

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, Aug 14 and was completed on Tuesday, August 21 at 10:30 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 59th Supplement (June 2018).

The top birds this week were RUFF* in MD and VA, WOOD STORK* in MD, BROWN BOOBY* in MD, ROSEATE SPOONBILL* in MD, and SWALLOW-TAILED KITE* in MD and VA.

Other birds of interest this week included waterfowl, HORNEDED GREBE, COMMON NIGHTHAWK, AMERICAN COOT, shorebirds, PARASITIC JAEGER, BLACK TERN, COMMON LOON, GREAT CORMORANT, ANHINGA, AMERICAN BITTERN, LEAST BITTERN, LITTLE BLUE and TRICOLORED HERONS, WHITE IBIS, MISSISSIPPI KITE, OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, LEAST FLYCATCHER, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, SEDGE WREN, MARSH WREN, VESPER SPARROW, LARK SPARROW, HENSLOW'S SPARROW, YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, BOBOLINK, warblers including GOLDEN-WINGED and MOURNING, and DICKCISSEL.

TOP BIRDS

A RUFF* was found Aug 19 at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA.

A WOOD STORK* was found Aug 19 near the intersection of Bethel and Ruhland Rds, Frederick Co, MD, and was seen again on the 20th; it is visiting a variety of different ponds in the area. PLEASE DO NOT TRESPASS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY WHILE LOOKING FOR THIS BIRD. A WOOD STORK* was found on an undisclosed private property in Sussex Co, DE on Aug 17.

The BROWN BOOBY* at Ferry Point Park, Queen Anne's Co, MD was last seen on Aug 14.

An immature ROSEATE SPOONBILL* was found Aug 14 in a pond a little west of Pennyfield Lock, C&O Canal, Montgomery Co, MD and seen again on Aug 15. *Image credit: Frank Miller*



The SWALLOW-TAILED KITE* found on Legard Farm Rd, Loudoun Co, VA last week was again seen this week with the most of the reports early in the week but there was also a report of a sighting from Aug 19. A SWALLOW-TAILED KITE was first seen Aug 14 flying over a residential neighborhood next to Hood College in Frederick, MD; it was also seen flying over Baker Park, Frederick, MD on Aug 18 and 19 and on the 18th at the near-by Walkersville Elementary School, Walkersville and over a Starbucks between the two locations.

OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

The injured TUNDRA SWAN continues at Kinder Farm Park, Anne Arundel Co, MD, with the most recent sighting Aug 13.

Out-of-season ducks in the reporting area during the week included the continuing RING-NECKED DUCK at Lock Raven Reservoir-Loch Raven Point, Baltimore Co, MD which was seen July 14 and another on Aug 15 in a pond along Allegheny Rd, Blue Grass, Highland Co, VA. The over-summering WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was again seen on Aug 16 at the private Big Water Farm, Queen Anne's Co, MD.

A HORNED GREBE was seen Aug 18 at Rock Hall Marina, Kent Co, MD.

A COMMON NIGHTHAWK was seen Aug 14 at the intersection of Columbia Pike and Old Columbia Rd, Howard Co, MD. As many as three COMMON NIGHTHAWKS were seen Aug 19 flying around the Air Force Memorial, Arlington Co, VA.

Two continuing AMERICAN COOTS were again seen at the Constitution Gardens and Reflecting Pool, Washington, DC on Aug 16. An AMERICAN COOT was seen Aug 16 and 18 at the Trout Run WWTP, Garrett Co, MD.

Three HUDSONIAN GODWITS and nine MARBLED GODWITS were seen Aug 19 at Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA; three MARBLED GODWITS were seen there Aug 14. Six UPLAND SANDPIPERS were counted at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary's Co, MD on Aug 16. A MARBLED GODWIT was seen Aug 14 on Skimmer Island, Ocean City, Worcester Co, MD. Two WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS were among the many shorebirds seen at the Swan Creek Wetland/Cox Creek DMCF, Anne Arundel Co, MD on Aug 20.

A RUDDY TURNSTONE, very uncommon inland, was seen again on Aug 19 off of Hains Point, SW DC. Two WILLETS were seen Aug 19 at the Staunton View Public Use, Mecklenburg Co, VA. Eleven WILSON'S PHALAROPES were found Aug 19 at the Chincoteague NWR, Accomack Co, VA. A juvenile WILSON'S PHALAROPE was seen Aug 20 at Swan Creek Wetland/Cox Creek DMCF, Anne Arundel Co, MD.

On Aug 15 a PARASITIC JAEGER was observed flying over Sussex Co, DE waters from the Lewis-Cape May Ferry.

