Field Notes: June/July 2017

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-faced Ibis, Sage Thrasher

For the most part it’s been a warm, dry couple months. Good numbers of unusual birds were found, plus the first successful breeding record of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in Lane County. Greater populations of shorebirds are starting to use Fern Ridge Reservoir during their southward migration, and we expect that trend to continue into October.

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

WATERBIRDS

Greater White-fronted Goose......... June/July ............. FRR–Royal Ave............... m.ob. .................. Small numbers throughout period
Brant (3) .................................. July 15 ............... Siuslaw R crab dock .......... SH,SM ................... Summering birds?
White-winged Scoter (12) ......... July 21 ............... Siltcoos River mouth ...... JS,JL .................. A large number for summer
Black Scoter (3) ......................... July 6 ............... Heceta Head...................... JGh,GL .................. Rare during the summer
Black Scoter ................................ July 28 ............... Tokatee Klootchman ...... SM .................. Rare during the summer
Brown Pelican ............................. June/July .......... Along coast ................. m.ob. .................. Small numbers during period
Black-crowned Night-Heron .......... July 13 ............... FRR–Royal Ave .......... SH .................. A good post-breeding location
White-faced Ibis ......................... June 23 ............. Kirk Pond....................... FH .................. Rare in the summer
Sandhill Crane (pair) ................. July 21 ............... Goose Lake .................. CKJ .................. Small numbers breed in high Cascades

SHOREBIRDS TO GULLS

Black-necked Stilt ...................... July 26 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ........... CS .................. Rare in summer except when breeding
Black-bellied Plover ..................... July 13 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ........ RR .................. Start of fall migration
Semipalmated Plover (4) ............. July 13 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ........ RR .................. Start of fall migration
Solitary Sandpiper .......................... July 21 ............. FRR–Royal Ave .... JW .................. Rare in the fall
Greater Yellowlegs ..................... July 1 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ....... J&SF .................. The first southbound bird?
Greater Yellowlegs (45) ............. July 6 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ........ RR .................. The “flood gates” have opened
Lesser Yellowlegs (1) .............. July 6 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ........ RR .................. Always an early migrant
Whimbrel .................................. June 2 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ....... JL,JS .................. A late report for spring migration
Whimbrel .................................. July 7 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ....... JS .................. The start of their fall migration?
Long-billed Curlew ..................... July 21 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ....... JS,VB .................. Unusual in the county
Marbled Godwit ......................... June 1 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ....... FT .................. A late report for spring migration
Marbled Godwit ......................... July 7 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ....... JS .................. The start of their fall migration?
Ruddy Turnstone .......................... July 21 ............. SJ,S .................. JW .................. Normal time for their fall migration
Red Knot .................................. July 21 ............. FRR–Royal Ave .......... A&T& .................. Rarely found inland
Sanderling ................................. July 21 ............. FRR–Royal Ave .......... JS .................. Rarely found inland
Semipalmated Sandpiper .............. July 13 ............. Driftwood Shores ........ DF .................. The first report for fall migration
Western Sandpiper (12) .............. June 17 ............... Siltcoos River mouth .... DF .................. Late north bound or early south bound?
Baird’s Sandpiper ....................... July 21 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ....... JG .................. First of the south bound migrants
Dunlin .................................... July 28 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ....... SH .................. A very early sighting
Long-billed Dowitcher (25) .......... July 6 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ........ RR .................. A normal time for their fall migration
Wilson’s Phalarope ..................... July 7 ............. FRR–Royal Ave ....... SJ .................. Young of the year
Red-necked Phalarope .................. July 11 ............. Siltcoos River mouth .... DF,FK .................. Earlier than normal
Forster’s Tern (pair) .................... June 18 ............. FRR–Coyote Ck ........ TJ .................. Nested in the area a couple years ago
Cassin’s Auklet (40) .................. July 21 ............. Siltcoos River beach ...... JS,JL .................. Very high number to be seen from shore
Bonaparte’s Gull ......................... July 28 ............. FRR ................... LS .................. An early sighting
Heermann’s Gull .......................... July 4 ............. Heceta Beach ............... GB .................. The first sighting for the fall

GOATSUCKERS TO BLACKBIRDS
Common Nighthawk.............................. June/July .......... Eugene/Springfield ................ m.ob. ......................... Higher than normal number of sightings
Black Swift (5) ..................................... July 12 .............. Salt Ck Falls ........................... EH. ......................... Didn’t find any nesting birds
Ash-throated Flycatcher (2) .................... June 7 .......... Mt Pisgah ............................... LM,et.al. ......................... Appeared to be a pair on territory
Eastern Kingbird ................................. June 14 .......... Mt Pisgah ............................... RF. ......................... About the twelfth record for Lane Co
Red-eyed Vireo ..................................... June 5 ............... Clearwater Park ..................... SH ........................ A couple days earlier than normal
Red-eyed Vireo ..................................... June 26 .......... Amazon Ck @ fair ................. JM ........................ A rare “in town” sighting
Bank Swallow ....................................... July 18 .......... FRR–Royal Ave ..................... BMc ................................ Found in small numbers post-breeding
Blue Jay ................................................. June 8 .......... Carl Washburne SP ............... fide BG ...................... Reported in the campground
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (pair) ................. June 7 .......... Mt Pisgah ............................... LM,et.al. ......................... Pair attempted to breed here in 1997
Northern Mockingbird ......................... July 14 .......... Big Creek ............................... KN,WW ........................ Reports along the coast last summer
Sage Thrasher ........................................ June 9 .......... Cleawox Lake ......................... BP ................................ Rarely found in Lane Co
Lark Sparrow ......................................... June 4 .......... Siltcoos River mouth ............. ACk ........................... Later than normal for spring migrants
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (♂) ................. June 18 .......... Mt Pisgah ............................... JH ......................... Rarely found in Lane Co
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (♂) ................. June 29 .......... SW Eugene ............................ AC .......................... Could it have been the same bird at all
Bobolink (♂) .......................................... June 2 .......... FRR–Royal Ave ..................... JS,et.al. ......................... Seventh record for Lane Co
Grasshopper Sparrow (♂, ♀) ................. June 14 .......... Camas Swale .......................... JG ................................ A normal breeding location
Great-tailed Grackle (♂) ......................... June 4 .......... FRR–Royal Ave ..................... fide SM ................................ A woman reported seeing a male & female
Great-tailed Grackle (♂) ......................... June 4 .......... FRR–Royal Ave ..................... VT ............................ Seen quite a distance apart in short time