

Field Notes: June - July 2012

Nesting Black Swifts

Spotted Redshank

Acorn Woodpecker

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

The weather was a real mixed bag this season; a wet June and a mostly dry July with lots of morning clouds. From a birding standpoint, this season was amazing – just look at all the rare and unusual reports below. The highlight is a toss-up between Eric Horvath's finding Black Swift nests at Salt Creek Falls and the breeding-plumage Spotted Redshank found by Becky Uhler at Fern Ridge Reservoir. After thirty years of watching Black Swifts at the falls, Eric found the first documented nests in Oregon! And of course a breeding-plumage Spotted Redshank is a spectacular bird, and to find one in Lane County is an amazing find! Unfortunately, it wasn't very cooperative and was seen by only about a dozen people.

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

WATERBIRDS

Brant (11)	June 14	Siuslaw River	DP	Small numbers summer along the coast.
Snow Goose	June 22	Florence	DP	Rare summer record – injured wing.
Cackling Goose	July 20	FRR – Royal Ave	NS	Rare summer record – injured?
Blue-winged Teal (pair)	June 26	Siltcoos Estuary	DF	Rare on the outer coast.
Black Scoter (3)	July 19	NJSR	JW	Unusual during the summer.
Snowy Egret	June 24	Delta Ponds	TMe	First summer record, 15th for county.
Black-crowned Night-Heron	June 15	East Springfield	SMc	Unusual summer sighting away from FRR.
Black-crowned Night-Heron	June 18	Mt Pisgah area	MO	There aren't any known Lane County nesting areas.
Black-crowned Night-Heron	June 29	Mt Pisgah area	AM	An immature calling and circling over the river.
Black-crowned Night-Heron (5)	July 25	FRR – Royal Ave	LM,et al.	A normal time and place for this species.

QUAIL to AUKLETS

Mountain Quail	June 2	Spencer Butte	TMe	An area where they were "common," but haven't been reported for a number of years.
Mountain Quail	June 20	Spencer Butte	E&VT	
White-tailed Kite	June 9	Noti	VT	An area where they've bred in the past.
Red-shouldered Hawk	July 26	Morse Ranch park	CQ	Found in the area for the last couple months.
Peregrine Falcon	June 15	Coast Range	J&JD	A pair fledged 3 young.
Black-bellied Plover (4)	June 4	Siltcoos Estuary	DF	Still headed north?
Semipalmated Plover	July 5	FRR – Royal Ave	LM,RR	An early date for their southern migration.
Black-necked Stilt (3)	July 5	FRR – Royal Ave	NS	First report since early spring this year.
Pacific Golden-plover	July 13	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	An almost annual migrant.
Wandering Tattler (2)	July 29	SJSR	RR	A normal migration time.
Greater Yellowlegs (4)	June 24	Siltcoos Estuary	DF	Breeding plumage – headed south?
Spotted Redshank	July 4	FRR – W Coyote	BU	Second Oregon record.
Willet	June 9	SJSR	LC	A very unusual June record.
Ruddy Turnstone	July 20	NJSR	DP	Their normal migration period.
Ruddy Turnstone	July 29	FRR – Royal Ave	NS	First record for inland Lane County.
Semipalmated Sandpiper	June 27	Siltcoos Estuary	DF	A little early for their southward migration.

