Field Notes: October 2020

Oriental Greenfinch, Little Bunting, Cassin’s Sparrow, Pygmy Nuthatch

We didn’t think we could have another month of birds that would top last month, but we did! With three new birds for the county, two of which were second state records, and the other a first state record and only the third record for the lower 48 states! Is it because everyone is birding locally or is it because of global weather changes affecting migration?

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

SWANS TO OWLS

Tundra Swan........................................... Oct 27........ Oakridge ..................... MLS................. First report & unusual location
Eurasian Wigeon................................. Oct 16........ Waltervile Res ............. VB .............. First report for the winter season
Long-tailed Duck .................................. Oct 25........ SJSR ............................. GM .............. First report for the winter season
Band-tailed Pigeon (30).............. Oct 3......... Waite Ranch ............... JG,AC ........... A large flock for this late in the year
Vaux’s Swift (325).............................. Oct 3........ Agate Hall, UO ............ BC .............. A large number for this late in the year
Vaux’s Swift (2)................................. Oct 19........ Agate Hall, UO ............ BC .............. Last seen roosting in chimney

Sora.............................................. Oct 27........ FRR - Royal Ave ........... DA ............ Late report
Black-necked Stilt............................. Oct 4 ...... FRR - Orchard Pt .......... EC,KL .......... Very late for this species
Wandering Tattler ............................. Oct 11 ......... SJSR ............................. KL .............. Getting to be late for this species
Red Phalarope .................................. Oct 7 .......... FRR - Orchard Pt .......... SHI ............ Rare in the valley, especially this early
Caspian Tern (2)................................. Oct 4 ...... Roaring Rapids ............. JS .............. An unusual location - Willamette River

Turkey Vulture (25+).......................... Oct 4 ...... Mt Pisgah ...................... JF .............. All headed south
Turkey Vulture (46)............................ Oct 12 ....... W Eugene ..................... VT .............. All headed south
Osprey ........................................... Oct 9 ........ Delta Ponds .................... fide LMc ........ Will they winter in small numbers?
Rough-legged Hawk ....................... Oct 23 .......... I-5 N of Coburg ............ AB ............ The first report for the winter season

Great Gray Owl................................. Oct 17 ....... Waldo Lake area .......... TG-T,NC .......... Not often found
Short-eared Owl (3)......................... Oct 28 ........ FRR - Royal Ave .......... EW .............. Earlier than normal

WOODPECKERS TO THRUSHES

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .................. Oct 2 ........ Willow Creek Preserve .... LMc,et al ....... Less than ten records for Lane Co.
White-headed Woodpecker ................ Oct 23 .... Oakridge ..................... KM .............. Second Lane Co. record
Pacific-slope Flycatcher .................... Oct 4 ........ Florence ...................... RA .............. Very late report
Say’s Phoebe .................................... Oct 8 ......... FRR Orchard Pt .......... RR .............. The first fall/winter report
Tropical Kingbird............................. Oct 12 ....... SJSR deflation plain ...... RA,et al ........ Found in very small numbers most years

Tropical Kingbird ......................... Oct 22 ....... Old Town Florence ........ BMc,KA........ Found in very small numbers most years
Northern Shrike .............................. Oct 17 ....... FRR - Royal Ave ............ Ma .............. First report for the winter season
California Scrub-Jay ....................... Oct 11 ....... Glenada Rd ................... KL .............. First report south of Siuslaw River
Violet-green Swallow (150)............... Oct 13 ........ River Rd area .............. RH .............. Flocks moving south
SPARROWS TO GROSBEAKS

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch.................. Oct 19..........Luper Cemetery CH ......................................Very unusual location!
Lapland Longspur (2)...................... Oct 16...........SJSR, River Rd............JS, LJ ..............Small numbers at this time most years
Lapland Longspur ................................ Oct 16..........SJSR, Dog Pond ............SHi ..............Small numbers at this time most years
Lapland Longspur ................................ Oct 28..........NJSR, River Rd......LG ..............Small numbers at this time most years
Little Bunting.................................. Oct 20..........Bond Rd................RA ................Second Oregon record & first Lane Co.
Cassin's Sparrow.......................... Oct 20..........Alton Baker Park ...........RA ................Second Oregon record & first Lane Co.
Chipping Sparrow .......................... Oct 26..............Alton Baker Park ..........KT, J ................Last report for the breeding season
Clay-colored Sparrow ...................... Oct 3..............Waite Ranch...............JG, AC ..............Normal time for their arrival/migration
Clay-colored Sparrow ...................... Oct 7..............Springfield.............SM ..............Not commonly found in the valley
Swamp Sparrow ................................ Oct 9..............Waite Ranch...............TJ, AC ..............Earlier than normal for winter season
Palm Warbler................................... Oct 12..........Old Town Florence........RR ..............Normal time & place for small numbers
Orange-crowned Warbler .................... Oct 8..............River Rd area ...........RH ..............Last report for the breeding season
Common Yellowthroat ....................... Oct 25..........FRR - Royal Ave.........EG ..............Last report for the breeding season
Black-throated Gray Warbler ................ Oct 8..............Skimmer Butte .........TM ..............Last report for the breeding season
Hermit Warbler ................................ Oct 28..........River Rd area ..........RH ..............Very late report - will it winter?
Wilson's Warbler .......................... Oct 8..............River Rd area ..........RH ..............Last report for the breeding season
Western Tanager .......................... Oct 13..............Hendricks Park........TM ..............Last report for the breeding season
Black-headed Grosbeak .................... Oct 26..........River Rd area ..........LMa,DM .............A very late report