

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist  
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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, August 28 and was completed on Tuesday, September 4 at 7:00 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 59th Supplement (June 2018).

The top birds this week were RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD, ROSEATE SPOONBILL\* and SWALLOW-TAILED KITE\* in VA.

Other birds of interest this week included TUNDRA SWAN, REDHEAD, RING-NECKED DUCK, HOODED MERGANSER, RUDDY DUCK, NORTHERN BOBWHITE, AMERICAN AVOCET, AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER, UPLAND SANDPIPER, HUDSONIAN and MARBLED GODWITS, STILT, BAIRD'S and BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS, WILLET, WILSON'S and RED-NECKED PHALAROPES, BONAPARTE'S GULL, GULL-BILLED and BLACK TERNS, AMERICAN WHITE and BROWN PELICANS, AMERICAN BITTERN, LITTLE BLUE and TRICOLORED HERONS, WHITE IBIS, BROAD-WINGED HAWK, OLIVE-SIDED and YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS, PHILADELPHIA VIREO, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, SEDGE and MARSH WRENS, LARK SPARROW, BOBOLINK, GOLDEN-WINGED, MOURNING and CERULEAN WARBLERS, SUMMER TANAGER and DICKCISSEL.

TOP BIRDS

On August 31 and September 1 an apparent RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD was seen at a feeder in Wallers Quarters, a private residential community in Spotsylvania Co, VA. Although several RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRDS have been seen in Louisiana and one in Tennessee in recent days, this is by far the easternmost sighting of this western breeder this migratory season.

The historic northward irruption of ROSEATE SPOONBILLS\* continued during the week, with an incredible five individuals seen together at the Craney Island Disposal Area (restricted/no public access) in Portsmouth, VA on August 29 and 31.

On September 2 and 3 a soaring SWALLOW-TAILED KITE\* was seen from a private location on Far Hills Road in Albemarle Co, VA, and on September 3 likely this same bird was photographed soaring above nearby Oakencroft Lane in Charlottesville, VA.

#### OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

A resident injured TUNDRA SWAN continues at Kinder Farm Park in Anne Arundel Co, MD. On September 2 a continuing male REDHEAD and a male HOODED MERGANSER, both of which may be injured, were photographed at the John. H. Kerr Reservoir-Tailrace Park in Mecklenburg Co, VA. Out-of-season diving ducks also included a continuing RING-NECKED DUCK at Loch Raven Reservoir-Loch Raven Point in Baltimore Co, MD that was seen most recently on September 2, and continuing RING-NECKED and RUDDY DUCKS at the Broadway Waste Water Treatment Facility on New Market Road in Rockingham Co, VA that were most recently seen on September 3.

On August 29 a NORTHERN BOBWHITE was a surprise visitor to Calvert High School in Calvert Co, MD, where it was well photographed on the baseball field.

Migrating COMMON NIGHTHAWKS were conspicuous during the week, and many birders enjoyed watching them in nocturnal flight over their homes.

Shorebird highlights during the week included the following.

- Continued large numbers of AMERICAN AVOCETS at Bombay Hook NWR in Kent Co, DE and the Craney Island Disposal Area (restricted/no public access) in Portsmouth, VA, with week highs of 200 and 472 individuals reported at these respective locations on September 2 and August 30, respectively.
- Ten shorebird species at the Woodward Turf Farm in Culpeper Co, VA (private but accessible with permission from the on-site office), which included two UPLAND SANDPIPERS on August 29-31 and September 2 and 3 and six UPLAND SANDPIPERS on September 1; a BAIRD'S SANDPIPER on August 30 and September 1; and several AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS, SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS, SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS and SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS all week.
- AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS at several other locations, especially in Virginia, where single individuals were found at a field along the west side of Arlington Road near the intersection with Sherwood Gate in Northampton Co; a field along Strangeway Road near the intersection with Naylor's Beach Road in Richmond Co; a field along Bristow Road in Prince William Co; and at Sandybottom Turf Farm in Charles City Co. A single AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER also was spotted at Bombay Hook NWR in Kent Co, DE on August 30 and the Harford County Airport on Aldino Road in Harford Co, MD on September 3.
- An UPLAND SANDPIPER found at the Murray Sod Farm in Worcester Co, MD on September 2.
- Two HUDSONIAN GODWITS spotted with MARBLED GODWITS at the North Wash Flats impoundment at Chincoteague NWR in Accomack Co, VA on September 2.
- A continuing MARBLED GODWIT at Back Bay NWR in Virginia Beach, VA on September 1, which was joined by a second individual on September 2.
- An inland STILT SANDPIPER photographed at a flooded field on the east side of the intersection of John Wayland Hwy and Eberly Road in Rockingham Co, VA on September 2.

- A BAIRD'S SANDPIPER photographed at Back Bay NWR in Virginia Beach, VA on September 1 and 2.

- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS at several locations, especially in Virginia, where small numbers were found at a field along the west side of Arlington Road near the intersection with Sherwood Gate in Northampton Co; the Staunton View Public Use Area in Mecklenburg Co; the Shenandoah Valley Produce Auction on Lumber Mill Road in Rockingham Co; and several locations in Charles City Co, including the Riverside and Sturgeon Point Turf Farms. Elsewhere, a BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER was spotted at the Hughes Road polo fields in Montgomery Co, MD on September 2 and 3; Prime Hook NWR-Broadkill Marsh in Sussex Co, DE on September 2 and 3; and Bombay Hook NWR in Kent Co, DE on September 2.