Semipalmated Sandpiper	July 7	FRR – Royal Ave	AHi	A normal time for migration.
Western Sandpiper (3)	June 24	Siltcoos Estuary	DF	Breeding plumage – headed south?
Red-necked Stint	July 23	SJSR crab dock	AC,LB,TMe	The fourth county record.
Baird’s Sandpiper	July 13	FRR – Royal Ave	BMc	An early report for this species.
Ruff (Reeve)	July 10	FRR – Royal Ave	JS	An unusually early record for this almost annual migrant.
Wilson’s Phalarope (21)	July 7	FRR – Royal Ave	AHi	The highest count at FRR.
Red-necked Phalarope	June 2	FRR – Royal Ave	DH	About the end of their migration window.
Sabine’s Gull	July 29	Heceta Beach	RR	The only summer record for the county.
Bonaparte’s Gull	July 13	FRR – Royal Ave	BMc	A rare summer report.
Arctic Tern	June 26	Siltcoos River beach	DF	Rarely found during the summer.
Forster’s Tern	July 5	FRR – Royal Ave	m.ob.	Not known to breed in the county.
Rhinoceros Auklet (18)	June 29	SJSR	S&SG	A good location this time of year.
Rhinoceros Auklet (61)	July 29	Siuslaw River mouth	WH	A very high number for Lane County.

OWLS to FINCHES

Northern Pygmy-Owl	June 2	Spencer Butte	TMe	They’ve been quite common in the south hills this year.
Spotted Owl (2)	July 29	McKenzie River basin	JS,LJ	Always a special treat while hiking in the Cascades!
Common Nighthawk	June/July	Eugene/Springfield	m.ob.	Four reports for the season, about a normal number.
Black Swift (nests)	July 20	Salt Creek falls	EH	First documented nests in Oregon! First found at the falls in 1982 and assumed to be breeding there, but now there’s proof.
Acorn Woodpecker	June 19	Goshen	NS	Not an area where they’re reported regularly.
Acorn Woodpecker	June 20	Brays Point area	fide DP	A very rare coastal record.
Red-eyed Vireo	July 3	Clearwater Park	RR	Same area they were found in last year.
Horned Lark (singing)	July 31	FRR – E Coyote	LN	They’ve been reported from this area in the past during the breeding season.
Northern Mockingbird	July 1	Creswell	NS	One of about a half dozen summer records.
Townsend’s Warbler	July 1	Creswell	NS	Rare Willamette Valley summer record.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	July 3	Eugene	JSi	First report for July – normally found in spring.
Indigo Bunting	June 2	Alton Baker Park	MP,RH,R&JB	About 15 records for the county.
Indigo X Lazuli Bunting	June 2	Alton Baker Park	MP,RH,R&JB	Hybrids have turned up with some regularity the last few years around Eugene/Springfield.
Vesper Sparrow	June 19	Goshen area	NS	An area where they’ve bred in the past.
Great-tailed Grackle	July 7	FRR – Fisher Butte	A&TM	About the eighth record for Lane County.
Red Crossbill	June 2+	Eugene south hills	TM	Large numbers seen in the area.
Red Crossbill	June 27	Delta Ponds	LM,et al.	Unusual away from conifer forests.
Red Crossbill (20)	July 20	Springfield	JS	Unusual away from conifer forests.
Pine Siskin (8)	June 16	S Eugene yard	SG	Later than normal.
Evening Grosbeak (pair)	June 20	S Eugene yard	SG	Later than normal.

R&JB Rob & Janet Barnes, **LB** Luke Bloch, **AC** Alan Contreras, **LC** Lydia Cruz, **J&JD** Jim & Jodi DeLapp, **DF** Daniel Farrar, **S&SG** Steve & Susie Gordon, **RH** Rosie Hammond, **DH** Dan Heyerly, **AHi** Adrian Hinkle, **WH** Wayne Hoffman, **EH** Eric Horvath, **LJ** Laura Johnson, **BMc** Barry McKenzie, **LM** Larry McQueen, **SMc** Steve McDonald, **TMe** Thomas Meizen, **A&TM** Allison & Tom Mickel, **LN** Lars Norgren, **MO** Melissa Olsen, **MP** Magnus Persmark, **DP** Diane Pettey, **CQ** Charlie Quinn, **RR** Roger Robb, **JSi** Julia Siporin, **NS** Noah Strycker, **JS** John Sullivan, **E&VT** Eddie & Vjera Thompson, **BU** Becky Ulher, **JW** Jason Wilder.