

FIELD NOTES: APRIL-MAY 2011

• **Common Loons migrating through** • **Clark's Grebe on the Siuslaw** • **Calliope Hummingbird in North Eugene** • **Pine Siskin numerous in College Hill neighborhood**

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This spring was colder and wetter than normal, which is reflected in the number of late arrivals below. It was also one of the "slowest" springs for birding on Skinner Butte that we can remember. There were very few days with large numbers of birds! On the other hand, larger numbers of Lewis's Woodpeckers were reported than we can remember, and Calliope Hummingbirds were again reported in large numbers. During the latter part of May, Western Tanagers were found in large flocks throughout the Eugene-Springfield area, generated lots of reports.

WATERBIRDS

Greater White-fronted Goose	Apr. 16	Junction City area	JF	Large flock feeding in fields
Greater White-fronted Goose	Apr. 16	FRR - Royal Ave	JS	Another large flock
Ross's Goose	May 5	FRR – Royal Ave	AC	Late date for this species
Tundra Swan (15)	Apr. 5	FRR	JW	Getting late for this species
Eurasian Wigeon (pair)	Apr. 3	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Getting late for this species
Blue-winged Teal	Apr. 20	FRR – Royal Ave	AP	About a week earlier than normal
Redhead (15)	Apr. 18	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	First report for the summer
Tufted Duck	Apr. 8	FRR – Royal Ave	R&SM	Sixth year at this location
Tufted Duck	May 2	Siltcoos River	DF,AK	Third record for Lane Co. besides the returning male at FRR
Greater Scaup (3)	Apr. 3	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	Not a common place for this species
Black Scoter	May 1	Siuslaw River	RR	Not commonly found
Common Goldeneye (2)	Apr. 7	Siltcoos River	DF	Not a common place for this species
Red-breasted Merganser	Apr. 19	Long Tom River	LG	Rare in the valley
Common Loon (2)	Apr. 4	Hills Creek Reservoir	JW	A normal migration location
Common Loon (10)	Apr. 11	Dorena Reservoir	NS	Calling migrants
Yellow-billed Loon	Apr. 5	Florence area	B&ZS	Eighth record for Lane Co.
Horned Grebe	Apr. 29	Dorena Reservoir	DW	Found in small numbers on local reservoirs
Clark's Grebe	Apr. 2	Siuslaw River	B&ZS	Rarely found on the coast
Brown Pelican	Apr. 5	Heceta Head	B&ZS	First for the year
Green Heron	May 2	Mill Race – U of O	AM	First report besides wintering birds
White-faced Ibis	May 22	FRR – Fisher Butte	A&TM	Found most springs the last eight years

VULTURES TO TERNS

Turkey Vulture	Apr. 25	Spencer Butte	NS	"Nest" with two eggs
Osprey	Apr. 2	Oakridge area	JW	A normal time for their arrival

Bald Eagle	Apr. 13	Skinner Butte	DS,et.al.	A downy chick in the nest for the 5 th yr
Swainson's Hawk	May 4	Mt. Pisgah	DA,et.al.	About fifteen records for Lane Co.
Sandhill Crane (2)	May 7	Mt. Pisgah	BC	Rarely found this late in the spring
Pacific Golden-Plover	May 6	FRR – Fisher Butte	SH	Rarely found in the spring
Black-necked Stilt (5)	Apr. 19	FRR	LG	About a week later than normal
American Avocet	May 3	FRR	RR	Fifth year at this location
Solitary Sandpiper	May 3	FRR	RR	Their normal migration window
Whimbrel	Apr. 5	SJSR – crab dock	B&ZS	First of the spring
Long-billed Curlew	May 1	Florence area	RR	Rarely found in Lane Co.
Long-billed Curlew	May 21	FRR – Fisher Butte	JS	Rarely found in Lane Co.
Marbled Godwit	May 3	FRR	RR	Rarely found inland in Lane Co.
Red Knot	Apr. 30	NJSR	DF	First of a number of reports
Short-billed Dowitcher (10)	Apr. 30	NJSR	DF	A normal migration period
Wilson's Phalarope	Apr. 30	FRR	SM	About a week earlier than normal
Red-necked Phalarope	Apr. 20	Siuslaw River	DP	A normal time for their migration
Red-necked Phalarope (7)	Apr. 30	FRR	SM	Small numbers migrate through
Red Phalarope (3)	Apr. 26	Siltcoos River	DF	Normally migrate off shore
Bonaparte's Gull (6)	May 6	FRR – Royal Ave	SH	A normal migration period
Caspian Tern (2)	Apr. 5	FRR	JW	Small numbers migrate through
Caspian Tern	Apr. 6	Siltcoos River	DF	Large numbers migrating north
Black Tern	May 3	FRR	RR	Right on schedule
Forster's Tern	May 14	FRR – Royal Ave	JS,LJ	Rarely found in Lane Co.
Common Murre	Apr.	Heceta Head	B&ZS	None seen during the month
Tufted Puffin	Apr.	Heceta Head	B&ZS	None seen during the month

