

FIELD NOTES: JUNE-JULY 2010

- **Spotted Owl visits Cascades Raptor Center**
- **Common Nighthawks making a rebound?**
- **Red-eyed Vireos absent along the Willamette**
- **Peregrine Falcons spotted at Heceta Head**
- **Rare Foster's Tern spotted at FRR**

Tom and Allison Mickel

541.485.7112

tamickel@riouisa.com

June was unseasonably wet and cool, but July's weather was more seasonal. There seemed to be some noteworthy changes in breeding bird numbers and/or locations this summer. A pair of Solitary Sandpipers produced an exciting find at Gold Lake bog after a 25-year absence! On the other hand, Vesper Sparrows were only found singing in one area near Goshen while just a few years ago, there were numerous breeding locations. A singing Grasshopper Sparrow was found near Stewart Pond when the only breeding location has been on the east side of Fern Ridge Reservoir for a number of years. For the first time in years, Red-eyed Vireos weren't found in their usual breeding riparian habitat along the Willamette River below Dexter Reservoir. Lastly, Common Nighthawk reports were up again this year, so maybe their numbers are starting to slowly rebound after they were nearly eliminated from the Eugene/Springfield area.

WATERBIRDS

Brant (3)	July 31	Siuslaw River mouth	JS	Uncommon summer report
Brown Pelican	July 31	Siuslaw River mouth	JS	Large numbers of birds feeding in the river
Great Egret (2)	June 13	FRR – Royal Ave	RR	They've been around all season.
Great Egret	July 18	FRR – Royal Ave	DJ	Their numbers have increased as is normal after the breeding season.
Black-crowned Night-Heron (2)	July 28	FRR – Royal Ave	DS,et.al.	A normal date and location
White-faced Ibis (30)	July 21	North Eugene	AP	Seen flying SE over Sheldon Plaza area

FALCONS TO AUKLETS

Peregrine Falcon	June 2	Heceta Head	B&ZS	A known breeding location
Peregrine Falcon (2)	June 15	old town Florence	DF	Heceta Head pair?
Peregrine Falcon	June 17	Coast Range	J&JD	Fledged two young this year
Peregrine Falcon	July 28	FRR – Royal Ave	DS,et.al.	Seen following its prey after breeding
Black-necked Stilt (8)	June 4	FRR – E Coyote	BB	Highest number reported this year
Lesser Yellowlegs	July 20	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	Adults migrating south after breeding
Solitary Sandpiper (pair)	June 25	Gold Lake bog	TM	They appear to be breeding again after a 25-year absence!
Wandering Tattler	July 31	LJSR	JS	First post-breeding report
Whimbrel (2)	June 5	Siltcoos River mouth	DF,LC	Getting late for this species to be headed north

Whimbrel	June 15	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	Headed south already or summering?
Long-billed Curlew (3)	June 5	Siltcoos River mouth	DF,LC	An unusual summer sighting
Black Turnstone (15)	July 31	NJSR	JS	First post-breeding report
Western Sandpiper (60+)	June 28	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	Adults migrating south after breeding
Pectoral Sandpiper (2)	July 20	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	An early report of adults
Long-billed Dowitcher (87)	July 20	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	First post-breeding report
Wilson's Phalarope (7)	June 4	FRR – E Coyote	BB	Highest number reported this year
Wilson's Phalarope (3 juv.)	July 20	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Are they fledged from the area or migrants?
Red-necked Phalarope (2)	July 16	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	The first post-breeding report
Bonaparte's Gull	July 20	FRR- Royal Ave	JS	Bird has been around all season
Heermann's Gull	July 31	Siuslaw River mouth	JS	Large numbers harassing the pelicans
California Gull	June 28	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	Adults starting to show up along the coast
Glaucous-winged Gull	June 13	FRR – Royal Ave	RR	Not normally found during the summer
Caspian Tern	June 23	FRR – Royal Ave	DA,et.al.	Normally found in small numbers
Forster's Tern (2)	June 13	FRR – Royal Ave	RR	Rarely found during the summer
Black Tern	July 11	FRR – Royal Ave	A&TM	The first fledgling was seen
Common Murre	July 31	Siuslaw River mouth	JS	Large numbers feeding in the river
Pigeon Guillemot	July 31	Siuslaw River mouth	JS	Large number feeding in the river
Marbled Murrelet	July 31	Siuslaw River mouth	JS	Large numbers feeding in the river
Rhinoceros Auklet (30)	July 31	Siuslaw River mouth	JS	A very large number for this location

