

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist
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Coverage: MD/DC/VA/central and southern DE/WV panhandle
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This is the Voice of the Naturalist, a service of the Audubon Naturalist Society. This report covers the week starting Tuesday, May 22, and was completed on Tuesday, May 29, at 9:00 a.m.

Information on noteworthy birds is presented below in taxonomic order, as set forth in the American Ornithological Society Checklist for North and Middle American Birds, as revised through the 58th Supplement (July 2017).

TOP BIRDS: BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK* in VA, BAR-TAILED GODWIT* in VA, RUFF in DE.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST: lingering waterfowl, HORNED GREBE, COMMON GALLINULE, PIPING PLOVER, UPLAND SANDPIPER, WHIMBREL, RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, BLACK TERN, RED-THROATED LOON, ANHINGA, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, BROWN PELICAN, LEAST BITTERN, WHITE IBIS, WHITE-FACED IBIS, MISSISSIPPI KITE, OLIVE-SIDED and ALDER FLYCATCHER, CLIFF SWALLOW, BICKNELL'S and HERMIT THRUSH, GRASSHOPPER and LINCOLN'S SPARROW, SWAINSON'S and WILSON'S WARBLER, SUMMER Tanager, DICKCISSEL.

TOP BIRDS

Seven BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCKS* showed up at Lake Louisa, in Louisa Co, VA on May 26, to the delight of local birders.

A winter-plumaged BAR-TAILED GODWIT*, first seen on May 15, was seen again throughout the week, most recently on May 28, at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA.

A RUFF, in non-breeding plumage but showing some black on the neck and breast, was spotted in Raymond Pool at Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE from May 24-27.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

A wide variety of lingering waterfowl were seen around the area this week. A single BRANT was seen at The Point at Cape Henlopen SP in Sussex Co, DE May 27, hanging out at the jetty. Eight TRUMPETER SWANS continued in Harwood, Anne Arundel Co, MD on May 23, and continuing TUNDRA SWANS were seen at Kinder Farm Park, Anne Arundel Co, MD from May 22 through 28 and another at Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach, VA on May 24 and 27.

Individuals of many duck species remained throughout the area as well during the week, including a BLUE-WINGED TEAL at Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach, VA on May 24, a NORTHERN PINTAIL at Patterson Park, Baltimore Co, MD as late as May 28, a GREATER SCAUP at East Potomac Park-Haines Point SW DC on May 26, a pair of LESSER SCAUP in Harford Co, MD on May 22, a RING-NECKED DUCK at Lake Holiday, Frederick Co, VA on May 22, as well as a SURF SCOTER and LONG-TAILED DUCK there the same day, a BUFFLEHEAD at the C&O Canal-Riley's Lock on May 22, and a female COMMON MERGANSER at Plains Mill Rd, Rockingham Co, VA on May 23.

A late HORNED GREBE in full breeding plumage showed nicely at a small pond near Rt. 7, Loudoun Co, VA on May 22, while another was seen in the Potomac River at Newburg, Charles Co, MD on May 23, and still another was seen in the Anacostia River at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, Prince George's Co, MD on May 24. Another in breeding plumage was seen at North Beach, Calvert Co, MD also on May 24.

On May 22 a COMMON GALLINULE was spotted at Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach, VA, and was seen again on May 23 and 24. Another was seen at Bles Park, Loudoun Co, VA on May 25 and 27.

A PIPING PLOVER was heard and then seen by a birder at Bombay Hook NWR-Raymond Pool, Kent Co, DE on May 24.

On May 25 a single UPLAND SANDPIPER was spotted flying and poking around in a fenced-in area at Hamilton Farms, Garrett Co, MD.

While the majority of WHIMBRELS headed north last week, late migrants on May 22 included the two seen at Battery Island, Harford Co, MD, 22 seen from North Point SP, Baltimore Co, MD and nine seen at Oakington, Harford Co, MD. One was still lingering at Grandview Nature Preserve, Hampton Co, VA on May 26.

A RED-NECKED PHALAROPE was scoped in a dredge cell at Swan Creek Wetland-Cox Creek DMCF, Anne Arundel Co, MD on May 22, and seen again on May 24, 25 and 29. A beautiful female RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, in full breeding plumage, was discovered at a small pond in Amherst Co, VA on May 25.

A lone BLACK TERN was reported flying over the marsh at Lewes Beach in Sussex Co, DE on May 23, while another showed up at Swan Creek Wetland-Cox Creek DMCF, Anne

Arundel Co, MD on May 24 and a pair were seen at Assateague Island NS, Worcester Co, MD on May 26.