SWIFTS TO SWALLOWS

Vaux's Swift	Apr. 4	Hendricks Park area	MPk	About a week earlier than normal
Vaux's Swift (4,300)	Apr. 30	Agate Hall (U of O)	NN-P,ST-A	Normal numbers during migration
Costa's Hummingbird	Apr. 12	North Eugene	DS	About ten records for Lane Co.
Calliope Hummingbird	Apr. 21	North Eugene	DS	First of about six reports this spring
Lewis's Woodpecker	Apr. 23	Elijah Bristow SP	MB	Unusually high number of reports
Lewis's Woodpecker	May 1	FRR – Fisher Butte	LG	the spring in the valley
Lewis's Woodpecker	May 7	Oakhill Cemetery	E&VT	Unusually high number of reports for
Lewis's Woodpecker (2)	May 10	Delta Ponds	DG	the spring in the valley
Olive-sided Flycatcher	May 3	Skinner Butte	BH	A couple days later than normal
Western Wood-Pewee	Apr. 24	Santa Clara	MRU	About a week earlier than normal
Willow Flycatcher	May 11	Delta Ponds	DA,et.al.	A couple days earlier than normal
Hammond's Flycatcher	Apr. 13	Mt. Pisgah area	TM	A few days earlier than normal
Gray Flycatcher	Apr. 29	Oakridge	GA	Rare in Lane Co.
Dusky Flycatcher	May 3	Skinner Butte	SM	About two weeks later than normal
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Apr. 21	Skinner Butte	TM	Right on schedule
Black Phoebe	Apr. 19	Green Island	KL	Nesting again this year
Say's Phoebe	May 2	Thurston area	GG	An unusual "spring" report

Western Kingbird	Apr. 24	Meadowlark Prairie	E&VT	A few days later than normal
Western Kingbird	Apr. 28	Siltcoos River	DP	An unusual location
Western Kingbird (11)	May 10	FRR	NS	A very large number
Ash-throated Flycatcher	May 24	Skinner Butte	BB,JM	Small numbers found most springs
Cassin's Vireo	Apr. 10	Ridgeline Trail	TM	A few days later than normal
Warbling Vireo	Apr. 30	South Eugene	AC	About a week later than normal
Gray Jay	Apr. 25	Spencer Butte	NS	Rarely found in the area
Horned Lark (3)	May 10	FRR	NS	Do they breed in the area?
Purple Martin	Apr. 12	FRR – Royal Ave	LG	Right on schedule
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Apr. 6	Mt. Pisgah area	LM,et.al.	A few days later than normal
Bank Swallow	May 14	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	Rarely found in Lane Co.
Barn Swallow	Apr. 3	FRR – Royal Ave	A&TM	A few days later than normal

WRENS TO SISKIN

House Wren	May 1	FRR	A&TM	A little over a week later than normal
Wrentit	Apr. 23	Elijah Bristow SP	CT	An area where the species has been found in the past
Townsend's Solitaire	Apr. 30	Skinner Butte	BMc	Unusual spring reports from the valley
Townsend's Solitaire	May 5	Mt. Pisgah	NS	Unusual spring reports from the valley
Swainson's Thrush	Apr. 26	SJSR – crab dock	B&ZS	Earlier than normal
Swainson's Thrush	May 1	Skinner Butte	A&TM	A couple days earlier than normal
Northern Mockingbird	Apr. 3	Florence area	RN	Last report for the winter season
Nashville Warbler (3)	Apr. 20	Skinner Butte	DA,et.al.	About a week later than normal
Yellow Warbler	Apr. 29	FRR	A&TM	Right on schedule
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Apr. 2	Skinner Butte	A&DH	A couple days earlier than normal
Hermit Warbler	May 1	Skinner Butte	BMc,et.al.	About a week later than normal
MacGillivray's Warbler	Apr. 21	Delta Ponds	NN-P	Right on schedule
Common Yellowthroat	Apr. 6	Mt. Pisgah area	LM,et.al.	Over a week later than normal
Wilson's Warbler	Apr. 27	North Eugene	A&DH	Almost two weeks later than normal
Yellow-breasted Chat	May 10	FRR	NS	A few days later than normal
Chipping Sparrow	Apr. 9	North Eugene	BG	Over a week later than normal
Vesper Sparrow	Apr. 28	Cantrell Road	RR	Almost a month later than normal
Sage Sparrow	May 1	Meadowlark Prairie	TW	Sixth record for Lane Co.
Western Tanager	Apr. 21	North Eugene	BG	Right on schedule
Black-headed Grosbeak	Apr. 29	Thurston area	GG	A few days later than normal
Lazuli Bunting	May 5	River Road area	BC	About a week later than normal
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Apr. 3	FRR – Royal Ave	J&CM,JS	Right on schedule
Brown-headed Cowbird	Apr. 21	South Eugene	DG	A couple weeks later than normal
Bullock's Oriole	May 1	River Road area	B&KA	About a week later than normal
Pine Siskin	Apr. 13	College Hill area	MPs	Large numbers at feeder in the neighborhood!

Special Note – Hutton's Vireo

On morning walks along the Ridgeline Trail in southeast Eugene, I had Hutton's Vireos singing for about three weeks in late January/early

February, which isn't uncommon during "nice" weather, but I've only heard them once since then! They're normally heard almost daily from early March through about the third week of April. They become rather quiet about that time with young in the nest. On the other hand, every time I've been to Skinner Butte in downtown Eugene in this spring, one or more Hutton's Vireos have been singing. I'm not sure why they're not singing/present in the south hills of Eugene, but they are on Skinner Butte just a few miles away.

Abbreviations

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR), Siltcoos River mouth (Siltcoos River), Siuslaw River mouth (Siuslaw River) South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR).

Thank you, contributors!

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