

Field Notes: April/May 2021

Parakeet Auklet, Willet, Great Gray Owl, Black-throated Sparrow

We had a very dry spring until the end of May, as did most of Oregon. This drought has dried up marshes in the Great Basin and the Klamath Basin, which most likely is responsible for the large numbers of marsh breeding species (stilts, avocets, Wilson's Phalaropes, Franklin's Gulls, and ibises) showing up in large numbers here. Also, the shorebird migration along the coast was one of the better ones in many years! I think that's also related to the summer-like weather and its strong north winds. This likely caused the shorebirds to migrate along the beaches instead of further out at sea, so they could rest and feed along the beaches. One of the species that really stood out was Red Knots, with upwards of 60 seen in a day. And that went on for over a week—instead of a handful seen on a couple of days!

Abbreviations:

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

WATERFOWL TO WADERS

Trumpeter Swan.....	May 12.....	Oakridge area.....	AC,JG.....	A late report for Lane Co
Harlequin Duck.....	May 9.....	Leaburg area.....	SA.....	Rare inland, but breed in the Cascades
Long-tailed Duck.....	May 17.....	SJSR.....	VB.....	A late report for Lane Co
Horned Grebe.....	May 12.....	Hills Creek Reservoir.....	AC,JG.....	A late sighting
Common Poorwill.....	April 13.....	Glenwood.....	US.....	Found in a warehouse - rare in the valley
Vaux's Swift.....	April 4.....	River Rd area.....	RH.....	About a week earlier than normal
Black-chinned Hummingbird.....	May 9.....	South Eugene.....	JG.....	About twenty records for Lane Co
Calliope Hummingbird.....	April 19.....	River Rd area.....	BC.....	First of a number of reports during April
Sandhill Crane.....	April 27.....	Ten Mile Ck.....	SH,DP.....	An unusual sighting from the coast
Black-necked Stilt.....	March 30.....	FRR.....	RR.....	First of many reports w/large numbers seen
American Avocet.....	May 1.....	FRR.....	SH.....	Appear to be nesting - first since 2014
Marbled Godwit.....	April 21.....	Siltcoos River mouth.....	DF.....	First report for the spring migration
Ruddy Turnstone.....	May 1.....	Heceta Beach.....	NCs.....	First of many reports for the month
Red Knot.....	April 23.....	Heceta Beach.....	DP.....	First of many reports w/large numbers
Short-billed Dowitcher.....	April 1.....	Siltcoos River mouth.....	LG.....	First report for the spring migration
Solitary Sandpiper.....	April 17.....	FRR.....	JS.....	About a week earlier than normal
Wandering Tattler.....	May 1.....	NJSR.....	JL.....	First report for the spring
Willet.....	April 29.....	NJSR.....	DP.....	Rare in Lane Co
Wilson's Phalarope.....	May 6.....	FRR.....	NS.....	Right on time
Red-necked Phalarope.....	May 6.....	FRR.....	JS.....	First inland report for spring migration
Parakeet Auklet.....	April 5.....	NJSR.....	DP.....	The first live bird seen in Lane Co
Franklin's Gull.....	May 6.....	FRR.....	NCn.....	First of many reports
Black Tern.....	May 6.....	FRR.....	JS.....	Right on time
Sooty Shearwater.....	April 14.....	Tokatee Klootchman.....	CS.....	A few spring reports
Black-crowned Night-Heron.....	April 5.....	West Eugene.....	JC.....	Rarely reported in the spring
White-faced Ibis.....	May 10.....	FRR.....	JS.....	Large flocks reported throughout May
White-faced Ibis (5).....	May 14.....	Siltcoos River mouth.....	DF,MLS.....	An unusual sighting from the coast

HAWKS TO SWALLOWS

Swainson's Hawk.....	May 8.....	Eugene Airport area.....	KY.....	Rare, at least two birds in the area
Great Gray Owl.....	April 11.....	McKenzie Bridge area.....	JP.....	Rarely seen in Lane Co
Short-eared Owl.....	May 11.....	FRR.....	JH.....	Are they nesting in the area?
Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	May 1.....	Skinner Butte.....	TJ.....	Right on time
Western Wood-Pewee.....	April 23.....	Skinner Butte.....	EC.....	About a week earlier than normal
Willow Flycatcher.....	May 12.....	Mt Pisgah area.....	TMi.....	Right on time

