

Field Notes: April–May 2015

- o Pacific Golden-Plover
- o Common Nighthawk
- o Black-chinned Hummingbird
- o Clay-colored Sparrow

The weather during April and May returned to more normal conditions after an unusually dry and warm winter and early spring, with sunshine, clouds with and without rain, and warm to cool temperatures. This year's spring migration trend continued, with the vast majority of migrant species arriving earlier than normal—some a lot earlier, but most just a little. Typical for this time of year, there were some interesting reports and a few unusual ones. It will be interesting to see what turns up during the forthcoming breeding season!

Abbreviation: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

WATERBIRDS

Ross's Goose	April 2	Cantrell Rd.	SH, VB	A little later than normal
Ross's Goose	April 18	Sutton Creek mouth	DF	A little later than normal
Tundra Swan (4)	April 12	FRR	SNa	Last date seen for the winter
Blue-winged Teal	April 4	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	About three weeks earlier than normal
Blue-winged Teal	April 18	Waite Pasture	SB	Never common on the coast
Pacific Loon (5000)	April 20	Sea Lion Caves	RL	Large migrant flock as the fog raised
Great Egret	April 15	Cushman	DP	Appeared to be six occupied nests
Great Egret	May 17	Cushman	KL	Appeared to be 10 occupied nests
Snowy Egret	April 18	Maxwell Pond	LF, KO	Only second or third spring record
Sora	April 21	Stewart Pond	AP	An unusual location for the species
Sandhill Crane	April 23	Vaughn area	JW	Very rare in the Coast Range
Pacific Golden-Plover	April 14	Sutton Creek mouth	DF	A very rare spring record for the county
American Avocet (2)	April 2	FRR	JW	On a nest in May (SH)
Solitary Sandpiper	April 24	Stewart Pond	BC	A normal time & location for the species
Solitary Sandpiper (4)	May 3	Swallow Pond	A&TM	A large number for one location
Willet	April 28	Alvadore	BC	Very rare inland during the spring
Marbled Godwit	April 18	Sutton Creek mouth	DF	Less than a dozen spring reports
Wilson's Phalarope	May 1	FRR - Fisher Butte	JS	A couple days earlier than normal

Red-necked Phalarope (6)	May 14	FRR - Royal Ave	SH	A normal time for their northward migration
Franklin's Gull	May 9	FRR - Royal Ave	RW	Rare, but regular migrant
Black Tern (10)	May 1	FRR - Fisher Butte	JS	A couple days earlier than normal
Forster's Tern (4)	May 1	FRR - Fisher Butte	BC, JS	Will they stick around to breed again this year?

GROUSE to WOODPECKERS

Ruffed Grouse	April 8	Fox Hollow Rd.	BC	The far SW end
Bald Eagle	April 8	Skinner Butte	SM	Two downy young in nest
Northern Goshawk	April 19	Meadowlark Prairie	JS	A very unusual location - migrant?
Merlin	May 1	FRR - Fisher Butte	JS	Later than normal
Common Nighthawk	May 6	Walterville area	VB	Almost a month earlier than normal!
Black Swift	May 30	Salt Creek Falls	AB	A normal time for their arrival at this breeding site
Vaux's Swift	April 5	Stewart Pond	SH	About a week earlier than normal
Vaux's Swift (6400)	April 26	Agate Hall, U of O	DL	A high count for the spring
Black-chinned Hummingbird	April 29	North Eugene	DS	About 18 records for the county
Calliope Hummingbird	April 5	Santa Clara area	MRu	First of about 12 reports - higher than normal
Acorn Woodpecker (3)	April 19	Creswell area	SN	Unusual for her location

FLYCATCHERS to THRUSHES

Olive-sided Flycatcher	May 1	Coburg Hills	TM	Right on time
Olive-sided Flycatcher	May 1	Florence	SB	Right on time
Western Wood-Pewee	May 1	Coburg Hills	TM	Right on time
Willow Flycatcher	May 22	Stewart Rd.	BC	About a week later than normal
Hammond's Flycatcher	April 14	Clearwater Park	DS	About a week earlier than normal
Dusky Flycatcher	April 14	Clearwater Park	DS	About a week earlier than normal
Pacific-sloped Flycatcher	April 11	Skinner Butte	LF, KO	A little over a week earlier than normal
Western Kingbird	April 14	FRR - W Coyote	SH	About a week earlier than normal
Cassin's Vireo	April 10	Skinner Butte	KL	A couple days later than normal
Warbling Vireo	April 20	Creswell area	SN	A couple days earlier than normal
Warbling Vireo	April 20	FRR - Perkins Pen.	SH	A couple days earlier than normal
Horned Lark	May	FRR & Eugene Airport	BC	Areas where they've been reported previously
Purple Martin	April 3	FRR	MB	About a week earlier than normal
Rock Wren	April 17	Coburg Hills	A&TM	A normal spring overshoot

