

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist  
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Coverage: MD/DC/N. VA/C. & S. 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, June 26, and was completed on Tuesday, July 3, at about 8:00 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: GREAT WHITE HERON (white morph GREAT BLUE HERON) in MD, ROSEATE SPOONBILL\* in DE & MD, FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER\* IN DE

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST: TUNDRA SWAN, late waterfowl, WHITE IBIS, MISSISSIPPI KITE, late shorebirds, BONAPARTE'S GULL, YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

#### TOP BIRDS

From June 29 to July 1, a GREAT WHITE HERON (white morph GREAT BLUE HERON) was present in Frederick Co MD at Israel Creek, around MD26 just south of MD94.

On June 26 & July 2, the ROSEATE SPOONBILL\* continued at North Beach in Calvert Co MD. Another ROSEATE SPOONBILL\* continued July 1 in New Castle Co DE, at the Ashton Tract of Augustine Wildlife Area. Based on plumage differences in photos, these appear to be two different individuals.

Also in New Castle Co DE, a FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER\* was seen June 29 at the Ashton Tract.

## OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

On June 26, the TUNDRA SWAN continued at Kinder Farm Park, Anne Arundel Co MD.

Although most of the late ducks seem to have left the area, a few remained: 2 NORTHERN PINTAILS, one along Green Dumpster Rd in Deal Island WMA, Somerset Co MD, and another in Patterson Park (Baltimore city) on June 30; 3 SURF SCOTERS in MD on June 29, one in Talbot Co at the mouth of the Miles River, two more at Big Water Farm (private) in Queen Anne's Co; RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co VA, two June 29 and one July 1; finally, a number of RUDDY DUCKS, up to 10 at Hurlock WWTP (Dorchester Co MD on June 26 & 29), 6 at Swan Creek Wetland (Anne Arundel Co MD) on June 29, 3 at Big Stone Beach (Kent Co DE) on June 30, and one along the Baltimore city Waterfront Promenade at Fells Point on July 1.

A RED-THROATED LOON was seen June 27 in Accomack Co VA at CHN East CE - MS 14 (near the MD border). Several single COMMON LOONS were reported: one June 26 at Chincoteague NWR along Beach Access Road; one June 26 in Anne Arundel Co MD at Lake Rivera Cove; one June 27 in Frederick Co VA at Lake Holiday (restricted access); one June 28 in Rocky Gap SP, Allegany SP MD; and one June 30 at Big Water Farm. On June 27, North Beach (Anne Arundel Co MD) hosted a single HORNED GREBE.

A WHITE IBIS was seen July 2 at Chincoteague NWR.

Several MISSISSIPPI KITES were seen in VA: two June 26 over Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station, in Fairfax Co; one June 27 over the Prince William County Landfill; and one July 1 at Lake Mercer, Fairfax Station, in Fairfax Co.

A few shorebirds were seen. One SEMIPALMATED PLOVER was present June 26, two June 30, and one July 1 at Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co DE; one was present June 30 at Big Stone Beach; and five were seen July 1 at Cape Henlopen SP in Sussex Co DE. A MARBLED GODWIT was seen June 26 in Raymond Pond, Bombay Hook NWR. LEAST SANDPIPERS were seen: one June 26 at Swan Creek Wetland; one June 29 at Chincoteague NWR; and two June 30 at Bombay Hook NWR. A WILSON'S PHALAROPE was seen June 26 in Raymond Pond, Bombay Hook NWR.

On June 26 & 30, a BONAPARTE'S GULL was seen at Bombay Hook NWR.

Very late YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS were seen in Garrett Co MD: two June 28 along Snaggy Mountain Road of Garrett SF, and one at the 4-H Center, Cunningham Lake.

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/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, either e-mail or phone.

Thank you for your interest, and enjoy the birds.

\*Of interest to the applicable records committee