

Field Notes: Spring 2020

Long-billed Curlew, White-faced Ibis, Willet, Sage Thrasher

For the most part, spring seemed wetter and cooler than normal, with a very warm and dry spell toward the end. Most migrants arrived earlier than the norm in comparison to the last 30+ years; our records go back to 1994. Are the birds really arriving earlier, or are more birders out there looking to be the first to name a species? I suspect it's a little of both. And due to the pandemic, everyone was staying closer to home, looking for the first of this or that.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), Lane Community College (LCC), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR)

WATERFOWL TO SHOREBIRDS

Snow Goose (6)	April 18	Clear Lake Rd	SM	They were around for longer than normal
Greater White-fronted Goose	April 23	NE Eugene	SMc	Start of their northward migration
Brant	April 28	FRR - Royal	JS	Rare inland
Blue-winged Teal	April 16	Cantrell Rd	LG	A little over a week earlier than normal
Harlequin Duck	May 4	S Fork McKenzie	DS	Are they nesting in the area?
Black Swift	May 3	S Hills Eugene	RA	Rarely found in migration away from coast
Vaux's Swift	April 4	Alton Baker Park	JL	About a week earlier than normal
Calliope Hummingbird	April 5	EWEB	BC	The first of many reports
Sandhill Crane (2)	April 10	Creswell area	RSe	Very late birds - nesting locally?
Black-necked Stilt (2)	April 27	Meadowlark Prairie	GM	A few days later than normal
American Avocet	May 28	FRR - Royal	PR	They have nested in the past
Long-billed Curlew	May 5	Sutton Creek	DF	Rare on the coast
Long-billed Curlew	May 25	FRR - Royal	VT,NC	Rare inland as well
Marbled Godwit	May 2	FRR - Royal	RR	Not common inland in Lane
Marbled Godwit	May 11	FRR - Royal	DB	Not common inland in Lane
Marbled Godwit (4)	May 14	FRR - Royal	JS,LJ	Not common inland in Lane
Sanderling	May 2	FRR - Royal	RR	Not common inland in Lane
Pectoral Sandpiper	May 3	Stewart Pond area	DJ	An unusual spring sighting
Solitary Sandpiper	April 17	Stewart Pond area	RA	About a week earlier than normal
Solitary Sandpiper	May 13	Danebo Pond	VT	Last report for spring & later than normal
Wandering Tattler (2)	May 9	NJSR	GM	They migrate through in small numbers
Willet	May 10	FRR - Royal	JS	Rare in the valley
Wilson's Phalarope	May 8	Meadowlark Prairie	SJ	A few days later than normal
Red-necked Phalarope	April 25	KR Neilsen	AB	Migrate through the valley in small numbers

GULLS TO VIREOS

Franklin's Gull	May 30	FRR - Royal	EB	Rare-normally found in fall
Black Tern	May 1	FRR	BC	A couple days earlier than normal
Forster's Tern (3)	May 11	FRR - Royal	JS	They have nested in the past
American White Pelican	April 14	Santa Clara area	MRu	A first for their neighborhood - many flocks reported flying over areas throughout the Eugene/Springfield area this spring (M.ob.)
Black-crowned Night-Heron	April 15	W Eugene	VT	Seen flying over her house in the evening
White-faced Ibis (26)	May 9	FRR area	FT,TG-T	Uncommon spring overshoots to the valley
White-faced Ibis (20)	May 9	Heceta Beach	SH,DP	A first for coastal Lane!

White-faced Ibis.....	May 22.....	FRR.....	JF.....	The last report for the area
Swainson's Hawk - photos.....	May 5.....	KR Neilsen Road.....	GM.....	Rare in Lane
Northern Saw-whet Owl.....	April 5.....	Alton Baker Park.....	JL.....	An unusual day roost location
Lewis's Woodpecker.....	May 5.....	Willamette Heights.....	SM.....	Later than normal
Red-naped Sapsucker - photos ...	April 19.....	Mulkey Cemetery.....	VT.....	A rare visitor to western Oregon
Merlin.....	April 2.....	Oakridge.....	MLS.....	Getting late for this species
Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	April 24.....	Rasor Park.....	AC.....	About a week and a half earlier than normal
Western Wood-Pewee.....	April 27.....	Friendly St.....	DA.....	A few days earlier than normal
Willow Flycatcher.....	May 7.....	Meadowlark Prairie.....	NA.....	About a week earlier than normal
Hammond's Flycatcher.....	April 11.....	Creswell area.....	NS.....	A little over a week earlier than normal
Gray Flycatcher.....	April 24.....	Rasor Park.....	SH.....	Migrate through in very small numbers
Dusky Flycatcher.....	April 18.....	SE Eugene.....	A&TM.....	A few days earlier than normal
Pacific-slope Flycatcher.....	April 15.....	Hendricks Ridge.....	JG.....	About a week earlier than normal
Ash-throated Flycatcher.....	May 2.....	Willamette Heights.....	JS.....	A little over a week earlier than normal
Ash-throated Flycatcher.....	end of May..	Eugene/Springfield.....	M.ob.....	Larger numbers than normal for Lane
Western Kingbird.....	April 14.....	Santa Clara area.....	BB.....	A few days earlier than normal
Western Kingbird (7).....	April 27.....	Alton Baker Park.....	JS,LJ.....	An amazing number for one location in Lane
Northern Shrike.....	April 2.....	FRR - E Coyote.....	RR.....	The last report for the winter season
Cassin's Vireo.....	April 6.....	Mt Pisgah.....	MP.....	Right on time
Warbling Vireo.....	April 17.....	Skinner Butte.....	LG.....	A few days earlier than normal