Late RED-THROATED LOONS were seen in widely scattered locations, with single birds at Rudee Inlet, Virginia Beach, VA on May 22, another at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on May 23, and on May 24 individuals were spotted at Harwood and Annapolis in Anne Arundel Co, MD as well as one in Ocean City, Worcester Co, MD.

On May 22 an ANHINGA was seen flying across I-95 in Colonial Heights, VA, and on May 24 a pair were seen in flight over Watkin's Pond-King Farm Stream Park, Montgomery Co, MD. On May 25 and 26, one was lingering at Sunset View Lake (private) in Augusta Co, VA. Another was seen on May 26 at the Adams Grove beaver swamp in Southampton Co, VA.

Four AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS continued at Hog Island WMA, Surry Co, VA on May 23. A lone BROWN PELICAN was resting on rocks below Conowingo Dam, on the Harford/Cecil Co border in MD on May 23 and 24.

A LEAST BITTERN remained hidden for long periods in the cattails and was seen taking short flights across a pond at Hidden Swamp, Albemarle Co, VA on May 23.

Eight WHITE IBIS were reported flying with a flock of Glossy Ibis at Woodland Beach WA-Taylor's Gut, Kent Co, DE on May 27. A WHITE-FACED IBIS continued at Green Dumpster Rd. in Somerset Co, MD on May 24.

MISSISSIPPI KITES are being seen in good numbers this spring. On May 22, two were reported from Magothy Bay Natural Area Preserve, Northampton Co, VA. One was seen at Fort Washington, Prince George's Co, MD and another at Font Hill Wetland Park, Howard Co, MD, both on May 24. One was seen circling over a field north of the visitor center at Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR, Northampton Co, VA also on May 24, while two were seen there on May 28. On May 25, one was spotted flying over a home in Anne Arundel Co, MD while two others flew by the Fort Smallwood Hawkwatch in Anne Arundel Co, MD. Two MISSISSIPPI KITES were seen flying overhead in Ashburn, Loudoun Co, VA, also on May 25, while one was seen there on May 27.

An OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was seen at Patuxent Research Refuge-Central Tract (private), Prince George's Co, MD on May 22, and another was seen perched on a snag in a yard in Ellicott City, Howard Co, MD on May 26. An ALDER FLYCATCHER was heard singing near the tip of East Potomac Park-Haines Point, SW DC on May 23, and another was heard singing its "way-be-o" song twice from a hedgerow at Hughes Hollow-McKee Beshers WMA, Montgomery Co, MD on May 24. Another ALDER FLYCATCHER was reported from the Old Legislative Rd. area of Allegany Co, MD on May 24 and 25.

A single CLIFF SWALLOW was seen flying south over the eastern bay at Big Water Farm (private), Dorchester Co, MD on May 22.

A BICKNELL'S THRUSH was seen, heard, and photographed at Terrapin Nature Park, Queen Anne's Co, MD on May 23. A late lingering HERMIT THRUSH was seen at Lower Senate Park, NE DC on May 23 and 24.

A GRASSHOPPER SPARROW continues to be seen at Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, NE DC, with sightings on May 22 and 24. A LINCOLN'S SPARROW was spotted bathing in a stream at Mount Pleasant Farm, Howard Co, MD on May 24.

A SWAINSON'S WARBLER was heard singing and briefly seen in Branchville, Southampton Co, VA on May 26. An adult male WILSON'S WARBLER was spotted at Sunset Park in Ocean City, Worcester Co, MD on May 24.

SUMMER TANAGERS showed up at the C&O Canal-Pennyfield Lock, Montgomery Co, MD on May 23, 24, and 27 and at Soldier's Delight NEA, Baltimore Co, MD on May 25.

DICKCISSELS were reported from several areas this week, with one at the Oaks Landfill (private), Montgomery Co, MD on May 22, one at Little Island Park, Virginia Beach, VA, on May 23, four or five at the Underwood Rd. area of Howard Co, MD on May 24 and 26, and three seen at Bristoe Station Battlefield, Prince William Co, VA on May 24, 25, 26, and 28. Another DICKCISSEL showed well at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Prince George's Co, MD on May 26, and at Passwaters Farm Rd. in Sussex Co, DE, a male was seen on May 26 and 27.

This week's report was based on reports on the DE, MD, VA, and WV list servers, eBird records and various birding pages on Facebook.

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, e-mail or phone.

Thank you for your interest, and enjoy the birds.

*Of interest to the applicable state records committee