Field Notes: Spring 2022

White-faced Ibis, Red-naped Sapsucker, Great-tailed Grackle, Baird’s Sandpiper

Spring season this year was about as opposite of last year as you can get—cool temperatures, lots of rain, and rare snow! That local weather was reflected in the birds seen during the season. Wintering species stayed later than normal and migrants piled up on their way north because of cold rain. Another observation was the unusually large influx of Great Basin breeding species that showed up here due to the lack of water/breeding sites there. We decided not to include arrival dates in this year’s spring fieldnotes, because that data can be easily found in other places (i.e., eBird).

Abbreviations:
Amazon Prairie Mitigation Bank (APMB), Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR)

Greater White-fronted Goose... May 22 Coburg Hills TM Later than normal, flying overhead
Snow Goose......................... May 16 FRR M.ob Later than normal
Ross’s Goose....................... April 24 APMB M.ob Later than normal
Trumpeter Swan (2).................. May 27 FRR SH Resident birds?
Eurasian Wigeon..................... May 17 FRR RRJH Later than normal
Long-tailed Duck .................... May 3 Heceta Beach J5, et al Later than normal
Band-tailed Pigeon (54)............. May 14 N River Rd MRu Higher numbers than they’ve had before
Vaux’s Swift (11,000+) ............... April 30 Agate Hall, UO LCAS A high count for the spring
Calliope Hummingbird ............. Apr/May Eugene/Springfield M.ob Numerous reports from the area
Sandhill Crane ...................... May 20 FRR NS Much later than normal
American Avocet.................... May 27 FRR M.ob Will they breed again?
Long-billed Curlew ................. May 18 Silcoos River mouth DF Uncommon in Lane Co, especially spring
Baird’s Sandpiper ................. April 22 FRR JS Very rare spring migrant
Baird’s Sandpiper ................. May 1 APMB SH Very rare spring migrant
Solitary Sandpiper ................. Apr/May Eugene/Springfield M.ob Smaller numbers than normal
Willet .................................. May 18 Silcoos River mouth DF Rare in Lane Co
Common Tern (2) .................... May 25 SJSR JM Not commonly seen during spring migration
White-faced Ibis (9) .................. May 23 Meadowlark Prairie RR Rare spring “over-shoot” from the Great Basin
White-faced Ibis (80+) .............. May 25-30 FRR M.ob Numbers increasing through end of period
Swarinson’s Hawk................... May 1 Springfield A&DH First of three sightings, numbers increasing
Lewis’s Woodpecker (2) ............ May 11 Creswell area JG Getting to be later for this wintering species
Lewis’s Woodpecker ............... May 27 Creswell area JG Attempting to breed in the area?
Red-naped Sapsucker ............. May 1 Marcola area NP Rare for Lane Co
Olive-sided Flycatcher (6+) ......... May 16 Friendly St area DA Very large numbers for “in town”
Gray Flycatcher .................... May Eugene/Springfield M.ob Larger numbers than usual
Dusky Flycatcher ................. May 27 Creswell area JG Singing in good breeding habitat - breeding?
Bank Swallow ...................... May Eugene/Springfield M.ob More reports than usual - do they nest here?
Western Bluebird .................. May 26 N Eugene B&DG Attempting to breed in backyard!
Brewer’s Sparrow .................. May 3 Heceta Beach J5, et al Rare spring sightings
Fox Sparrow ......................... May 5 UO area BN Later than normal for this wintering species
White-throated Sparrow (9) ....... April 19 Skinner Butte RR, SH Very large number for one location in Lane
Tricolored Blackbird ............... May 12 FRR RR First spring sighting for Lane Co; breeding?
Great-tailed Grackle .............. May 24 FRR HS Rare for Lane Co
Western Tanager ................... May 13/21 River Rd area RH Very large numbers in yard
Neotropic migrants .............. April 25/May 5 Skinner Butte SH, RR Both mornings in the rain, hundreds of warblers, flycatchers, vireos, etc were observed on the top of the butte – a rare sight these days!