

## Field Notes: September 2010

- Parasitic Jaegers at Fern Ridge
- Greater White-fronted Geese migrate through Eugene
- Red-necked Grebes makes rare inland appearance
- Baird's and Semipalmated Sandpipers still hanging around

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September is normally the month when most of the neotropical migrants return to Central and South America, and the arctic breeding birds begin to return to Lane County for the winter. As the reports below indicate, this year was no different. Fern Ridge Reservoir hosted a number of unusual species this month, which is normal during migration. Fall migration observations were better than normal at Skinner Butte, and an increased number of bird watchers may have contributed to that.

### WATERBIRDS

Greater White-fronted Goose	Sept. 26	Eugene area	m.ob.	Numerous flocks were seen and heard migrating south over the area all day!
Cackling Goose	Sept. 29	FRR	LM,et.al.	First report for the winter season
Harlequin Duck	Sept. 1	Siuslaw River	DHn	Uncommon away from the rocky shore
Horned Grebe (2)	Sept. 18	FRR	JS	Rare on the reservoir
Red-necked Grebe (2)	Sept. 18	FRR	DI	Not common inland
Red-necked Grebe	Sept. 25	Siuslaw River	B&ZS	First report for the winter season
Black-crowned Night Heron (6)	Sept. 26	FRR	JS	Increasing numbers at this roost

### RAPTORS to TERNS

Merlin	Sept. 9	SJSR—Crab Dock	B&ZS	First report for the winter season
Peregrine Falcon	Sept. 1	NJSR	B&ZS	Good numbers seen throughout the month
Sandhill Crane	Aug 27	Waldo Lake	DL&KC	They nest in small numbers in the Cascades.
Black-bellied Plover	Sept. 26	FRR	JS	First report for the winter season
Pacific Golden Plover	Sept. 2	FRR—south end	TM	Not common inland
Snowy Plover (19)	Sept. 29	Siltcoos River	B&ZS	Using area of dumped oyster shells
Whimbrel (4)	Sept. 4	FRR—Royal Ave	JS,LJ	Uncommon inland
Marbled Godwit	Sept. 6	SJSR—Crab Dock	B&ZS	Their normal migration time
Red Knot	Sept. 3	SJSR—Dog Pond	RN	Never common in Lane County
Sanderling	Sept. 2	FRR—south end	TM	Not common inland
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Sept. 2	FRR—south end	TM	Getting late for this species
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Sept. 5	Deflation Plain	A&CH	Getting late for this species
Baird's Sandpiper	Sept. 5	Deflation Plain	A&CH	Getting late for this species
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Sept. 12	Deflation Plain	A&DH	The only report this fall
Short-billed Dowitcher (5)	Sept. 12	FRR	JS	Only found in small numbers inland
Red Phalarope	Sept. 1	Siuslaw River	DHn	An early report for this species
Parasitic Jaeger (immature)	Sept. 20	FRR—Shore Lane	JS	Always rare inland, but to see two different

Parasitic Jaeger (adult)	Sept. 21	FRR—south end	JS	birds in two days is really rare!
Sabine's Gull	Sept. 22	FRR—Perkins Pen.	BB,JM	Found in very small numbers inland this time of year. The number increased to three on Sept. 27 (SM).
Sabine's Gull (adult)	Sept. 25	Siltcoos River	DF	Not commonly found on the beach
Common Tern (19)	Sept. 3	FRR	DI	Normal occurrence each fall in small numbers
Common Tern (2)	Sept. 22	Siuslaw River	DF&LC	Not common along the river
Arctic Tern	Sept. 27	FRR	JD	Maybe the first inland record for Lane Co.
Black Tern (immature)	Sept. 17	FRR	DI,JS	About a month after the breeding birds had left the reservoir

## OWLS to GROSBEAKS

Northern Pygmy Owl	Sept. 12	Lowell Butte	LJ	With an alligator lizard in its bill!
Vaux's Swift (3,000)	Aug 29	SHMC—University	RA	Chimney roost not commonly known about
Vaux's Swift (12,000)	Sept. 5	U of O—Agate Hall	NN-P	The normal chimney roost
Vaux's Swift (3,500)	Sept. 29	N. Willamette St.	DHy	Using the chimney at the back of the Smith Family Book Store building
Rufous Hummingbird	Sept. 27	N. Eugene	DHy	Last report for the breeding season
Lewis's Woodpecker	Sept. 13	Creswell area	DHy	They normally migrate through in small numbers.
Acorn Woodpecker	Sept. 30	Morse Ranch Park	CQ	An area where they're not normally found
American Three-toed Woodpecker	Sept. 4	Summit Lake area	NS	Always present in small numbers in the High Cascades
Pileated Woodpecker	Sept. 1	NJSR	B&ZS	Not an area where they're normally found
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Sept. 23	Skinner Butte	TM.	Last report for the breeding season
Western Wood-Pewee	Sept. 27	N. Eugene	DHy	Last report for the breeding season
Willow Flycatcher	Sept. 18	Long Tom River	DI,et.al.	Last report for the breeding season
Hammond's Flycatcher	Sept. 10	Skinner Butte	TM	Last report for the breeding season
Dusky Flycatcher	Sept. 10	Skinner Butte	TM	Last report for the breeding season
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Sept. 22	Alton Baker Park	LM,et.al.	Last report for the breeding season
Cassin's Vireo	Sept. 3	SE Eugene	TM	Last report for the breeding season
Warbling Vireo	Sept. 22	Kirk Park	LG	Last report for the breeding season
Bank Swallow (2)	Sept. 7	FRR—dam	DI	Normally seen in very small number in the fall
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Sept. 15	Skinner Butte	LM,et.al.	First report for the winter season
Hermit Thrush	Sept. 29	Siltcoos Lagoon	B&ZS	First coastal report for the winter season
Varied Thrush	Sept. 20	SE Eugene	TM	First report for the winter season
Nashville Warbler	Sept. 10	Skinner Butte	TM	Last report for the breeding season
Yellow Warbler	Sept. 24	FRR—Royal Ave	TM	Last report for the breeding season
Black-throated Gray Warbler (20)	Sept. 27	N. Eugene	DHy	Last report for the breeding season
Hermit Warbler	Sept. 25	Skinner Butte	DS	Last report for the breeding season
MacGillivray's Warbler	Sept. 3	Skinner Butte	TM	Last report for the breeding season
Wilson's Warbler	Sept. 23	Skinner Butte	TM	Last report for the breeding season
Yellow-breasted Chat	Sept. 18	Long Tom River	DI,et.al.	Last report for the breeding season
Western Tanager	Sept. 25	Skinner Butte	DS	Last report for the breeding season
Fox Sparrow	Sept. 12	Florence area	DP	First report for the winter season
Golden-crowned Sparrow	Sept. 6	Long Tom River	DI&SF	First report for the winter season
Black-headed Grosbeak	Sept. 17	Skinner Butte	TM	Last report for the breeding season

Evening Grosbeak

Sept.

Eugene/Springfield

m.ob.

Flocks have been seen throughout the area all month in larger numbers than are normally seen at this time of year.

## **Abbreviations**

Deflation Plain: Deflation Plain at the South Jetty of the Siuslaw River

FRR: Fern Ridge Reservoir

NJSR: North Jetty of the Siuslaw River

SHMC: Sacred Heart Medical Center

Siltcoos River: Siltcoos River mouth,

Siuslaw River: Siuslaw River mouth

SJSR: South Jetty of the Siuslaw

## **Thank you, contributors!**

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