

FIELD NOTES: AUGUST 2009

• Fashionable tern visits Coast • Phalaropes grace Fern Ridge • Backyard birders spot unusual warblers • more

Shorebird migration was in full swing this month, and fall passerine migration was getting underway, with some unusual migrants spotted in backyards. A highlight of the migration was the high number of Semipalmated Sandpipers, with six present in one coastal flock of Western and Least Sandpipers. Also notable was an adult Elegant Tern accompanied by a young bird still in juvenal plumage.

RAPTORS

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| White-tailed Kite | Aug. 20 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | JS | First fall report |
| Peregrine Falcon | August | Fern Ridge Reservoir and South Jetty | m. ob. | Found frequently near shorebirds |

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, & TERNS

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Pacific Golden-Plover (3) | Aug. 30 | Deflation plain | HH | |
| Snowy Plovers (32) | Aug. 6 | Siltcoos River mouth | HH | Good-sized group |
| Semipalmated Plover (4) | Aug. 5 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | LM et al. | Inland migrants continue to trickle through |
| Semipalmated Plover (1) | Aug. 23 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | JS | |
| Greater Yellowlegs (30) | Aug. 5 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | LM et al. | Largest group reported during August |
| Solitary Sandpiper | Aug. 1 | FRR Headquarters | KC | Uncommon during the fall migration |
| Solitary Sandpiper | Aug. 23 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | JS | |
| Willet (2) | Aug. 6 | South Jetty Crab Dock | HH | Uncommon, but more likely on the coast |
| Willet (3) | Aug. 8 | South Jetty Crab Dock | DF | Two juveniles, one adult |
| Wandering Tattler (4) | Aug. 26 | South Jetty | RM | |
| Long-billed Curlew | Aug. 22 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | DH | Uncommon during fall migration |
| Red Knot | Aug. 30 | Deflation plain | HH | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper (6) | Aug. 5 | North Jetty | DF | An unusually large number |
| Baird's Sandpiper (7) | Aug. 21 | Heceta Beach | DI | Largest group reported during August |
| Pectoral Sandpiper (3) | Aug. 26 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | LM et al. | First report of southbound migrants |
| Pectoral Sandpiper (2) | Aug. 30 | Deflation plain | HH | First report of coastal migrants |
| Red-necked Phalarope (3) | Aug. 20 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | JS | Occasional inland migrant |
| Red-necked Phalarope (13) | Aug. 23 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | JS | |
| Red Phalarope | Aug. 26 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | LM et al. | Uncommon inland |
| Bonaparte's Gull | August | Fern Ridge Reservoir and North Jetty | m. ob. | Reports continued during August |
| Elegant Tern (2) | Aug. 6 | South Jetty | KL | Young bird still in juvenal plumage unusual |

Black Tern (10) Aug. 26 Fern Ridge Reservoir LM et al. Lingering at end of breeding season

SWIFTS

Black Swift (not sighted) Aug. 5 Diamond Pk. Wilderness JG et al. None found in possible breeding habitat

PASSERINES

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|------------------------|-----------|---|
| Black Phoebe (2 juvs.) | Aug. 8 | Booth Kelly Pond | TE | This species has bred here the last two years |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | Aug. 9 | Eugene yard | BG | Not common in town |
| MacGillivray's Warbler | Aug. 1 | Friendly St. yard | DI | Surprising yard migrant |
| Common Yellowthroat (juv.) | Aug. 2 | S. Eugene yard | AC | Surprising yard migrant |
| Horned Lark | Aug. 1 | FRR (Neilson Rd.) | WM | Not a known breeding area |
| Brewer's Sparrow (2) | Aug. 26 | Fern Ridge Reservoir | LM et al. | Irregular fall migrant |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | Aug. 9 | FRR Headquarters | KC | An early migrant |
| Evening Grosbeak (15) | Aug. 5 | Diamond Pk. Wilderness | JG et al. | Normal sighting at high elevations |

ABBREVIATIONS

Deflation Plain Deflation Plain near South Jetty, Siuslaw River; **FRR** Fern Ridge Reservoir; **m. ob.** many observers; **North Jetty** North Jetty of the Siuslaw River; **South Jetty** South Jetty of the Siuslaw River

THANK YOU, CONTRIBUTORS!

KC KC Childs, **AC** Alan Contreras, **TE** Tom Escue, **DF** Daniel Farrar, **JG** Joel Geier, **BG** Brandon Green, **HH** Hendrik Herlyn, **A&DH** Anne & Dan Heyerly, **DI** Dave Irons, **KL** Kit Larsen, **LM** Larry McQueen, **RM** Richard Messenger, **WM** Wayne Morrow, **JS** John Sullivan