DOVES TO FINCHES

Eurasian Collared-Dove	July 19	Delta Oaks area	CT	Numerous calling birds in the area
Spotted Owl	July 29	Cascade Raptor Center	LS	A wild bird heard and seen outside their Spotted Owl enclosure. A very rare report from the South Hills of Eugene, but not the first. A radioed bird spent most of its first winter in about same area in the 1990's.
Common Nighthawk	June 4	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	An unusual coastal report
Common Nighthawk	June 6	Elijah Bristow SP	JS	An area where their numbers may not have been quite so reduced
Common Nighthawk (2)	June 12	River Road area	BC	One of the first areas where their numbers increased
Common Nighthawk	June 16	West Eugene	VT	The second report for the year
Common Nighthawk	June 25	SW Eugene yard	SG	Only the second sighting since 1975!
Black Swift	June 12	Salt Creek falls	SM,PS	Small numbers were reported for the season
Olive-sided Flycatcher	June 18	Skinner Butte Park	VT	Breeding in the area?
Ash-throated Flycatcher	June 11	Alton Baker Park	NN-P	Another rare breeding season report
Western Kingbird	June 10	old town Florence	DF	Rarely found on the coast
Loggerhead Shrike	June 1	Alton Baker Park	MH	Rarely found, but a normal time
Loggerhead Shrike	July 22	Siltcoos River mouth	DF	A rare breeding season report
Red-eyed Vireo	June 23	Skinner Butte Park	JS	First report of this species for the year

Red-eyed Vireo	June 24	Alton Baker Park	JS	There weren't any reports from the small population along the Willamette River at Elijah Bristow SP or Jasper SP.
Purple Martin (8)	June 28	King Estates Winery	SG	They must be breeding in the Lorane Valley.
Horned Lark (2)	June 3	FRR – E Coyote	CT	Could they be breeding in the area?
Horned Lark (2)	July 18	Eugene airport area	DJ	An area where they've bred in the past
Townsend's Solitaire	June 2	Skinner Butte	DS	Always a nice bird to see in the valley
Red-breasted Nuthatch (2)	July 28	SE Eugene	AC	Only the second record from his feeder
Yellow-rumped Warbler	18 June	Eugene south hills	TM	Singing birds were heard along the Ridgeline Trail and at Hendricks Park through the second week of July. They normally only breed in the High Cascades and in the lodgepole pine on the coast.
Black-and-White Warbler	July 7	Ferry St Bridge area	A&DH	A rare breeding season report
Vesper Sparrow	June 5	Goshen area	JS,LJ	The only report of this species breeding in the county!
Lark Sparrow	June 5	Delta Ponds	JC	Another rare breeding season report
Grasshopper Sparrow	June 7	Stewart Pond	PG	Last report from this area – did they breed?
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	May 19	Springfield	RV	A late report photographed at a feeder
Indigo Bunting	July 17	Stewart Pond	RS	About a dozen records for the county

Abbreviations

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR).

Thank you, contributors!

DA Dennis Arendt, **BB** Ben Burnette, **JC** Jim Carlson, **BC** Barbara Combs, **AC** Alan Contreras, **LC** Lydia Cruz, **J&JD** Jim & Judy DeLapp, **DF** Daniel Farrar, **PG** Paul Gordon, **SG** Steve Gordon, **A&DH** Anne & Dan Heyerly, **MH** Mike H, **LJ** Laura Johnson, **DJ** Dave Jones, **SM** Sylvia Maulding, **A&TM** Allison & Tom Mickel, **NN-P** Nicole Nielsen-Pincus, **AP** Al Prigge, **RR** Roger Robb, **DS** Don Schrouder, **PS** Paul Sherrell, **LS** Louise Shimmel, **RS** Randy Sinnott, **B&ZS** Bill & Zanah Stotz, **JS** John Sullivan, **CT** Charlie Thomas, **VT** Vjera Thompson, **RV** Rob VanCamp.