House Wren	April 15	Willow Creek	TM	About a week earlier than normal
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	April 8	Skinner Butte	SH, DJ	About 25 records for the county
Swainson's Thrush	April 16	Mt. Pisgah	BN, PB	Over two weeks earlier than normal!
Swainson's Thrush	May 3	SE Eugene	TM	When the "mass" arrival started - right on time
Northern Mockingbird	May 4	Alton Baker Park	SNa, ACa	Rare during the breeding season

WARBLERS to FINCHES

Nashville Warbler	April 6	Clearwater Park	SNa	About a week earlier than normal
MacGillivray's Warbler	April 25	Jefferson Park	SNa	A few days later than normal
Yellow Warbler	May 1	FRR - Fisher Butte	JS	A few days later than normal
Black-throated Gray Warbler	April 1	Skinner Butte	SM, et al.	A few days earlier than normal
Hermit Warbler	April 18	Hwy 126 - Badger Mt	HH, OH	A few days earlier than normal
Wilson's Warbler	April 8	Fox Hollow Rd.	BC	A few days earlier than normal
Yellow-breasted Chat	April 27	Grimes Rd.	SH	About a week and a half earlier than normal
Clay-colored Sparrow (singing)	May 22	Mt. Pisgah area	TM	Very rare this time of year
Vesper Sparrow	April 19	EWEB - Roosevelt	E&VT	A new breeding location for the species
Vesper Sparrow	May 15	Mt. Pisgah - South side	JC, et al.	They haven't been found here for a number of years
Vesper Sparrow	May 26	Mt. Pisgah Arboretum	BC	A new breeding location for the species
Black-throated Sparrow	May 17	FRR - Royal Ave	AH	A normal spring overshoot
Black-throated Sparrow	May 26	Camas Swale	HL	A normal spring overshoot
Grasshopper Sparrow	May 5	FRR - Royal Ave	TM	A couple days earlier than normal
Grasshopper Sparrow	May	Meadowlark Prairie	m.ob.	Many new breeding locations in the valley
Western Tanager	April 20	Creswell area	SN	A couple days earlier than normal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (3)	May 16+	Florence area	fide DP	Rare, but normal in spring - photos
Black-headed Grosbeak	April 21	North Eugene	DS	About a week earlier than normal
Lazuli Bunting	April 21	Wayne Morse Park	SNa	About a week earlier than normal
Bullock's Oriole	April 19	FRR - Perkins Pen.	DS	About a week earlier than normal
Red Crossbill	April/May	Eugene/Springfield	m.ob.	Commonly reported in unusual habitats!

A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, **AB** Aaron Beerman, **ACa** Adam Caswell, **AH** Adrian Henkle, **AP** Al Prigge, **BC** Barbara Combs, **BN** Bruce Newhouse, **DF** Daniel Farrar, **DJ** Dave Jones, **DL** Dick Lamster, **DP** Diane Pettey, **DS** Don Schrouder, **E&VT** Eddie & Vjera Thompson, **HH** Hendrik Herlyn, **HL** Hydie Lown, **JC** Jim Carlson, **JS** John Sullivan, **JW** Jason Wolf, **KL** Kit Larsen, **KO** Kelsey O'Sullivan, **LF** Luke Ferrenburg, **m.ob.** many observers, **MB** Mick Bressler, **MRu** Mark Rudolph, **OH** Oscar Harper, **PB** Peg Boulay, **RL** Roy Lowe, **RW** Rebecca Waterman, **SB** Sean Burns, **SH** Sally Hill, **SM** Sylvia Maulding, **SN**

Sally Nelson, **SNa** Stephan Nance, **TM** Tom Mickel, **VB** Vickie Buck, **VT** Vjera Thompson. **Fide** indicates a sighting that was reported to the listed observer.