- A WILLET (WESTERN) spotted at Swan Creek Wetland-Cox Creek (restricted access) in Anne Arundel Co, MD on August 31, and at the stone and pedestrian bridges over Hunting Creek in Fairfax Co, VA and nearby Jones Point Park in Alexandria, VA on September 2 and 3.

- WILSON'S PHALAROPES at several locations, especially in Virginia, where sightings consisted of five individuals at Chincoteague NWR in Accomack Co on August 31; 2-3 individuals at the Craney Island Disposal Area (restricted/no public access) in Portsmouth on August 29, 30 and 31; a single individual at a private location in Westmoreland Co on September 1; and a single individual at Hog Island WMA in Surry Co on September 2. A WILSON'S PHALAROPE also was found at Swan Creek Wetland-Cox Creek (restricted access) in Anne Arundel Co, MD on August 31 and Bombay Hook NWR in Kent Co, DE on September 2.

- Two RED-NECKED PHALAROPES reported at the Craney Island Disposal Area (restricted/no public access) in Portsmouth, VA on August 31.

Two BONAPARTE'S GULLS were reported at Black Walnut Point in Talbot Co, MD on September 1. A single GULL-BILLED TERN was spotted at Sheariness Pool in Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE on September 2, which was the only report of this species during the week outside of its southeastern coastal Virginia stronghold. Sightings of BLACK TERNS included five

individuals at Chincoteague NWR in Accomack Co, VA on August 31; six individuals over the Potomac River from Algonkian RP in Loudoun Co, VA on August 29; and two individuals at Lake Holiday (restricted access) in Frederick Co, VA on September 3. In Maryland, 2-3 BLACK TERNS were observed at the Chestertown WWTP in Kent Co on August 30-September 2; and a BLACK TERN was seen again at Perryville Community Park in Cecil Co on August 31.

A continuing AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN\* at the Staunton View Public Use Area in Mecklenburg Co, VA was seen most recently on September 3. On September 2 and 3 a BROWN PELICAN was photographed above Conowingo Dam in Harford Co, MD.

An AMERICAN BITTERN was among the birding highlights at Cromwell Valley Park in Baltimore Co, MD on September 1.

An immature LITTLE BLUE HERON was seen again at Schoolhouse Pond in Prince George's Co, MD on September 1, 2 and 3, and three immature LITTLE BLUE HERONS and a TRICOLORED HERON were found at Oxbow Lake in Anne Arundel Co, MD on September 2. Sightings of TRICOLORED HERON also included a high of seven individuals at the North Beach Marsh in Calvert Co, MD on August 28, 29 and 31 and September 1; one individual on Bodkin Island, Queen Anne's Co, MD on August 29; and one individual at Black Walnut Point in Talbot Co, MD on August 30.

The northernmost WHITE IBIS in the reporting area during the week were 32 individuals counted along Big Stone Beach Road in the Milford Neck WMA, Kent Co, DE on August 30.

BROAD-WINGED HAWKS were seen in small numbers at area hawk watches, but numbers will increase in the coming days as this species' highly synchronous migration moves toward its annual mid-September peak in the reporting area.

An OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was found at 20560 State Forest Road in Sussex Co, DE on September 1; Cromwell Valley Park in Baltimore Co, MD on September 3; and Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia in Clark Co, VA on August 31, as well as at several locations in Garrett Co, MD and western Virginia. Empid highlights included a well-photographed YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER at Susquehanna State Park in Harford Co, MD on September 2 and 3, and a YELLOW-

BELLIED FLYCATCHER in the same tree as a PHILADELPHIA VIREO at Leesylvania SP in Prince William Co, VA on September 3.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES continued their early arrival in the reporting area, with sightings including four individuals at Rocky Gorge Reservoir-Supplee Park in Prince George's Co, MD on September 1 and an individual that visited a back yard in Bethesda, Montgomery Co, MD on September 2.

SEDGE WRENS continued at the Aquatic Resources Education Center in Woodland Beach, Kent Co, DE, with 1-3 individuals encountered on August 30 and September 1 and 2. A continuing MARSH WREN at Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia, Clark Co, VA was seen most recently on September 3.

A LARK SPARROW was photographed near Raymond Pool in Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE on August 29 and by the Visitors Center at Leesylvania SP in Prince William Co, VA on September 2.

Migrating BOBOLINKS included over 1,700 individuals counted by an experienced birder at Back Bay NWR in Virginia Beach, VA early in the morning on September 2.

Migratory warblers were seen in increasing numbers and diversity during the week. Noteworthy warblers included a GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER reported at the Frederick Watershed in Frederick Co, MD on August 31, Cromwell Valley Park in Baltimore Co, MD on September 3 and Quiet Waters Park in Anne Arundel Co, MD on September 3; a MOURNING WARBLER reported at Patuxent River Park-Wooton's Landing in Anne Arundel Co, MD on September 1; and a CERULEAN WARBLER reported along 3215 Bennett Point Road in Queen Anne's Co, MD on September 1.

On August 29 a resident on Cavey Lane in Woodstock, Howard Co, MD photographed a SUMMER TANAGER in his yard.

DICKCISSELS were most recently reported at the Underwood Road area in Howard Co, MD on August 28.

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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