Hammond's Flycatcher	April 15.....	Big Creek	BMe	A few days earlier than normal
Gray Flycatcher	April 21.....	Oakridge area.....	AC,JG	First of more sightings than normal
Dusky Flycatcher	April 24.....	Walterville Reservoir	VB.....	A couple days later than normal
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	April 21.....	Blanton Rd - Eugene	SH	Right on time
Western Kingbird.....	April 14.....	Eugene Airport area	RH.....	A few days earlier than normal
Ash-throated Flycatcher	May 5.....	Hills Creek Reservoir.....	SH.....	About a week earlier than normal
Cassin's Vireo	April 10.....	Hendricks Park	JG.....	A couple days later than normal
Warbling Vireo	April 18.....	Skinner Butte	LG.....	A couple days earlier than normal
Blue Jay	May 30.....	Eugene - south hills	CQ.....	Rare - especially in breeding season
Purple Martin.....	April 2.....	FRR	EW	Almost a week earlier than normal
Bank Swallow	May 2.....	Westfir area.....	NCs	An unusual spring report

WRENS TO BUNTINGS

House Wren.....	April 22.....	Wild Iris Ridge	LG.....	A few days later than normal
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	April 22.....	Mt Pisgah	JS.....	Nested in the area for last few years
Mountain Bluebird	April 15.....	Mt Pisgah	JH.....	A rare lowland sighting
Townsend's Solitaire	April 8.....	NF Willamette River.....	RR.....	First report for the breeding season
Swainson's Thrush (recording).....	April 22.....	River Rd area	RH.....	About a week earlier than normal
Northern Mockingbird.....	May 6.....	Alton Baker Park.....	RR.....	Rarely found except in the winter
Pine Grosbeak (4)	May 24.....	Heceta Beach area	DAn	Rarely found in Lane Co
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	May 11.....	Diamond Peak	GC.....	A normal location for this species
Brewer's Sparrow	May 16.....	FRR	NCs	Rarely reported in the spring
Vesper Sparrow.....	April 13.....	Rasor Park.....	PH	A few days later than normal
Lark Sparrow.....	May 3.....	River Rd area	RH.....	Rare, but a normal time for them
Grasshopper Sparrow	May 6.....	Mt Pisgah area	TMi	Right on time
Black-throated Sparrow.....	May 6.....	FRR	DP	Rare, first of three records
Yellow-breasted Chat	May 6.....	FRR	JS.....	Right on time
Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	April 3.....	FRR	SH	A couple days later than normal
Bullock's Oriole.....	April 19.....	Pleasant Hill area.....	MJ	A couple weeks earlier than normal
Black-and-White Warbler	April 22.....	Skinner Butte	JS.....	About the fifteenth record for Lane Co
Nashville Warbler.....	April 5.....	Dorris Ranch	DA,et al.....	A couple days earlier than normal
MacGillivray's Warbler.....	April 14.....	Creswell area	TMo	About a week earlier than normal
Yellow Warbler.....	April 5.....	Dorris Ranch	DA,et al.....	A couple weeks earlier than normal
Black-throated Gray Warbler.....	April 4.....	Skinner Butte	MH.....	Right on time
Hermit Warbler	April 22.....	Skinner Butte	M.ob.....	Right on time
Wilson's Warbler.....	April 5.....	Dorris Ranch	DA,et al.....	A couple weeks earlier than normal
Western Tanager	April 1.....	Mt Pisgah	MP.....	Three weeks earlier than normal
Black-headed Grosbeak.....	April 5.....	Dorris Ranch	DA,et al.....	A couple weeks earlier than normal
Lazuli Bunting.....	April 24.....	Skinner Butte	JS.....	A few days earlier than normal

AC Alan Contreras, BC Barbara Combs, BMe Bob Meinke, CQ Charlie Quinn, CS Carter Strope, DAn Debby Anderson, DA Dennis Arendt, DF Daniel Farrar, DP Diane Pettey, EC Ellen Cantor, EW Evan Wilder, GC Gavrett Carlson, JC John Contreras, JG Joshua Galpern, JH Jennifer Haynes, JL Joshua Little, JP Jared Purch, JS John Sullivan, KY Kaplin Yalcin, LG Linda Gilbert, MH Matt Horton, MJ Mary Johnson, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, MP Margie Paris, NCn Nancy Clogston, NCs Nolan Clements, NS Noah Strycker, PH Phil Henderson, RH Rich Hoyer, RR Roger Robb, SA Steve Alter, SH Sally Hill, TJ Tye Jeske, TMi Tom Mickel, TMo Tori Morgan, US Ulrike Streicher, VB Vickie Buck. M.ob signifies many observers.