

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist  
Date: 6/26/2018  
Coverage: MD/DC/VA/central and southern DE/WV panhandle  
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Atlantic States (independent of NAS)  
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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, June 19, and was completed on Tuesday, June 26, at 8:00 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:** GREAT BLUE HERON (White Form) in MD, ROSEATE SPOONBILL\* in MD

**OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST:** lingering waterfowl, NORTHERN BOBWHITE, HORNED GREBE, SORA, SANDHILL CRANE, shorebirds, gulls and terns, loons, ANHINGA, LEAST BITTERN, YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, MISSISSIPPI KITE, COMMON RAVEN, BOBOLINK, BLUE GROSBEAK, DICKCISSEL.

### **TOP BIRDS**

A GREAT BLUE HERON, white form ("GREAT WHITE HERON"), was found on June 21 feeding in a flooded field on the north side of Liberty Rd (Rt. 26), about a ¼ mile east of the intersection with MD 194 right near Israel Creek, in Frederick Co, MD. It was seen again on June 23 and 25, in the same general area.

A ROSEATE SPOONBILL\*, first found on June 17, was seen every day throughout the week, in the marsh at North Beach, Calvert Co, MD, most recently on June 23. It was not seen at all on

June 24, but one showed up at Blackwater NWR, Dorchester Co, MD, across the Chesapeake Bay from that site, on June 24 and was later seen flying south, leading to speculation that it was the same bird. It was not relocated.

### **OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST**

Waterfowl lingering into summer included an AMERICAN BLACK DUCK in the marsh at North Beach, Calvert Co, MD on June 21-24, and another at the Washington Sailing Marina, SW DC on June 21 and 24. A survey of Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD on June 21, turned up a male GREEN-WINGED TEAL, a female GREATER SCAUP, a pair of WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS, and four LONG-TAILED DUCKS. A male SURF SCOTER was a surprising find at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA on June 21, while two pairs of SURF SCOTERS were seen at Big Water Farm (private) in Queen Anne's Co, MD on June 24, and a male BLACK SCOTER was spotted at the marsh at North Beach in Calvert Co, MD on June 23. A continuing female BUFFLEHEAD was seen again at the Konterra Dr fields and ponds (restricted access), Prince George's Co, MD on June 21. RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were seen at Allens Fresh, Charles Co, MD and at Pleasure House Point Natural Area, Virginia Beach, VA, both on June 21.

HORNED GREBES were seen at the North Beach fishing pier, Calvert Co and at Claiborne Landing, Dorchester Co, both in MD on June 24.

A NORTHERN BOBWHITE was seen and heard on a path through the apple orchard at Homestead Farm (restricted access), in Montgomery Co, MD on June 22.

A SORA continued to be seen at the Shenandoah Wetlands in Augusta Co, VA on June 23.

A pair of SANDHILL CRANES were seen on private property in Broadway, Rockingham Co, VA on June 20, 22, and 24.

Shorebirds seen this week included a SEMIPALMATED PLOVER in the parking lot at Lilypons Water Gardens, Frederick Co, MD on June 23, and on June 21, the survey of Poplar Island in Talbot Co, MD turned up two DUNLIN, two LEAST SANDPIPERS, seven WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS, and 26 SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS. A WILSON'S PHALAROPE was seen at Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE on June 25.

A BONAPARTE'S GULL was seen on Poplar Island, in Talbot Co, MD and another at Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE, both on June 21. An adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was seen at Poplar Island, Talbot Co, MD on June 19, and as many as seven LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were seen at the Salisbury Landfill, Wicomico Co, MD on June 21.

Two COMMON TERNS were seen at Little Creek Wildlife Area, Kent Co, DE on June 21. Another late or lingering COMMON TERN was seen flying up the Potomac River, at 8:15 am, from Violette's Lock, C&O Canal, Montgomery Co, MD on June 23. A GULL-BILLED TERN was seen at Little Creek Wildlife Area, Kent Co, DE on June 21.

On June 21, a possibly injured COMMON LOON in basic plumage, was spotted oceanside at Dewey Beach, Sussex Co, DE. On June 22, a continuing RED-THROATED LOON was seen again on Little Seneca Lake, Black Hill Regional Park, Montgomery Co, MD.

Two ANHINGAS were seen at Carson Wetland, Prince George Co, VA on June 19.

A secretive LEAST BITTERN was spotted again at the Shenandoah Wetlands in Augusta Co, VA on June 23. An adult YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON was seen standing at a nest in New Windsor, Carroll Co, MD on June 22.

On June 20, birders enjoyed watching a (continuing) MISSISSIPPI KITE as it flew in from the Fort Marcy area and over mansions just north of Chain Bridge, from the C&O Canal National Historic Park, NW DC.

A COMMON RAVEN was seen flying from a lamp post on the bridge under the GW Parkway, C&O Canal-Chain Bridge area NW DC, on June 19. Also on June 19, two Common Ravens were spotted as they soared on a thermal heading south, from the C&O Canal National Historic Park, NW DC. On June 20, a continuing COMMON RAVEN was heard calling at Terrapin Nature Park, Queen Anne's Co, MD.

Two different male BOBOLINKS were seen and heard at the Clifton Institute-Adams Pasture area (restricted access), in Fauquier Co, VA, on June 19. On June 25, five BOBOLINKS were seen at Fairhill NRMA in Cecil Co, MD.

A BLUE GROSBEAK was reported from Russell Rd, Garrett Co, MD on June 21.

DICKCISSEL reports this week came from Waverly, Sussex Co, VA and Bristoe Station Battlefield, Prince William Co, VA on June 19, from the Oaks Landfill, Montgomery Co, MD on June 20, and on June 21, 23, and 25 from the Underwood Rd area, Howard Co, MD.

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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](mailto: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