

Field Notes: March 2019

Hooded Oriole, Short-eared Owl, Mountain Bluebird, Harris's Sparrow

Well, March started with quite the “winter wonderland”—more than a foot of snow in Eugene/Springfield! And went out on a warm, sunny weekend with wildflowers and migrants starting to show up! As you can see by the notes, most of the early spring migrants have arrived with a few unexpected surprises. For example, Say's Phoebes, which used to be an early spring migrant in very small numbers, have turned into a common wintering species in small numbers and a common migrant in amazing numbers.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS

Snow Goose.....	Mar 31.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	RR.....	Getting late for this species
Cinnamon Teal (pair).....	Mar 17.....	Junction City area.....	RR.....	Normal arrival time for non-wintering birds
Harlequin Duck.....	Mar 26.....	Tokatee Klootchman.....	AC,et al.....	Still at their wintering area
Harlequin Duck (pair).....	Mar 26.....	Oakridge - Salmon Ck.....	MLS.....	On their breeding grounds
Black Scoter (2).....	Mar 26.....	Tokatee Klootchman.....	AC,et al.....	One of the best wintering sites in Lane Co
Long-tailed Duck.....	March.....	Florence - oldtown.....	DF.....	Still being seen throughout the month
Common Goldeneye.....	Mar 16.....	Mt Pisgah.....	JF,MD.....	Unusual location, but seen last year also
Band-tailed Pigeon.....	Mar 2.....	SW of Eugene.....	MS.....	First report for the valley
Sandhill Crane.....	Mar 4.....	Springfield.....	AT.....	Heard overhead at night— normal timing
Black-necked Stilt (2).....	Mar 31.....	FRR - Fisher Butte.....	RR.....	At early end of arrivals
Lesser Yellowlegs (5).....	Mar 24.....	Meadowlark Prairie.....	AC,et al.....	Large number for so early
Short-eared Owl.....	Mar 20.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	RW.....	Only report for the winter!

WOODPECKERS TO GROSBEAKS

Yellow-billed Sapsucker (imm).....	Mar 15.....	Honeyman State Park.....	MK.....	Last seen at this location
Yellow-billed Sapsucker.....	Mar 26.....	Royal Ave area.....	NS.....	Rare— breeding plumage male
Black Phoebe (pair).....	Mar 12.....	Waite Ranch.....	DF.....	Starting to nest
Say's Phoebe.....	Mar 11.....	Oakridge.....	MLS.....	Unusual in this area
Say's Phoebe.....	Mar 19.....	Blue River.....	CT.....	Unusual in this area
Say's Phoebe (8).....	Mar 19.....	Oakridge.....	AC,et al.....	Amazing number for one location
Western Kingbird	Mar 29.....	FRR - Royal Ave.....	DJ.....	Two weeks earlier than earliest date!
Horned Lark (5).....	Mar 11.....	Oakridge.....	MLS.....	Unusual in this area
Violet-green Swallow.....	Mar 8.....	Delta Ponds.....	fide BN.....	Later than normal
No. Rough-winged Swallow.....	Mar 18.....	Oakridge.....	JL,TL.....	Normal arrival time
Cliff Swallow.....	Mar 26.....	Kirk Pond.....	SH.....	Normal arrival time
Barn Swallow.....	Mar 23.....	Creswell area.....	NS.....	Normal arrival time
Sedge Wren.....	Mar 21.....	Waite Ranch.....	DF.....	Last seen
Mountain Bluebird (pair).....	Mar 3.....	FRR - Fisher Butte.....	KG.....	Rare in the valley—seen through mid-month
Pine Siskin.....	Mar 9.....	Oakridge.....	MLS.....	First seen this “winter”
Lapland Longspur.....	Mar 11.....	Oakridge.....	MLS.....	Unusual for this time of year and location
Chipping Sparrow (3).....	Mar 31.....	FRR - Perkins.....	SH.....	Right on time
Chipping Sparrow.....	Mar 31.....	Knight Rd.....	BC.....	Right on time
Brewer's Sparrow.....	Mar 23.....	Creswell area.....	NS.....	Rare— normally found in late summer
Vesper Sparrow.....	Mar 19.....	Oakridge.....	AC,et al.....	Unusual location & much earlier than normal
Swamp Sparrow.....	Mar 26.....	Waite Ranch.....	DF.....	Still being heard in the area
White-throated Sparrow (3).....	Mar 24.....	Royal Ave area.....	AC,et al.....	Large number for one location
Harris's Sparrow.....	Mar 7.....	Royal Ave area.....	DJ.....	Rare wintering sparrow
Orange-crowned Warbler.....	Mar 12.....	West Lawn Cemetery.....	SH.....	Wintered at this location
Orange-crowned Warbler.....	Mar 23.....	Meadowlark Prairie.....	VT.....	First spring migrant— everywhere on Mar 26
Palm Warbler.....	Mar 26.....	West Lake State Park.....	AC,et al.....	Still being found

Common Yellowthroat.....	Mar 20.....	W Eugene wetlands.....	BB.....	About a week earlier than normal
Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	Mar 31.....	FRR - Fisher Butte.....	RR.....	Right on time
Western Meadowlark (5).....	Mar 11.....	Oakridge.....	MLS.....	Unusual in this area
Hooded Oriole.....	Mar 31.....	Florence.....	DF.....	Rare— photo in mid-Dec—just re-found
Bullock's Oriole (3).....	Mar 8.....	Florence.....	DF.....	Most likely the same ones seen in mid-Dec
Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	Mar 4.....	Eugene.....	ST.....	Rare— photo posted to Facebook

AC Alan Contreras, AT Alby Thoumsin, BC Barbara Combs, BB Brian Brodenick, BN Bruce Newhouse, CT Cindy Tofflemoyer, DF Daniel Farrar, DJ Dave Jones, JL Joshua Little, JF Judy Franzen, KG Kara Greer, MS Maeve Sowles, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, MD Meer Deiters, MK Michael Karpinko, NS Noah Strycker, RW Rebecca Waterman, RR Roger Robb, SH Sally Hill, ST Sreedhar Thakkum, TL Terry Little, VT Vjera Thompson. Fide references a sighting reported to the listed observer.