

Hotline: Voice of the Naturalist  
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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, May 7 and was completed on Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00 a.m.

For nearly 40 years the Voice of the Naturalist has provided DC area birders with a weekly update of notable sightings. Initially it was a unique resource, and each Tuesday report was eagerly awaited and devoured. Today the birding community has access to an abundance of information, often instantaneous, and it is time: THE VOICE OF THE NATURALIST IS RETIRING at the end of May.

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). This report does not provide information about likely escaped or released birds (e.g. various parrots and parakeets), non-established feral birds (e.g., Muscovy Duck) and introduced game birds (e.g., Ring-necked Pheasant).

The top birds this week are BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCKS\* in DE and WILSON'S PHALAROPE\* in VA.

Other birds of interest this week included SNOW GEESE, AMERICAN WIGEON, SURF SCOTERS, LONG-TAILED DUCK, COMMON GALLINULES, SANDHILL CRANES, BLACK-NECKED STILTS, BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS, RUFF, GULL-BILLED TERN, BLACK TERN, BLACK SKIMMER, ROSEATE SPOONBILL\*, SWALLOW-TAILED KITES, MISSISSIPPI KITES, LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, MARSH WREN, EVENING GROSBEAK, SWAINSON'S WARBLER and DICKCISSEL.

## TOP BIRDS

Three BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCKS\* were photographed May 9 at Wolfe Neck WTP (Restricted Access), Sussex Co, DE.

A WILSON'S PHALAROPE\* was photographed at Leonard's Pond, Rockingham Co, VA on May 13.

## OTHER BIRDS OF INTEREST

Two late SNOW GEESE were photographed May 10 and 11 at Sunset Lakes Pond, Worcester Co, MD.

A lingering AMERICAN WIGEON was photographed May 8 and 9 at Hains Pt, Washington, DC. Four more wigeon were seen lingering at Loreley Beach Community Pier (private), Baltimore Co, MD on May 13.

Two SURF SCOTERS were seen at Rocky Gap SP, Allegany Co, MD on May 11 and 12.

A continuing LONG-TAILED DUCK was last seen at Rocky Gap SP, Allegany Co, MD on May 8.

As many as three COMMON GALLINULES were photographed at Mason Dixon Farm Pond (viewed from Bullfrog Rd since the pond is private), Frederick Co, MD on May 8 to 11. A lone gallinule was photographed along Stillhouse Rd, Fauquier Co, VA on May 11.

Four SANDHILL CRANES were seen May 11 along Foxtown Rd, Garret Co, MD. A lone crane was photographed May 11 near Chiswell Ln, Hanover Co, VA.

As many as two BLACK-NECKED STILTS were photographed May 7 and 10 at Figgs Landing Rd, Worcester Co, MD.

Four BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS were photographed May 13 at Patton Turf Farm, Montgomery Co, MD. A single plover was photographed along Sugarland Rd, Montgomery Co, MD later on May 13.

A RUFF was reported May 9 and 10 at Bombay Hook NWR, Kent Co, DE.

A GULL-BILLED TERN was seen at Ted Harvey WMA, Kent Co, DE on May 8 and 11. A BLACK TERN was photographed May 13 at the International Conservation House, Fauquier Co, VA.

A BLACK SKIMMER was photographed at Sandy Point SP, Anne Arundel Co, MD on May 12.

Two ANHINGAS were seen May 7, 10, and 11 at Stumpy Lake Natural Area, Virginia Beach, VA. Twelve were seen flying near 85th street oceanfront, Virginia Beach, VA on May 9.

A ROSEATE SPOONBILL\* was seen May 8 at Gordon's Pond, Cape Henlopen SP, Sussex Co, DE.

Two SWALLOW-TAILED KITES were photographed May 9 on the Butterfly Trail at the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR, Northampton Co, VA.

MISSISSIPPI KITES have returned to many of their breeding territories. Four were photographed May 9 and one was seen along Vandover Rd, Henrico Co, VA on May 11. Another was photographed May 7 along Red Oak Trail, Chesapeake Co, VA.

A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE was seen along Cartersville Rd, Cumberland Co, VA on May 7.

On May 7, a continuing MARSH WREN was photographed at Finzel Swamp, Garrett Co, MD.

An EVENING GROSBEAK was photographed at a private feeder in Havre de Grace, Harford Co, MD on May 8.

A SWAINSON'S WARBLER was photographed May 12 and 13 on the Deerfield Trail in the Jefferson National Forest, Montgomery Co, VA.

A DICKCISSEL was seen at Frying Pan Farm Park, Fairfax Co, VA on May 13.

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This week's report was based on reports on the DE, MD, VA and WV list servers, eBird records, various birding pages on Facebook and submissions to ANS.

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](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.