**Field Notes: April–May 2015**

- Pacific Golden-Plover
- Common Nighthawk
- Black-chinned Hummingbird
- Clay-colored Sparrow

The weather during April and May returned to more normal conditions after an unusually dry and warm winter and early spring, with sunshine, clouds with and without rain, and warm to cool temperatures. This year’s spring migration trend continued, with the vast majority of migrant species arriving earlier than normal—some a lot earlier, but most just a little. Typical for this time of year, there were some interesting reports and a few unusual ones. It will be interesting to see what turns up during the forthcoming breeding season!

Abbreviation: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

**WATERBIRDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Abbreviations</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ross’s Goose</td>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Cantrell Rd.</td>
<td>SH, VB</td>
<td>A little later than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross’s Goose</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Sutton Creek mouth</td>
<td>DF</td>
<td>A little later than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tundra Swan (4)</td>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>FRR</td>
<td>SNa</td>
<td>Last date seen for the winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-winged Teal</td>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Meadowlark Prairie</td>
<td>VT</td>
<td>About three weeks earlier than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-winged Teal</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Waite Pasture</td>
<td>SB</td>
<td>Never common on the coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Loon (5000)</td>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Sea Lion Caves</td>
<td>RL</td>
<td>Large migrant flock as the fog raised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Egret</td>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Cushman</td>
<td>DP</td>
<td>Appeared to be six occupied nests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Egret</td>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>Cushman</td>
<td>KL</td>
<td>Appeared to be 10 occupied nests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowy Egret</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Maxwell Pond</td>
<td>LF, KO</td>
<td>Only second or third spring record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sora</td>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Stewart Pond</td>
<td>AP</td>
<td>An unusual location for the species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandhill Crane</td>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Vaughn area</td>
<td>JW</td>
<td>Very rare in the Coast Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Golden-Plover</td>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Sutton Creek mouth</td>
<td>DF</td>
<td>A very rare spring record for the county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Avocet (2)</td>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>FRR</td>
<td>JW</td>
<td>On a nest in May (SH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solitary Sandpiper</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Stewart Pond</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>A normal time &amp; location for the species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solitary Sandpiper (4)</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Swallow Pond</td>
<td>A&amp;TM</td>
<td>A large number for one location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willet</td>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Alvodore</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>Very rare inland during the spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marbled Godwit</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Sutton Creek mouth</td>
<td>DF</td>
<td>Less than a dozen spring reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson’s Phalarope</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>FRR - Fisher Butte</td>
<td>JS</td>
<td>A couple days earlier than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-necked Phalarope</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>FRR - Royal Ave</td>
<td>SH</td>
<td>A normal time for their northward migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin’s Gull</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>FRR - Royal Ave</td>
<td>RW</td>
<td>Rare, but regular migrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Tern (10)</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>FRR - Fisher Butte</td>
<td>JS</td>
<td>A couple days earlier than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forster’s Tern (4)</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>FRR - Fisher Butte</td>
<td>BC, JS</td>
<td>Will they stick around to breed again this year?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GROUSE to WOODPECKERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Code</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruffed Grouse</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Fox Hollow Rd.</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>The far SW end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bald Eagle</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Skinner Butte</td>
<td>SM</td>
<td>Two downy young in nest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Goshawk</td>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Meadowlark Prairie</td>
<td>JS</td>
<td>A very unusual location - migrant?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merlin</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>FRR - Fisher Butte</td>
<td>JS</td>
<td>Later than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Nighthawk</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Warterville area</td>
<td>VB</td>
<td>Almost a month earlier than normal!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Swift</td>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Salt Creek Falls</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>A normal time for their arrival at this breeding site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaux’s Swift</td>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Stewart Pond</td>
<td>SH</td>
<td>About a week earlier than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaux’s Swift (6400)</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Agate Hall, U of O</td>
<td>DL</td>
<td>A high count for the spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-chinned Hummingbird</td>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>North Eugene</td>
<td>DS</td>
<td>About 18 records for the county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calliope Hummingbird</td>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Santa Clara area</td>
<td>MRu</td>
<td>First of about 12 reports - higher than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acorn Woodpecker (3)</td>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Creswell area</td>
<td>SN</td>
<td>Unusual for her location</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FLYCATCHERS to THRUSHES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olive-sided Flycatcher</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Coburg Hills</td>
<td>TM</td>
<td>Right on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive-sided Flycatcher</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Florence</td>
<td>SB</td>
<td>Right on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Wood-Pewee</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Coburg Hills</td>
<td>TM</td>
<td>Right on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willow Flycatcher</td>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Stewart Rd.</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>About a week later than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hammond’s Flycatcher</td>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Clearwater Park</td>
<td>DS</td>
<td>About a week earlier than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dusky Flycatcher</td>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>Clearwater Park</td>
<td>DS</td>
<td>About a week earlier than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific-sloped Flycatcher</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Skinner Butte</td>
<td>LF, KO</td>
<td>A little over a week earlier than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Kingbird</td>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>FRR - W Coyote</td>
<td>SH</td>
<td>About a week earlier than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassin’s Vireo</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Skinner Butte</td>
<td>KL</td>
<td>A couple days later than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warbling Vireo</td>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Creswell area</td>
<td>SN</td>
<td>A couple days earlier than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warbling Vireo</td>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>FRR - Perkins Pen.</td>
<td>SH</td>
<td>A couple days earlier than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horned Lark</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>FRR &amp; Eugene Airport</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>Areas where they’ve been reported previously</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Martin</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>FRR</td>
<td>MB</td>
<td>About a week earlier than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Wren</td>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Coburg Hills</td>
<td>A&amp;TM</td>
<td>A normal spring overshoot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Obs.</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Wren</td>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Willow Creek</td>
<td>TM</td>
<td>About a week earlier than normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</td>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Skinner Butte</td>
<td>SH, DJ</td>
<td>About 25 records for the county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swainson’s Thrush</td>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Mt. Pisgah</td>
<td>BN, PB</td>
<td>Over two weeks earlier than normal!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swainson’s Thrush</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>SE Eugene</td>
<td>TM</td>
<td>When the “mass” arrival started-right on time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Mockingbird</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Alton Baker Park</td>
<td>SNa, ACa</td>
<td>Rare during the breeding season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WARBLERS to FINCHES**