SWALLOWS TO BUNTINGS

Purple Martin.....	May 1.....	LCC area.....	KL.....	Nesting in snag - they seem to be nesting in
Purple Martin.....	May 10.....	Hult Pond area.....	LG.....	more areas than they used to
Rock Wren.....	May 15.....	Lowell area.....	JS.....	They're annual in Lane in spring migration
House Wren.....	April 13.....	River Road area.....	TMe.....	A few days earlier than normal
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....	April 13.....	Mt Pisgah.....	JH.....	The same area where they nested last year
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....	May 7.....	LCC area.....	DA.....	Migrant or new nesting location?
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (4+).....	May 15.....	Mt Pisgah.....	SH,DP.....	Some of last year's fledglings coming back?
Townsend's Solitaire.....	April 8.....	FRR - Perkins.....	SM.....	There seemed to be more reports than normal
Townsend's Solitaire.....	April 8.....	Skinner Butte.....	SH.....	There seemed to be more reports than normal
Townsend's Solitaire (4).....	April 17.....	Skinner Butte.....	TJ.....	Very high number for anywhere in the valley
Swainson's Thrush.....	May 1.....	SE Eugene.....	TM.....	Right on time
Sage Thrasher.....	May 31.....	FRR - Royal.....	GM.....	Rare - almost annual spring overshoot
American Pipit (4).....	May 8.....	Stewart Pond area.....	AC.....	Getting late for this species
Evening Grosbeak.....	April 12.....	W Eugene.....	AC.....	First of the hordes to show up
Lapland Longspur.....	April 11.....	NJSR.....	DP,TD.....	Late for this species - breeding plumage
Red Crossbill.....	May 27.....	River Road area.....	RH.....	Rarely reported inland so far this year
Chipping Sparrow.....	Mar 28.....	Eugene.....	RA.....	A few days earlier than normal
Vesper Sparrow.....	April 18.....	Balboa Park.....	JL.....	They may be breeding in the area
Lark Sparrow.....	May 9.....	Bond Rd.....	FT,TG-T.....	Becoming almost annual in spring in Lane
Lark Sparrow.....	May 12.....	N Eugene.....	JW.....	Becoming almost annual in spring in Lane
Grasshopper Sparrow.....	April 26.....	Meadowlark Prairie.....	VT.....	A couple weeks earlier than normal
Grasshopper Sparrow.....	April 29.....	FRR area.....	M.ob.....	They seem to be more common this year
Yellow-breasted Chat.....	April 25.....	LCC area.....	DA.....	About a week and a half earlier than normal
Yellow-breasted Chat.....	May 22.....	Siltcoos River mouth.....	DF.....	Rare along the outer coast in Lane
Bullock's Oriole.....	April 17.....	Stewart Pond area.....	JL.....	About a week earlier than normal

Nashville Warbler..... April 9..... FRR - Perkins..... RA.....A few days earlier than normal
 MacGillivray's Warbler..... April 15..... Creswell area NS.....Just under a week earlier than normal
 Yellow Warbler..... April 9..... FRR - Perkins..... RA.....About two and a half weeks earlier than
 normal
 Black-throated Gray Warbler..... April 5..... Alton Baker Park..... JS.....Right on time
 Hermit Warbler..... April 18..... Skinner Butte RSi,SHA few days earlier than normal
 Wilson's Warbler..... April 13..... Skinner Butte TMe.....A couple days later than normal
 Western Tanager..... April 16..... Delta Ponds..... MBPAbout a week earlier than normal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak..... May 20..... Ferry St Bridge area..... TGAlmost annual in Lane during May/June
 Black-headed Grosbeak..... April 16..... Creswell area TMoAbout a week earlier than normal
 Lazuli Bunting..... April 24..... Moon Mtn Park..... DHA few days earlier than normal

AB Aaron Beerman, AC Alan Contreras, A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, BB Brian Broderick, BC Barbara Combs, DA
 Dennis Arendt, DB Deborah Bernhard, DF Daniel Farrar, DH Dan Heyerly, DJ Dave Jones, DP Diane Pettey, DS Diane
 Stewart, EB Evan Burregess, FT Forest Tomlinson, GM Gerry Meenaghan, JF Judy Franzen, JG Joshua Galpern, JH Jennifer
 Haynes, JL Joshua Little, JS John Sullivan, JW John Wahlund, KL Kit Larsen, LG Linda Gilbert, LJ Laura Johnson, MBP
 Mary Beth Pattyn, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, MP Margie Paris, MRu Mark Rudolph, NA Nathan Aragon, NC Nancy Clogston,
 NS Noah Strycker, PR Peter Ralph, RA Ramiro Aragon, RH Rich Hoyer, RR Roger Robb, RSe Ron Selfridge, RSi Randy
 Sinnott, SH Sally Hill, SJ Scott Johnson, SMc Steve McDonald, SM Sylvia Maulding, TG Tim Gardner, TG-T Torry Gage-
 Tomlinson, TD Terry Danforth, TJ Tye Jeske, TM Tom Mickel, TMe Thomas Meizen, TMo Tori Morgan, VT Vjera
 Thompson. M.ob. signifies many observers.