

April–May 2009

• Evening Grosbeaks abound • Great-tailed Grackle lands near Fern Ridge • Long-billed Curlew at the Coast

April and the first part of May were wetter and cooler than is usual, but summer arrived during the third week in May, with sunshine and temperatures soaring into the 80's! This spring will be remembered for the massive flocks of Evening Grosbeaks in the valley and the large numbers of Red Knots seen along the coast.

WATERBIRDS

Greater White-fronted Goose	Apr. 17	Skinner Butte	Ma	Normal time for their northward migration
Brant	Apr. 19	Fern Ridge Reservoir	A&CH	Still present in flocks of Cackling Geese
Brant (45)	May 27	N Jetty, Suislaw R.	DF	A late date for this arctic breeder
Eurasian Wigeon	May 11	Fern Ridge Reservoir	NS	A late date for this species
Blue-winged Teal	Apr. 12	Meadowlark Prairie	KK	A couple weeks early for their return
Cinnamon Teal	Apr. 6	Fern Ridge Reservoir	NS	Right on schedule for their return
Green-winged "Common" Teal	Apr. 1	Fern Ridge Reservoir	RR et al.	Occasionally found in flocks of this species
Tufted Duck	Apr. 11	Fern Ridge Reservoir	AH, DN	Fourth consecutive year found at this location
Greater Scaup	May 5	Ada	B&ZS	A late date for this wintering species
Harlequin Duck (6)	May 22	Bob Creek	DF	Some non-breeding birds summer here.
Common Goldeneye	May 18	Fern Ridge Reservoir	NS	A late date for this uncommon wintering bird
Horned Grebe	Apr. 18	Fern Ridge Reservoir	JS	Not commonly found here
Red-necked Grebe	May 23	Bray Point	DF&LC	A late date for this species
Eared Grebe	Apr. 22	Fern Ridge Reservoir	MP	A few recent spring reports from FRR
Clark's Grebe	May 16	Siltcoos River mouth	HH	A late date for the coast
Manx Shearwater	Apr. 26	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	DI et al.	First report from Lane County?
Brown Pelican	Apr. 10	Siuslaw River mouth	B&ZS	Moving north early this year
Great Egret	May 17	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	Seen a number of times during the month; is it breeding in the area?
White-faced Ibis (13)	May 9	Fern Ridge Reservoir	AC et al.	Becoming an annual spring visitor. Will they nest in the marshes?
White-faced Ibis (40)	May 24	Fern Ridge Reservoir	m.ob.	

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS & RAPTORS

Ruffed Grouse	Apr. 26	FRR area	RR	Not commonly reported from the valley floor
White-tailed Kite	May 6	Veneta area	LM et al.	An area where they've nested in the past
White-tailed Kite	May 9	Avadore	DBr	Another nesting location?
White-tailed Kite	May 30	Fern Ridge Reservoir	VT	Not known to breed here
Bald Eagle	Apr. 8	Skinner Butte	LM et al.	Nesting with two young birds in the nest

Northern Goshawk	Apr. 27	Skinner Butte	RR	A rare spring sighting from the valley floor
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CRANES, SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, TERNS, & ALCIDS