| Species                      | Date     | Location              | Obs. | Notes                                           |
|------------------------------|----------|                       |      |                                                |
| Nashville Warbler            | April 6  | Clearwater Park       | SNa  | About a week earlier than normal              |
| MacGillivray’s Warbler       | April 25 | Jefferson Park        | SNa  | A few days later than normal                  |
| Yellow Warbler               | May 1    | FRR - Fisher Butte    | JS   | A few days later than normal                  |
| Black-throated Gray Warbler  | April 1  | Skinner Butte         | SM, et al.| A few days earlier than normal               |
| Hermit Warbler               | April 18 | Hwy 126 - Badger Mt.  | HH, OH| A few days earlier than normal                |
| Wilson’s Warbler             | April 8  | Fox Hollow Rd.        | BC   | A few days earlier than normal                |
| Yellow-breasted Chat         | April 27 | Grimes Rd.            | SH   | About a week and a half earlier than normal   |
| Clay-colored Sparrow (singing)| May 22  | Mt. Pisgah area       | TM   | Very rare this time of year                   |
| Vesper Sparrow               | April 19 | EWEB - Roosevdt       | E&VT | A new breeding location for the species       |
| Vesper Sparrow               | May 15   | Mt. Pisgah - South side | JC, et al.| They haven’t been found here for a number of years |
| Vesper Sparrow               | May 26   | Mt. Pisgah Arboretum | BC   | A new breeding location for the species       |
| Black-throated Sparrow       | May 17   | FRR - Royal Ave       | AH   | A normal spring overshoot                     |
| Black-throated Sparrow       | May 26   | Camas Swale           | HL   | A normal spring overshoot                     |
| Grasshopper Sparrow          | May 5    | FRR - Royal Ave       | TM   | A couple days earlier than normal             |
| Grasshopper Sparrow          | May      | Meadowlark Prairie    | m.o.b.| Many new breeding locations in the valley    |
| Western Tanager              | April 20 | Creswell area         | SN   | A couple days earlier than normal             |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak (3)   | May 16+  | Florence area         | side DP| Rare, but normal in spring-photos            |
| Black-headed Grosbeak        | April 21 | North Eugene          | DS   | About a week earlier than normal              |
| Lazuli Bunting               | April 21 | Wayne Morse Park      | SNa  | About a week earlier than normal              |
| Bullock’s Oriole             | April 19 | FRR - Perkins Pen.    | DS   | About a week earlier than normal              |
| Red Crossbill                | April/May| Eugene/Springfield    | m.o.b.| Commonly reported in unusual habitats        |

Sally Nelson, SNa Stephan Nance, TM Tom Mickel, VB Vickie Buck, VT Vjera Thompson. Fide indicates a sighting that was reported to the listed observer.