworthy birds during this week is presented below in taxonomic order, as set forth in the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist for North and Middle American birds, as revised through the 57th Supplement (July 2016).

TOP BIRDS THIS WEEK: ANHINGA in MD, MISSISSIPPI KITE in VA, RUFF in DE, BREWSTER'S WARBLER (GOLDEN-WINGED/BLUE-WINGED hybrid) in DC and MD, and CLAY-COLORED SPARROW in MD

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST: TRUMPETER SWAN, CANVASBACK, REDHEAD, RED-NECKED GREBE, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, WHITE IBIS, SANDHILL CRANE, WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, PHILADELPHIA VIREO, GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH, GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER, MOURNING WARBLER, CAPE MAY WARBLER, CERULEAN WARBLER, DICKCISSEL

TOP BIRDS

On May 7, five ANHINGAs were seen flying over Timonium MD, Baltimore Co.

A single MISSISSIPPI KITE was spotted on May 6, flying over the Belle Haven picnic area of Dyke Marsh in Alexandria VA. The next day, a MISSISSIPPI KITE (maybe the same bird) was seen over Vale and Woodway Streets in Alexandria.

On May 3, Prime Hook NWR (Sussex Co DE) hosted a RUFF.

A BREWSTER'S WARBLER (GOLDEN-WINGED/BLUE-WINGED hybrid) was spotted May 1 in the Maintenance Yard of Rock Creek Park, NW DC. Another BREWSTER'S WARBLER was seen May 5 along Chestnut Grove Rd in Garrett Co MD.

On May 7, a CLAY-COLORED SPARROW was spotted in Frostburg MD, Allegany Co.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

At least two TRUMPETER SWANS were reported May 5 in Anne Arundel Co MD, along Owensville Rd (MD255) about 0.5 km W of Muddy Creek Rd (MD468). On May 1 & 5, a single late CANVASBACK was present at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (Horsehead), Queen Anne's Co MD. Also on May 1 & 5, a late REDHEAD was seen at Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co MD, and another REDHEAD was seen in Oakland MD (Garrett Co) on May 5.

A very late RED-NECKED GREBE was spotted May 4 along Ellerslie Rd in Clarke Co VA. AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were present in Dorchester Co MD on May 5, one at Blackwater NWR, and 4 at Bishop's Head, at little farther south. At the east end of the causeway to Chincoteague NWR (Accomack Co VA), 3 WHITE IBIS were seen May 5. A SANDHILL CRANE was seen May 5 in Garrett Co MD.

Sinepuxent Bay, in West Ocean City MD (Worcester Co), hosted an early WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER on May 5.

A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE continued May 6 at Mutton Hunk Fen in Accomack Co VA.

A PHILADELPHIA VIREO was seen May 2 along Hite Hollow Rd in Augusta Co VA.

All of the expected migrants have arrived, some in seemingly greater numbers than usual. In particular, GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSHes appear to be having a very good spring.

In addition to the GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS at expected locations, one seen May 5 along Deep Branch Rd in Sussex Co DE may have been a bit off-course. The apparent first MOURNING WARBLER to arrive in the area didn't quite make it here within the official time window; it was seen early this morning (May 8) at Lake Artemesia in Prince George's Co MD. Two additional species that seem to have shown up in surprisingly high numbers are CAPE MAY and CERULEAN WARBLERS.

A few early DICKCISSELS were seen: one May 4 in a yard on Cavey Lane, Howard Co MD; one May 5 along Harrison Road, Fauquier Co VA; and two more on May 7, one in a yard in Anne Arundel Co MD, the other singing at Mutton Hunk Fen.

This report was based on reports on the DE, MD, VA, and WV list servers via the ABA Internet links, and on eBird records.

The Audubon Sanctuary Shop (301-652-3606, <http://anshome.org/naturalist-shop>) is an excellent source for guidebooks and many other nature-related titles.

To report bird sightings, e-mail your report to voice@anshome.org. Please post reports before midnight Monday, identify the county as well as the state, and include your name and a Tuesday morning contact, either e-mail or phone.

Thank you for your interest, and enjoy the birds.

*Of interest to the applicable records committee