

September 2009

• Lewis' Woodpeckers dot the Valley • Sora, Red-Eyed Vireo visit Delta Ponds • Long-billed Curlew at Fern Ridge

September is typically an action-packed birding month in Lane County, with north and south migration in full swing. The Neotropical birds, who migrated here in the spring to breed, have finished this part of their annual cycle and disappear from our view as they head back south. Meanwhile, we are flooded with birds from the north, those who bred during summer in the arctic or other northerly locations. Of these, many waterfowl land here to spend the winter with us, but the shorebirds typically migrate through on their way south.

Although the migration season is always fun for birders, we noticed this year that the high water levels at Fern Ridge Reservoir resulted in a lackluster year for shorebirds, with fewer of the exciting sightings that we have experienced in the past few years.

WATERBIRDS, RAPTORS

Red-necked Grebe	Sept. 19	North Jetty, Siuslaw R.	JS	First report for winter
Pink-footed Shearwater	Sept. 9	North Jetty, Siuslaw R.	DF,LC	First report for fall migration
Pink-footed Shearwater	Sept. 17	Siltcoos River mouth	DF,LC	Observed in larger numbers than the Sooty Shearwaters—it's normally the opposite
Red-shouldered Hawk	Sept. 1	Rock Creek, Coast	MPn	Continuing their northward expansion

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, & TERNS

Sora	Sept. 18	Delta Ponds	KG	Not a normal location
Black-bellied Plover (2)	Sept. 26	Fern Ridge Reservoir	AC et al.	The first report for this wintering location
Black-bellied Plover (31)	Sept. 27	South Jetty crab dock	HH	A good-sized flock
American Golden-Plover	Sept. 2	Deflation plain	DF	Higher than usual numbers of Golden-Plovers
American Golden-Plover	Sept. 26	South Jetty crab dock	AC et al.	were found during the period, especially the
Golden-Plover spp (Am?)	Sept. 13	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DI	American species, which is typically less
Pacific Golden-Plover	Sept. 2	Deflation plain	DF	common than the Pacific in Western Oregon.
Pacific Golden-Plover (4)	Sept. 11	Deflation plain	DS, SM	
Lesser Yellowlegs (8)	Sept. 10	Fern Ridge Reservoir	BMc, WS	First report for fall migration
Willet	Sept. 2	South Jetty crab dock	HH	A rare, but regular migrant on the coast
Long-billed Curlew	Sept. 2	Fern Ridge Reservoir	LM et al.	Migrates through Lane Co. in small numbers
Marbled Godwit (3)	Sept. 2	North Jetty, Siuslaw R.	DF	First report for the fall migration
Ruddy Turnstone	Sept. 11	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	DS,SM	Normal in small numbers during fall
Dunlin	Sept. 26	Fern Ridge Reservoir	AC et al.	First report for the winter

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (4)	Sept. 8	Deflation plain	HH	Not an annual migrant, but a typical time
Red-necked Phalarope	early Sept	Coast & Fern Ridge Res.	m. ob.	They were reported in good numbers.
Mew Gull (2)	Sept. 25	Fern Ridge Reservoir	LN	A normal time for their winter arrival
Sabine's Gull (3)	Sept. 4	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DI	Found in small numbers this time of year
Common Tern (35)	Sept. 4	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DI	A normal number for this time of year
Forster's Tern	Sept. 4	Fern Ridge Reservoir	DI	Occasionally found during migration

SWIFTS

Vaux's Swift (4000)	Sept. 2	Agate Hall, UO	MPs	A normal number for this migration roost
Vaux's Swift (approx. 10,000)	Sept. 25	Agate Hall, UO	MRh	A normal number for this migration roost

PASSERINES

Rufous Hummingbird	Sept. 30	Santa Clara area	MRh	Getting to be late for this breeder
Lewis's Woodpecker	Sept. 12	Royal Ave. near FRR	E&VT	A higher number than usual was found in the
Lewis's Woodpecker	Sept. 21	Pine Grove & Crow Rds.	DH	valley during September.
Lewis's Woodpecker	Sept. 27	Skinner Butte	A&TM	
Western Kingbird	Sept. 1	Rock Creek, Coast	MPn	A normal time for their southward migration,
Western Kingbird	Sept. 14	South Jetty dog pond	DF	but larger than usual numbers for the coast
Western Kingbird	Sept. 22	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	HH	
Red-eyed Vireo	Sept. 6	Delta Ponds	SG	Unusual location for this rare Lane County breeder
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Sept. 26	SE Eugene	A&TM	First report for the winter
American Pipit	Sept. 23	Carpenter Mtn.	Ma	Not normally found in the forested "old Cascades"
Hermit Warbler	Sept. 30	Alton Baker Park	LM et al.	Getting to be late for this breeder
Fox Sparrow	Sept. 14	Florence area	DP	First report for winter
Lapland Longspur	Sept. 11	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	JM et al.	Less than annual occurrence during fall/winter

ABBREVIATIONS:

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

THANK YOU, CONTRIBUTORS!

AC Alan Contreras, **LC** Lydie Cruz, **DF** Daniel Farrar, **SG** Steve Gordon, **KG** Katie Guske, **HH** Hendrik Herlyn, **DH** Dan Heyerly, **DI** Dave Irons, **Ma** Maitreya, **SM** Sylvia Maulding, **BMc** Barry McKenzie, **LM** Larry McQueen, **JM** Judy Meredith, **A&TM** Allison & Tom Mickel, **LN** Lars Norgren, **MPn** Mike Patterson, **MPs** Margie Paris, **DP** Diane Pettey, **MRh** Mark Rudolph, **DS** Don Schrouder, **WS** Wayne Schmidt, **JS** John Sullivan, **E&VT** Eddie & Vjera Thompson.