

FIELD NOTES: SEPTEMBER 2011

• Vesper Sparrow makes rare appearance • Horned Grebes becoming an annual occurrence • Large group of Common Nighthawks at Templeton Road • Swifts at Smith Family Bookstore

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September was a bit of a mixed bag in terms of weather, with some of the hottest days of the year during the first part of the month, some rain during the latter half of the month, and then a few nice warm days at the end. The fall migration continued throughout the month with great numbers of shorebirds being found at Fern Ridge Reservoir all month. Fall migration will continue for the next month or so, so let us know what you're seeing.

WATERBIRDS TO TERNS

Horned Grebe	Sept. 9	FRR	JS	Getting to be annual during migration
Osprey	Sept. 14	FRR	LM,et.al.	Last report for the breeding season
Northern Harrier	Sept. 29	Waldo Lake	A&TM	Migrating south along the edge of the lake
Merlin	Sept. 19	FRR – FB	JS	First report for the winter season
Prairie Falcon (2)	Sept. 28	OF	A&TM	Migrants hunting from a large cliff face
Black-bellied Plover (30+)	Sept. 26	FRR – RA	A&TM	Small flocks normally winter at the reservoir.
American Avocet (3)	Sept. 13	FRR – RA	JS	One bird was seen during the first part of the month and was then joined by two more—last date reported.
Solitary Sandpiper	Sept. 11	FRR – RA	RR	Uncommon during fall migration
Long-billed Curlew	Sept. 1	FRR – RA	RW	A few are reported during migration
Baird's Sandpiper (6)	Sept. 13	FRR – RA	JS	Larger numbers later than normal
Pectoral Sandpiper (13)	Sept. 9	FRR – RA	JS	A large number for this location
Pectoral Sandpiper (6)	Sept. 26	FRR – RA	A&TM	Good numbers still being seen
Stilt Sandpiper (3)	Sept. 7	FRR	BMc,JR	Last report of more than one bird
Stilt Sandpiper	Sept. 11	FRR – RA	RR	Last report of the species at FRR.
Ruff	Sept. 2	FRR – RA	B&JC	Still being reported for the first few days of the month
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Sept. 2	FRR – RA	B&JC	Getting late for this species
Short-billed Dowitcher (16)	Sept. 13	FRR – RA	JS	Larger numbers later than normal
Red-necked Phalarope (25)	Sept. 1	FRR – RA	A&TM	Good numbers for this location
Sabine's Gull	Sept. 21	FRR – SL	JS	Annual in small numbers during migration
Caspian Tern (7)	Sept. 29	Waldo Lake	A&TM	Migrating south over the lake

NIGHTHAWKS TO SPARROWS

Common Nighthawk (15)	Sept. 4	Templeton Road	A&TM	An unusually large group
Common Nighthawk	Sept. 19	West Eugene	VT	Getting to be late for this species

Common Nighthawk	Sept. 21	River Road area	BC	Getting to be late for this species
Vaux's Swift (7,700)	Sept. 3	5 th & Willamette	NN-P	Using the chimney at Smith Family Bookstore
Vaux's Swift (8,400)	Sept. 14	5 th & Willamette	DH	Using the chimney at Smith Family Bookstore
Vaux's Swift (2-3,000)	Sept. 15	UO Condon Hall	KB	Smaller numbers than usual
Rufous Hummingbird	Sept. 27	River Road area	BC	Last report for the breeding season
Black-backed Woodpecker (2)	Sept. 17	Scott Mtn. area	LG	Normal habitat for this species
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Sept. 28	Taylor Lake (Florence)	DV	Last report for the breeding season
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Sept. 30	Ridgeline Trail	TM	Last report for the breeding season
Cassin's Vireo	Sept. 7	Skinner Butte	LM,et.al.	Last report for the breeding season
Gray Jays	Sept. 25	Spencer Butte	fide BN	Occasionally reported from the area
Orange-crowned Warbler	Sept. 28	FRR - ZP	LM, et.al.	Last report for the breeding season
Nashville Warbler	Sept. 5	FRR - ZP	BG	Last report for the breeding season
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Sept. 28	FRR - ZP	LM, et.al.	Last report for the breeding season
Wilson's Warbler	Sept. 7	Skinner Butte	LM,et.al.	Last report for the breeding season
Western Tanager	Sept. 28	FRR - ZP	LM, et.al.	Last report for the breeding season
Black-headed Grosbeak	Sept. 16	SE Eugene	A&TM	Last report for the breeding season
Vesper Sparrow	Sept. 9	FRR - RA	JS	Not commonly found in the county anymore
Lincoln's Sparrow	Sept. 9	FRR - RA	JS	First report in the valley for the winter
Golden-crowned Sparrow	Sept. 8	Coburg Ridge	TM	First report for the winter season

Abbreviations

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), Fern Ridge Reservoir - Fisher Butte, (FRR - FB), Fern Ridge Reservoir - Royal Ave (FRR-RA), Fern Ridge Reservoir - Shore Lane (FRR-SL), Fern Ridge Reservoir - Zumwalt Park (FRR-ZP), Obsidian Falls area (OF)

Thank you, contributors!

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