

Field Notes: April/May 2024

Sandhill Crane, Northern Mockingbird, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Vesper Sparrow

It seemed like a fairly normal spring with a few unusual sightings and good numbers of normal migrants. Now that the breeding season is in full swing, it's always interesting to watch the young learn the ropes from their parents—learning to get their own food from the feeder instead of begging from the top of the feeder.

Abbreviations:

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

Sandhill Crane (6)	April 2	FRR - Royal Ave	FT	Rarely seen at this location
Black-necked Stilt	April/May	FRR	M.ob.	Good numbers – breeding again?
Pacific Golden-Plover	May 7	SJSR	PT	Rarely found in the spring
Long-billed Curlew	April/May	Coast & valley	M.ob.	More sightings than normal
Marbled Godwit	April 15	FRR – Royal Ave	MJ	Unusual for inland
Wilson's Phalarope	May 21	Florence area	JK	Unusual for the coast
Wilson's Phalarope	May	FRR – Royal Ave	M.ob.	They have bred in the past
Willet	May 5	NJSR	LH	Unusual for Lane
Ruddy Turnstone	Early May	Coast	M.ob.	Rare in the spring
Pectoral Sandpiper	May 9	SJSR	CA,SMa	Rare in the spring
Heermann's Gull	April/May	Florence area	M.ob.	Earlier than normal
Yellow-billed Loon	April 4	NJSR	LH	Rare spring sighting
Great Egret	May	Eugene/Springfield	M.ob.	Where are they breeding?
Golden Eagle	April 10	Berggren Watershed	SMe	Rare during the breeding season
Lewis's Woodpecker (2)	Early May	Blue River area	AB	Rare during the breeding season
Gray Flycatcher	May 9	Skinner Butte	M.ob.	Small numbers seen during migration
Ash-throated Flycatcher	May 24	Mt Pisgah	DA	They've summered in the past
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	April/May	Mt Pisgah	M.ob.	They've bred the past number of years
Northern Mockingbird	April 13	FRR – Royal Ave	HS	Rare spring sighting
Cassin's Finch	April 23	River Rd area	RH	Normally only found in the high Cascades
Grasshopper Sparrow	May 19	FRR – Royal Ave	NC,LP	Have bred in the area for many years
Clay-colored Sparrow	May 13	FRR – Royal Ave	SMa,CA	Rare spring sighting
Vesper Sparrow	May 23	Mt Pisgah	A&DH	Have been absent from the area for years
Great-tailed Grackle	May 21	N Eugene	A&DH	An unusual location for this rare sighting
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	April 2	Lost Creek Road area	LP,SMa	Last report for this winter bird
Indigo Bunting	May 21	Mt. Pisgah	AT,et al	A species that has summered in the past

AB Aquiles Brinco, A&DH Anne & Dan Heyerly, AT Alex Tierney, CA Cindy Armstrong, DA Dennis Arendt, FT Forest Thomlinson, HS Hal Sadofsky, JK John Kingeter, LH Lars Houde, LP Lalla Pudewell, MJ Mary James, NC Nancy Clogston, PT Phil Thompson, RH Rich Hoyer, SMa Sylvia Maulding, SMe Sarah Merkle. M.ob. signifies many observers.