

October 2009

Merlin at Waldo • Black Phoebe on the deflation plain • Sparrows off course: Clay-colored, Lark

October is the month when most Neotropical migrants have left or will leave for warmer, sunnier locales to the south and when almost all of our wintering species have arrived or will be arriving for the winter season. Weather-wise, this October was kind of a mixed bag—some sunny and warm days, some sunny and cold days, and some cloudy and wet days—so I guess you could call it a typical October. This was the first October in quite a few that a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was not reported from Fern Ridge Reservoir, but the high water levels at the reservoir could have had something to do with that.

WATERBIRDS & RAPTORS

Eurasian Wigeon	Oct. 7	Delta Ponds	DA et al.	First report for winter
Swan spp. (2)	Oct. 30	Fern Ridge Reservoir	JS	First report for winter and a normal time
Tundra Swan (15)	Oct. 31	FRR, Shore Ln	JS	for small numbers to start showing up
Long-tailed Duck (2) (possible)	Oct. 28	Dexter Reservoir	fide JG	Rare, but regular during this season
Turkey Vulture (100's)	Oct. 5	Cottage Grove area	B&RM	Moving south in large flocks
Eared Grebe (3)	Oct. 31	FRR, Shore Ln	JS	Increasing at FRR during non-breeding times
White-tailed Kite (4)	Oct. 1	FRR, Fisher Butte	JS	Their numbers increased through the month,
White-tailed Kite (26)	Oct. 30	FRR	JS	as is normal at this traditional wintering site.
Northern Harrier (6)	Oct. 1	FRR, Fisher Butte	JS	Their numbers increased through the month,
Northern Harrier (20)	Oct. 30	FRR	JS	as is normal at this traditional wintering site.
Rough-legged Hawk	Oct. 5	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	DP	First report for the season
Merlin	Oct. 11	Waldo Lake	A&TM	Not often reported, but not a location many people bird this time of year

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS, & SWIFTS

Sandhill Crane	Oct. 11	FRR, Royal Ave	DI,DP	Rarely found at this location
Black-bellied Plover (20)	Oct. 31	FRR	JS	Normal wintering numbers
American Golden-Plover	Oct. 11	FRR, Royal Ave	VT	Getting to be late for this species
Semipalmated Plover	Oct. 28	FRR	CM	Getting to be late for this species
Dunlin (1000)	Oct. 31	FRR	JS	Normal wintering numbers
Vaux's Swift	Oct. 5	Alvadore	DI	Last report: typical time for their departure

PASSERINES

Rufous Hummingbird	Oct.22	N. Eugene	DH	A very late report
Lewis's Woodpecker	Oct. 8	Skinner Butte	AP	Mostly likely a different bird than last month's
Lewis's Woodpecker (4-6)	Oct. 16	Royal Ave. oak grove	JS	Large number for one location in Lane County

Black Phoebe	Oct. 4	SJSR, deflation plain	AC	Not a normal location for this species
Northern Shrike	Oct. 10	SJSR, Crab Dock	AC	First report for the winter season
Barn Swallow	Oct. 24	FRR	JS	A later than usual report
White-breasted Nuthatch	Oct.	Spencer Butte area	AMc,GT	First for these locations—it appears the species may be expanding
White-breasted Nuthatch	Oct.	N. Eugene	BG	
American Dipper	Oct. 2	N. Fork Siuslaw River	HH	Not often reported, but few people bird here
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Oct. 30	SE Eugene	TM	Last report—normal date for their departure
Townsend's Warbler	mid-Oct.	Eugene-Springfield	m.ob	They seem to have been found in larger numbers than is normal for this time of year.
Common Yellowthroat	Oct. 14	FRR, Royal Ave	LM et al.	Last report—a normal time for their departure
Western Tanager	Oct. 7	SW Eugene	DI	Last report—a normal time for their departure
American Tree Sparrow	Oct. 11	FRR, Royal Ave	DI,DP	Reported almost every year in Lane County during October–November
Chipping Sparrow	Oct. 3	SW Eugene	DI	A normal time for their migration
Clay-colored Sparrow	Oct. 4	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	AC	Rarely found in Lane County, but this date would be during their migration period
Lark Sparrow	Oct. 16	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	AC	Rarely found in Lane County in the fall
Lincoln's Sparrow	Oct. 4	FRR, Royal Ave	JS	Large numbers in the area
Swamp Sparrow (possible)	Oct. 28	Greenhill Rd	LM	First report for the winter—a typical time
White-throated Sparrow	Oct. 13	N. Eugene	DS	First report for the winter—a normal time
Golden-crowned Sparrow (2)	Oct. 2	SE Eugene	AC	First report for the winter—later than usual
Black-headed Grosbeak (2)	Oct. 8	River Rd./Santa Clara	MRu	Last report—later than usual

Abbreviations

FRR Fern Ridge Reservoir; **m.ob.** many observers; **SJSR** South Jetty of the Siuslaw River

Thank you, contributors!

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