

April - May 2004 Field Notes

April was quite warm and dry this year, bringing many migrating birds here earlier than usual. Then May turned unusually cold and wet, which seemed to delay the main movement of migrants. Because of the weather, some migrants (e.g., flycatchers) seemed to show up on their breeding grounds quite early, without their usual appearance at migrant traps such as Skinner Butte. The water levels at the East Coyote unit of Fern Ridge Reservoir were excellent for shorebirds, as can be seen in the reports below. Now that the breeding season is upon us, we're interested in any and all breeding records for the county.

WATERFOWL & GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Greater White-fronted Goose (150) April 24; Marcola area; DI
Blue-winged Teal April 24; Fern Ridge Reservoir; RR
Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal May 10; Fern Ridge Reservoir; SM
Redhead April 24; Fern Ridge Reservoir; RR
Harlequin Duck April 16; Oakridge area; PV et al.
Harlequin Duck April 17; French Pete Creek; SF
Harlequin Duck (10) May 10; Bob Creek; DS
California Quail April 13; SE Eugene; AC

WATERBIRDS

Common Loon April 16; Dexter Reservoir; PV et al.
American White Pelican (1) April 24; Fern Ridge Reservoir; DI,DA
American White Pelican (12-14) May 13; Fern Ridge Reservoir; DD
Brown Pelican May 2; Siltcoos River mouth; RR
Black-crowned Night-Heron May 22; Perkins Peninsula; JS
White-faced Ibis May 17; E. Coyote Unit, FRR; PS

VULTURES & RAPTORS

Bald Eagle (6) April 7; Fern Ridge Reservoir; LM et al.
Northern Goshawk April 29; SE Eugene; DD
Swainson's Hawk May 5; Eugene Airport; MN
Golden Eagle April 24; Marcola area; DI
Merlin April-May; Eugene-Springfield; m.ob.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, & ALCIDS

Semipalmated Plover April 25; Fern Ridge Reservoir; RR
Black-necked Stilt (2) April 3; E. Coyote Unit, FRR; JM
Black-necked Stilt (19) April 22; Fern Ridge Reservoir; JS
Black-necked Stilt May 3; E. Coyote Unit, FRR; D&LD
Lesser Yellowlegs April 25; Fern Ridge Reservoir; RR
Solitary Sandpiper (2) April 30; Meadowlark Prairie; DD et al.
Solitary Sandpiper April 30; Fern Ridge Reservoir; DD
Long-billed Curlew (2) May 23; North Jetty, Suislaw R.; DP,B&ZS

Marbled Godwit (2) May 26; E. Coyote Unit, FRR; DD
Red Knot (2) April 22; Siltcoos River mouth; JC
Baird's Sandpiper (5) May 2; Fern Ridge Reservoir; BN
Pectoral Sandpiper May 16; E. Coyote Unit, FRR; JC
Wilson's Phalarope May 2; Meadowlark Prairie; RR
Wilson's Phalarope May 22; E. Coyote Unit, FRR; SG
Wilson's Phalarope May 26; E. Coyote Unit, FRR; PS
Red-necked Phalarope (2) May 15; E. Coyote Unit, FRR; PS
Herring Gull May 7; Florence docks; B&ZS
Bonaparte's Gull May 23; Fern Ridge Reservoir; JC
Caspian Tern May 5; Skinner Butte; AP,BH
Caspian Tern (5) May 23; Fern Ridge Reservoir; JC
Black Tern May 1; Fern Ridge Reservoir; DD
Cassin's Auklet May 14; Siuslaw R. mouth; DP
Rhinoceros Auklet (10) May 14; Siuslaw R. mouth; DP
Tufted Puffin (2) May 13; Heceta Head; PS

PIGEONS & OWLS

Band-tailed Pigeon April 14; Skinner Butte; SG
Northern Pygmy-Owl April-May; Mt. Pisgah; m.ob.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS & FLYCATCHERS

Vaux's Swift (500-1000) April 23; Agate Hall, UO; DD
Calliope Hummingbird April 29; SW Eugene; SG
Olive-sided Flycatcher May 2; Siltcoos R. mouth; RR
Western Wood-Pewee April 28; Skinner Butte; AP,BH
Willow Flycatcher May 20; E Eugene; AO
Hammond's Flycatcher April 17; SE Eugene; TMi
Gray Flycatcher April 28; Mt. Pisgah; AP,BH
Gray Flycatcher May 24; UO; AMi
Dusky Flycatcher April 30; Hills Creek Reservoir; DF
Pacific-sloped Flycatcher April 13; Fern Ridge Reservoir; DI
Empidonax Flycatcher April 5; Skinner Butte; DD,DA
Black Phoebe (2 pairs) April 3+; Fiddle Creek-Ada; B&ZS
Ash-throated Flycatcher May 11; Cantrell Rd.; PS,DD
Ash-throated Flycatcher May 16; Mt. Pisgah; D&AH
Western Kingbird April 19; W. Eugene; MP
Western Kingbird (2) May 15; Deflation plain; B&ZS

VIREOS through PIPITS

Cassin's Vireo April 3; Creswell area; HL
Warbling Vireo April 13; Skinner Butte; BMc
Gray Jay (3) May 23; Fox Hollow Rd.; AMc
Purple Martin April 7; Fern Ridge Reservoir; LM et al.
Bank Swallow May 22; W. Eugene; fide DA

White-breasted Nuthatch April 22; Green Island; PA
House Wren April 4; Creswell area; HL
American Dipper (nest) May 29; Cape Creek; B&ZS
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher April 24; Mt. Pisgah; A&TMi
Swainson's Thrush May 3; Skinner Butte; TMi
Sage Thrasher April 18; Fern Ridge Reservoir; DBo
American Pipit (100) April 9; Fern Ridge Reservoir; RR

Abbreviations:

deflation plain South Jetty of Siuslaw River deflation plain; **FRR** Fern Ridge Reservoir; **m.ob.** many observers; **North Jetty** North Jetty, Siuslaw River; **Perkins Peninsula** Perkins Peninsula on Fern Ridge Reservoir.

Thank You, Contributors!

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