Sora	Apr. 18	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DS	About ten days later than usual
Sandhill Crane (1)	May 3	Eugene	JH	A late date for this migrant
Semipalmated Plover	Apr. 20	Heceta Beach	B&ZS	A normal time for them to pass through
Semipalmated Plover (2)	Apr. 26	Fern Ridge Reservoir	RR	A normal time for them to pass through
Black Oystercatcher	May 25	Sea Lion Caves area	B&ZS	A nest with 3 eggs. They've nested in the area in the past, but not always successfully.
Black-necked Stilt	Apr. 10	Fern Ridge Reservoir	JM	A normal time for their return to the marshes
American Avocet (2)	May 9	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DBo	The second year for sightings at this location
Greater Yellowlegs (125)	Apr. 15	Willamette River	TB	Seen while floating the river; large number
Solitary Sandpiper	Apr. 22	LCC	LM et al.	Normal northward migration window; a higher than average five birds were reported during the period.
Whimbrel	Apr. 23	NE Eugene	DI	Never common in the valley
Whimbrel (12)	May 12	Bob Creek	B&ZS	Normal migration time
Long-billed Curlew	Apr. 23	N Jetty, Suislaw R.	DF	Not common in Lane County
Long-billed Curlew	May 20	Siltcoos River mouth	DF&HH	Second report for this unusual migrant
Marbled Godwit (7)	Apr. 27	Florence area	VD	A good-sized flock for Lane County
Red Knot (44)	May 9	SJSR beach	Ma	A very large flock for Oregon; larger numbers than usual were reported on the coast this spring.
Wilson's Phalarope	Apr. 26	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DF,LC	A normal time for their return to the marshes
Red-necked Phalarope	May 15	Creswell	BF	Not always found in the valley during migration
Bonaparte's Gull	May 1	LCC	HR	Their normal migration period
Glaucous Gull	Apr. 14	Old Town, Florence	HH	Getting to be late for this wintering species
Sabine's Gull	Apr. 15	Siuslaw River mouth	DPy	Not commonly seen from land
Caspian Tern	Apr. 3	Bob Creek	DH	A little early for this species to be headed north
Caspian Tern	Apr. 6	Fern Ridge Reservoir	NS	The first report from inland this spring
Forster's Tern	May 17	Fern Ridge Reservoir	SM	Uncommon, not known to breed here
Black Tern (15)	May 9	Fern Ridge Reservoir	NS	About a week later than normal
Cassin's Auklet (8-10)	Apr. 26	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	DI et al.	More commonly reported from shore during spring migration
Tufted Puffin	May 15	Heceta Head	B&ZS	They may be breeding on Conical Rock to the north of the head

OWLS, GOATSUCKERS, & SWIFTS

Short-eared Owl (2)	Apr. 4	Fern Ridge Reservoir	MP,DPs	Getting late for this species at this location
Common Nighthawk	May 23	Ada	VD	About a week earlier than we find them in the valley, but they may arrive sooner near the coast
Black Swift	May 26	Salt Creek Falls	A&ES	A normal time for their arrival

Vaux's Swift	Apr. 15	Agate Hall, UO	MP	A few days later than usual
Vaux's Swift (1165)	May 2	Agate Hall, UO	NNP	A normal number to use the chimney during spring migration

PASSERINES

Eurasian Collared-Dove	Apr. 11	Santa Clara	MRu	A first report for the metro area
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Apr. 22,27	SE Eugene	WJ	First report for Eugene
Black-chinned Hummingbird	May 26	SE Eugene	PW	A rare visitor to the area
Calliope Hummingbird	Apr. 9	Skinner Butte	SH	A normal time for them to pass through
Calliope Hummingbird	Apr. 25	Santa Clara	MRu	
Calliope Hummingbird	May 9	Skinner Butte	SV	At the end of their normal spring occurrence
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Apr. 27	Skinner Butte	RR	Right on schedule for their return
Western Wood-Pewee	May 6	Churchill H.S. area	E&VT	A few days later than normal
Willow Flycatcher	May 19	N Eugene	DS	A few days earlier than normal
Willow Flycatcher	May 19	Alton Baker Park	AM	A few days earlier than normal
Hammond's Flycatcher	Apr. 17	SE Eugene	TM	Right on schedule for their return
Dusky Flycatcher	Apr. 25	S Eugene	JB,DI	A normal time for them to pass through
Dusky Flycatcher	Apr. 25	SE Eugene	A&TM	A normal time for them to pass through
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Apr. 22	LCC	LM et al.	Right on schedule for their return
Black Phoebe	Apr. 12	Springfield	MH	Nesting
Ash-throated Flycatcher	May 9	Fern Ridge Reservoir	AC et al.	Seen the last few years during spring migration
Ash-throated Flycatcher	May 31	Creswell	SN	It would be nice to know if they breed here
Western Kingbird	Apr. 22	Highway 99 N	JS	Right on schedule for their return
Western Kingbird	May 5	Ada area	B&ZS	A breeding location?
Western Kingbird	May 25	Siltcoos River mouth	HH	Rare along the Lane County Coast
Cassin's Vireo	Apr. 6	SE Eugene	TM	Right on schedule for their return
Hutton's Vireo	May 18	Alton Baker Park	AM	Adult feeding fledged young
Warbling Vireo	Apr. 22	LCC	LM et al.	Right on schedule for their return
Red-eyed Vireo	May 31	FRR area	TE	About a week earlier than normal
Horned Lark	Apr. 22	Highway 99 N	JS	Known to winter here; do they breed here?
Horned Lark (2)	May 18	Fern Ridge Reservoir	NS	Not normally found at this location
Purple Martin	Apr. 13	Fern Ridge Reservoir	NS	Right on schedule for their return
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Apr. 4	LCC	BMc	A few days later than normal
Bank Swallow	May 9	Fern Ridge Reservoir	AC et al.	Typically reported in fall, rarely in spring
Rock Wren	May 19	Siltcoos River mouth	DF&HH	Rarely found along the Lane County coast
House Wren	Apr. 18	Churchill H.S. area	E&VT	Right on schedule for their return
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Apr. 29	Armitage Park	LM et al.	Last report for the winter season
Swainson's Thrush				May 8 Skinner Butte RR About a week later than normal
Swainson's Thrush	May 8	FRR area	TM	About a week later than normal