BLACK TERNS were seen at several locations throughout the week with a high of 107 on Aug 17 at Big Water Farm (private), Queen Anne's Co, MD and 25 on Aug 19 at Point Lookout SP, St. Mary's Co, MD. Inland, a BLACK TERN was seen from the Alexandria Waterfront in DC waters on Aug 18; one, possibly the same bird, was also seen off of Hains Pt the same day. A BLACK TERN was also seen Aug 20 at Bell's Ln, Staunton, VA.

A COMMON LOON was seen Aug 14 on Smith Mountain Lake, Bedford Co, VA.

A continuing out-of-season GREAT CORMORANT at Cape Henlopen SP in Sussex Co, DE was again seen at the Fishing Pier Aug 20.

An ANHINGA continued to be seen at the Stumpy Lake Natural Area in Virginia Beach, VA, with a sighting on Aug 17. Two ANHINGAS flew over I-95 near Stony Creek, Sussex Co, VA on Aug 20.

An AMERICAN BITTERN was seen Aug 15 in the impoundments at Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach, VA. Another was seen Aug 16 at Lynnhaven Inlet Flats, Virginia Beach, VA. Area LEAST BITTERNS included one at Hog Island WMA, Surry Co, VA on Aug 16 and one at the Shenandoah Wetlands Bank, Augusta Co, VA on Aug 19.

A LITTLE BLUE HERON was seen Aug 14 at the stormwater pond at the North Carroll (Co) Plaza Walmart. A LITTLE BLUE HERON was seen Aug 15 and 18 along Legard Farm Rd, Loudoun Co, VA. Another LITTLE BLUE HERON was seen from Blue Mash Aug 18, 19 and 20 at the Oaks Landfill pond, visible from the Blue Mash fence line, Montgomery Co, MD.

A TRICOLORED HERON was seen in the marsh on Aug 17 and 19 at North Beach, Calvert Co, MD. An inland TRICOLORED HERON* continued to be seen at Lake Arnold at Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke Co, VA through Aug 19. One was also seen Aug 20 at the Ivy Creek Natural Area, Albemarle Co, VA. A WHITE IBIS was seen Aug 18 at Bear Pond, Rockfish Gap Tpk, Greenwood, Albemarle Co, VA.

MISSISSIPPI KITES continued to be seen and reported throughout the area though in smaller numbers than earlier in the summer.

An OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was reported at Pennyfield Lock, C&O Canal, Montgomery Co, MD on Aug 16. One was also seen Aug 19 at the Switzer Lake area, Rockingham Co, VA. A YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER was seen Aug 17 at Broadford Lake, Garrett Co, MD. A YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER was also seen at W Landing Rd, Virginia Beach, VA on Aug 19. A LEAST FLYCATCHER was seen at the Pennyfield Lock; another was seen Aug 19 at Black Walnut Pond, Talbot Co, MD.

The continuing RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH in the Whitaker Woods subdivision, Cecil Co, MD was seen as recently as Aug 19. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were also seen Aug 16 at Soldier's Delight NEA, Baltimore Co, MD and at Peerce's Cove, Loch Raven Reservoir, Baltimore Co, MD on Aug 18. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were also seen in several locations in VA, one at Tina's Farm, Carroll Co, VA on Aug 17; one at Slabcamp Run, Highland Co, VA on Aug 15; one at the Bullpasture Gorge and Mountain access, Highland WMA, Highland Co, VA on Aug 16; and one on Aug 19 at Piney Grove Preserve, Sussex Co, VA.

One, and sometimes two SEDGE WRENS were seen throughout the week at the pond behind the Aquatic Resources Education Center, Woodland Beach, Kent Co, DE. A MARSH WREN, a rare migrant west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, was found Aug 16 at the Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia, Clarke Co, VA.

On July 31 two likely breeding VESPER SPARROWS were seen along 2234-2298 Peterman Road in Baltimore Co, MD. A LARK SPARROW was seen Aug 15 in the Lynnhaven Dr wetlands, Virginia Beach, VA; the same day an immature LARK SPARROW was photographed eating bird seed at a residence along Woodland Way, King George, VA. Two HENSLOW'S SPARROW were seen Aug 18 along Old Legislative Rd, Allegany Co, MD.

A YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD was seen Aug 19 in the marsh at North Beach, Calvert Co, MD.

A BOBOLINK was seen Aug 16 at the Craney Island Disposal Area (restricted access), Portsmouth, VA.

Warbler migration continued to pick up this past week. A male GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER visited a yard in Harrisonburg, VA on Aug 19. A MOURNING WARBLER was seen Aug 19 at Cromwell Valley Cromwell Valley Park, Baltimore Co, MD about 50 paces sw of the #10 box.

DICKCISSELS continued at several locations in the reporting area, with individuals seen along Underwood Road in Howard Co, MD on Aug 18 and 19 and at Bristoe Station Battlefield in Prince William Co, VA on August 4.

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