

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist
Date: 4/30/2019
Coverage: MD/DC/VA/central and southern DE/WV panhandle
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(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, April 30, and was completed on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at approximately 5:00 AM, with bits blatantly purloined from last week's report.

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).

BIRDS OF INTEREST

CANVASBACK, REDHEAD, RING-NECKED DUCK, SURF SCOTER, LONG-TAILED DUCK, COMMON GALLINULE, EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE, YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, COMMON NIGHTHAWK, RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, PURPLE SANDPIPER, ANHINGA, AMERICAN and LEAST BITTERN, TRICOLORED HERON, WHITE IBIS, flycatchers, CLIFF SWALLOW, BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH, wrens, SWAINSON'S THRUSH, VEERY, many, many warblers, SUMMER and SCARLET TANAGER, EVENING ROSE-BREADED, and BLUE GROSBEAK, BALTIMORE and ORCHARD ORIOLE, PINE SISKIN, BOBOLINK, and INDIGO BUNTING.

CANVASBACK was reported at several locations, including three at Horsehead Sanctuary (Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center) in Grasonville, MD (Queen Anne's) on April 23.

A lone REDHEAD was seen on Saxis Road, Accomack CO, VA on April 26.

A RING-NECKED DUCK sauntered by at Seneca Creek State Park, Gaithersburg, Montgomery Co, MD on April 23.

A SURF SCOTER was doing the half-pipes at Lake Holiday (restricted access/gated community) in Frederick County, VA on April 26.

One LONG-TAILED DUCK was at Assateague SP by the causeway in Worcester on April 26.

COMMON GALLINULE spun about in the water at Patuxent/North Tract, Anne Arundel Co, MD on April 27.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE was reported in several locations; the pesky invasive was last seen on April 26 in Kent CO, Delaware.

You know it's spring when YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO shows up! One was stuffing itself on caterpillars at Gunpowder Falls SP, Baltimore CO, MD on April 27.

COMMON NIGHTHAWKS are on the wing north again, with small numbers seen at several locations, including one April 28 over a private residence near Greenville ES in Brookville, Montgomery Co.

Widely reported are returning RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS including one at my feeders on April 30, Rohrsersville, Washington CO, MD.

PURPLE SANDPIPER thrilled a birder on April 28 at Chesapeake Beach Veterans Memorial Park, Calvert CO, MD.

Doing the Snake-Dance again were ANHINGA at several locations, including six continuing at Stumpy Lake Natural Area, Virginia Beach VA on April 23.

AMERICAN BITTERN tried its best to imitate swaying reeds and grasses but was discovered on April 26 at Bland Wade Lane, Nelson, VA. A LEAST BITTERN tried to do the same on April 24 at Swan Harbor Farm Park, Harford CO, MD. Two AMERICAN BITTERNs continue to fly about and "sing" at Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co, MD, with reports through at least April 28.

TRICOLORED HERON delighted birders on April 23 (continuing) with three noted at Stumpy Lake.

WHITE IBIS were recorded in Somerset CO, MD on April 23 at Dividing Creek and Courthouse Hill Road.

Flycatcher species have returned. EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE was back at Swan Harbor Farm Park in Harford CO, MD on April 26. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER caught some flies and a nap at Fort Pickett, North Entrance, Nottoway CO, VA on April 23. WILLOW FLYCATCHER was heard on April 23 at Shenandoah NP, South River Falls Trail. LEAST FLYCATCHER was anything but small to birders at Wengers Mill Road in

Rockingham CO, VA on April 25. GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER made a birder smile at Runnymede Park in Herndon, Fairfax Co, VA on April 25.

CLIFF SWALLOWS are back. Among many other locations, one was reported at the Route 328 bridge in Talbot CO, MD.

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH, a coastal plain specialty in these parts, was seen on April 24 at Milford Neck Wildlife Area, Big Stone Beach Road, Kent CO, MD.

Various wrens are flitting about and scolding. A SEDGE WREN was at Finzel Swamp, Garrett Co, MD on April 23. MARSH WREN was reported widely, including one from Finzel Swamp on April 28.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH serenaded at Patterson Park, Baltimore, MD on April 25. The eerie call of the VEERY was noted in several locations, including at Eastwind, Sussex CO, DE on April 25.

A YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, demoted from the warblers, was reported from Talbot Co, MD.

WARBLERS: BLUE-WINGED WARBLER April 28 Back Bay NWR, Virginia Beach, VA; GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER April 26 Observatory Mountain, Albemarle CO, VA; TENNESSEE WARBLER April 25 Liberty Watershed, Bollinger Mill Road, Carroll CO, MD; NASHVILLE WARBLER April 28 James River Park, Reedy Creek, Richmond VA; CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER April 25 Great Dismal Swamp NWR, Canal Trail, Chesapeake, VA; MAGNOLIA WARBLER April 28 Millington WMA, Kent CO, MD; BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER April 24 Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Anne Arundel CO, MD; BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER April 26, Patuxent Research Refuge, Anne Arundel, MD; YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER April 23 Assateague, Life of the Forest Trail, Worcester CO, MD; PALM WARBLER April 28 Fairfax Pond-Rehe WMA, Preston, WV; BAY-BREASTED WARBLER April 25 Patuxent River Park, Wootton's Landing, Anne Arundel CO, MD; BLACKPOLL WARBLER April 28 Milford Mill Park, Baltimore CO, MD; CERULEAN WARBLER April 28, Spotsylvania Court House Battlefield, Spotsylvania, VA; PROTHONOTARY WARBLER April 23, Swift Shoals Road, Clarke CO, VA; WORM-EATING WARBLER, April 24 Union Springs, Rockingham CO, VA; OVENBIRD April 24 Twenty-six!! Counted, Union Springs, Rockingham CO, VA; KENTUCKY WARBLER April 26 Stumpy Lake Natural Area, Virginia Beach, VA; HOODED WARBLER April 24 Monticello Park, Alexandria, VA; WILSON'S WARBLER April 28 Fairfax Pond-Rehe WMA, Preston, WV; CANADA WARBLER April 27 Pembroke-Dewberry, Giles, VA

WHEW! 20 Warbler Species! WoooHoooo!

A SUMMER TANAGER was convinced it was actually summer with all of the warm weather lately at Patuxent/North Tract, Anne Arundel CO, MD on April 27.

Also, on April 27 at Patuxent/North Tract, Anne Arundel CO, MD was a crimson beauty SCARLET TANAGER.

EVENING GROSBEAKS apparently haven't heard that the weather is changing. One was sighted on April 23 at CBR Home (?), Tucker, WVA.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK are being reported widely, including one at Gwynn Oak, Dickeyville, MD on April 24.

BLUE GROSBEAK, a favorite of mine, was the envy of birders at Perryman Park, Harford Co, MD on April 24.

It wouldn't be the Mid-Atlantic in the spring without BALTIMORE ORIOLE! Numerous reports are in from all states, and in VA one was at Glade Creek Road and trail, Raleigh, WVA on April 23.

ORCHARD ORIOLE was seen at Asheville Park Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA on April 23.

PINE SISKIN was on the way north, with stragglers noted from Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and Worcester Counties, MD.

BOBOLINK was bubbling its wonderful song at Lake Artemsia, Prince George's CO, MD on April 25.

INDIGO BUNTINGS are all over the place, swarming.

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. 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!