Nashville Warbler	Apr. 7	Skinner Butte	RS	About a week earlier than normal
Yellow Warbler	May 6	Veneta area	LM et al.	About a week later than normal
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Apr. 6	Skinner Butte	BMc	Right on schedule for their return
Hermit Warbler	Apr. 25	Skinner Butte	JS,LJ	A few days later than normal
MacGillivray's Warbler	Apr. 22	LCC	LM et al.	Right on schedule for their return
Wilson's Warbler	Apr. 10	Skinner Butte	E&VT	Right on schedule for their return
Yellow-breasted Chat	May 9	Alvadore	DBr	A few days later than normal
Western Tanager	Apr. 23	Perkins Peninsula, FRR	JS	Right on schedule for their return
Lapland Longspur				Apr. 24 Siltcoos River mouth DF,HH A rare spring migrant
Grasshopper Sparrow	Apr. 25	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DS	About a week earlier than normal
Grasshopper Sparrow (possible)	May 28	Alton Baker Park	VT	If confirmed, it would be a new location.
Fox Sparrow	May 28	Florence	DPy	A late date for this wintering species
Lincoln's Sparrow	May 11	Fern Ridge Reservoir	NS	Rather late for valley sightings
White-throated Sparrow	Apr. 27	Skinner Butte	NS	Last report for the winter
White-crowned Sparrow	Apr. 10	SE Eugene	AC	Migrating through in good numbers
Black-headed Grosbeak	Apr. 20	FRR area	NC	About a week earlier than normal
Lazuli Bunting	Apr. 22	FRR area	NC	About a week earlier than normal
Yellow-headed Blackbird	May 16	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	Rarely found at the coast
Great-tailed Grackle	May 9	Fern Ridge Reservoir	AC et al.	About the seventh record for Lane County
Bullock's Oriole	Apr. 30	Fern Ridge Reservoir	JS,LJ	A few days later than usual
Red Crossbill	Apr. 11	S Eugene	DI	First sighting of this species at his feeder; they were around in good numbers throughout April and May.
Evening Grosbeak	May 13	UO	MP	They "seem to be everywhere."

Late report

Common Redpoll	Mar. 3rd Wk.	Eugene	JSt	Fifth record for Lane County and later than previous sightings; at feeder with Pine Siskins.
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Abbreviations

FRR Fern Ridge Reservoir; **m. ob.** many observers; **LCC** Lane Community College; **NJSR** North Jetty of the Siuslaw River; **SJSR** South Jetty of the Siuslaw River

Thank you, Contributors!

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