

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist
Date: 7/24/2018
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, July 17, and was completed on Tuesday, July 24, at 9:30 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).

The TOP BIRD this week was RUFF in DE and VA.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST: waterfowl, NORTHERN BOBWHITE, VIRGINIA RAIL, SORA, COMMON GALLINULE, shorebirds, LEAST TERN, ANHINGA, LEAST BITTERN, LITTLE BLUE HERON, WHITE and GLOSSY IBIS, MISSISSIPPI KITE, NORTHERN HARRIER, MERLIN, ALDER FLYCATCHER, RED CROSSBILL, and DICKCISSEL.

TOP BIRDS

A continuing RUFF was well-seen and photographed at Bear Swamp, Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE on July 17, 20, 21, 22, and 23. A RUFF was well seen and photographed from July 20 through the 23rd at the Hog Island WMA, Surry Co, VA.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

Unusual summering waterfowl in the area included the lingering TUNDRA SWAN at Kinder Farm Park, Anne Arundel Co, MD which was seen again July 20. Other unusual waterfowl included a NORTHERN SHOVELER at Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD on July 19; a continuing male RING-NECKED DUCK at Loch Raven Reservoir, Baltimore Co, MD on July 22 and 23; and a drake GREATER SCAUP at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Anne Arundel Co, MD on July 20. Single SURF SCOTERS were seen at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, Queen Anne's Co, MD on July 20 and at the Kent Point Marina, Kent Co, MD on July 22. A BLACK SCOTER was seen July 18 at Hillsmere Beach, Anne Arundel Co, MD. The same day one was also seen at the Kent Point Marina, Queen Anne's Co, MD. A BLACK SCOTER was seen July 19 at Cedarhurst, Anne Arundel Co, MD.

NORTHERN BOBWHITES were observed at several different locations including at least two heard near Bluemont, Loudoun Co, VA on and off during the week; one heard in Swoope, Augusta Co, VA on July 20;

and one seen on the 19th at the Tradition Golf Club at Stonehouse, Toano, James City Co, VA Gunpowder Falls SP.

Eight VIRGINIA RAILS, including three fledglings, were observed July 22 at the Shenandoah Wetlands Bank in Stuarts Draft, Augusta Co, VA. A SORA was observed at July 20, 21, and 22 at the Hog Island WMA, Surry Co, VA. Three COMMON GALLINULES were seen July 19 at Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD.

Six BLACK-NECKED STILTS were seen July 17 at Taylors Landing, Worcester Co, MD. A survey at Hart-Miller Island, Baltimore Co, MD on July 19 found numerous shorebirds including 10 BLACK-NECKED STILTS, 5 AMERICAN AVOCETS, and one SANDERLING. Four AMERICAN AVOCETS were seen July 17 at Messick Point, Poquoson, VA. Two AMERICAN AVOCETS were seen July 22 and 23 at Hog Island WMA, Surry Co, VA. Four AMERICAN AVOCETS were seen July 22 flying over DC waters from the Washington Sailing Marina, Alexandria, VA. Two MARBLED GODWITS were seen July 22 at Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE. A STILT SANDPIPER was seen July 21 Hains Pt, East Potomac Park, SW DC. There were four STILT SANDPIPERS among the many shorebirds at the sod farm along Bristow Rd, Rte 619, Prince William Co, VA on July 22. A LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER was seen at July 22 at the Hog Island WMA, Surry Co, VA.

A LEAST TERN was seen July 19 at Jackson Landing, Patuxent River Pk, Prince George's Co, MD.

Nesting and flying ANHINGAS continued to be seen on July 19 and 21 from Coventry Trail, Yorktown, York Co, VA. One was also seen June 21 at the Carson Wetland, Prince George Co, VA with two there on the 22nd.

A LEAST BITTERN was seen July 20 at Hog Island WMA, Surry Co, VA. A LITTLE BLUE HERON was seen July 22 at Smithleigh Lake, Augusta Co, VA.

An immature WHITE IBIS was seen July 22 and 23 in a flooded field along Rte 14, Dorchester Co, MD. Two WHITE IBIS were seen July 22 and 23 at Hog Island WMA, Surry Co, VA; a GLOSSY IBIS was seen there July 23. WHITE IBIS continued to be seen along Big Stone Beach Rd, Milford Neck WMA, Kent Co, DE with sightings on July 17, 18, 19 and 20. Three were seen flying overhead at Port Mahon Rd, Kent Co, DE on July 20.

Sightings of MISSISSIPPI KITES flying and nesting continued throughout the week in areas where they have been seen in past years as well as in areas where they are still uncommon. A NORTHERN HARRIER was seen on July 22 hunting a field along Livick Rd, Swoope, Augusta Co, VA.

Between one and three MERLINS continued to be seen from 4th St, Oakland, Garrett Co, MD through July 22.

An ALDER FLYCATCHER was reported at Smith's pond, Swoope, Augusta Co, VA on July 22.

A recently fledged RED CROSSBILL seen July 19 at Briery Branch Gap, Rockingham Co, VA was one of the many interesting species confirmed for Virginia's Second Breeding Bird Atlas (VABBA2).

DICKCISSELS continued to be seen in the Underwood Road area of Howard Co, MD with four there on July 17, one on July 18, three July 20 and 22, and two on the 21st. Two singing male DICKCISSELS were near the headquarters building at Prime Hook NWR-Headquarters Area, Sussex Co, DE on July 19 and

one was seen there on the 21st. On July 22 four DICKCISSELS were again seen at Bristoe Station Battlefield, Prince William Co, VA.

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, <https://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