

Recent Wildlife Sightings at Willamette Valley NWR Complex March/April 2011

ANKENY

3/12- A Male TUFTED DUCK was observed at Pintail Marsh with LESSER SCAUP, CANVASBACK, and RING-NECKED DUCKS. 1000 TREE SWALLOWS and 200 VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS found throughout the refuge were good signs of early migration.

3/14- A NORTHERN SHRIKE and a large group of GREATER-WHITE FRONTED GEESE were found near RR tracks.

3/27- The first CLIFF SWALLOW of the spring and 44 WHITE-FRONTED GEESE were found near the RR tracks on Buena Vista Rd.

4/2- Among the many TREE and VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS was at least one NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW and at least one BARN SWALLOW.

4/18- The last few Dusky Canada Geese were with Taverner's Cackling Geese and five White-fronted Geese. From now until early May, large numbers of CACKLING GEESE can be seen here, up to 20,000.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS, DUNLIN and a brightly-plumaged WESTERN SANDPIPER were found at Pintail Marsh. The first of the CLIFF SWALLOWS began mixing in with the others.

4/21- A couple of YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS were spotted in the Killdeer Marsh area, a singing AMERICAN BITTERN and whinnying SORA were heard as well.

BASKETT SLOUGH

4/7- An EARED GREBE and a LESSER YELLOWLEGS were spotted in Cackler Marsh. SAVANNAH SPARROWS and COMMON YELLOWTHROAT increasing in numbers.

4/24- LEAST SANDPIPERS were found in Taverner's Marsh along with two families of hatched out CANADA GEESE.

4/25- 40 SHORT AND LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS, 19 RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, a CLARKS GREBE and 75 DUNLIN were found in various wetland units.



Photo of Yellow-Headed Blackbird courtesy of Joe Staff

W L FINLEY

3/14- BALD EAGLES have been confirmed nesting on north end of refuge.

3/27- An early SAVANNAH SPARROW was observed.

3/30- The first of year COMMON YELLOWTHROAT was found near Cabell.

4/2- The first BARN SWALLOW found at Cabell Marsh along with 8 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS and 1 SORA.

4/2- A pair of GADWALLS were found in McFadden's Marsh, south of Bruce Rd.

An OSPREY has been seen at both Cabell Marsh and McFadden's Marsh.

A pair of CINNAMON TEAL were found swimming at the scrape on Bruce Rd.

From McFarland Rd, 8 YELLOWLEGS were found in the field north of the road, west of the RR tracks.

4/3- An adult BOBCAT has been seen repeatedly hunting around the office.

4/4- A GREAT-HORNED OWLET was seen on a nest along Mill Hill Loop Trail, an adult was heard nearby.

4/9- From headquarters: PURPLE FINCH, WESTERN BLUEBIRDS, HOODED MERGANSERS, ACORN WOODPECKERS, RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRDS, WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, NORTHERN HARRIER, and WHITE and GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROWS

From Cabell Lodge: 6 DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS, BALD EAGLE, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS

Pond across from Homer Campbell Trail: AMERICAN WIGEON, BELTED KINGFISHER, RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKERS, and ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS

At Prairie overlook: WESTERN MEADOWLARK, SAVANNAH SPARROWS

WRP east of refuge: TREE & VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOWS, 100+ GREEN-WINGED TEAL, NORTHERN PINTAILS, 10+ GREATER YELLOWLEGS, 30 DUNLIN and LEAST SANDPIPERS

4/10- A YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD made a brief appearance at the Bruce Rd wetland below Pigeon Butte.

4/12- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER and COMMON YELLOWTHROAT are becoming more common. BLACK PHOEBES are nesting at the Muddy Creek bridge on Bruce Rd. On McFadden's Marsh, there were 19 GREATER-WHITE FRONTED GEESE. 5 GREATER YELLOWLEGS were in the small wetland east of McFadden Marsh.

4/16- A SORA was heard at the south end of Cabell Marsh.

4/19- 2 CINNAMON TEAL, 2 TUNDRA SWAN and 11 GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE at McFadden's Marsh.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS were in large flocks migrating through along with TOWNSEND'S, BLACK-THROATED GRAY and NASHVILLE WARBLERS.

12 LESSER YELLOWLEGS were seen at Cheadle Marsh.

4/23- 2 male YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS were singing in the mitigation marsh along Bruce Rd. An AMERICAN BITTERN was heard at McFadden's Marsh.

SORA were heard at both the Bruce Rd. mitigation area and along Finley Refuge Rd, on north side (private land) just east of where Finley Refuge Rd turns south.

4/25- A female RED PHALAROPE was found at the Finley Road conservation wetland along with several RED-NECKED PHALAROPE and a WESTERN KINGBIRD.

20 BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS, DUNLIN, 2 SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS, 3 CALIFORNIA GULLS and several LEAST SANDPIPERS were found along Bruce Rd.

A SOLITARY SANDPIPER was on McFarland Rd

3 AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS were found at Cabell Marsh.

BAND-TAILED PIGEONS joined the feeder birds at the Refuge Headquarters.