

Recent Wildlife Sightings at Willamette Valley NWR Complex April 2012

ANKENY

4/29- Wintel Rd

1 **Black-necked Stilt**

1 **Horned Grebe**

1 **Eared Grebe**

1 juv **Bald Eagle**

Eagle Marsh-

1 **Sora**

6 **Least Sandpiper**

1 male **YH Blackbird** across the road

1 **Green Heron**

2 hatchling **Canada geese**

LONG-BILLED CURLEW in the field to the north of Eagle Marsh in the marshy wet area

4/24- 5 **Yellow Headed Blackbirds** this afternoon at Killdeer Marsh; also heard **American bittern**, **V. Rail** and **Sora** calling there. Between Killdeer and South Pond, a **FOY Yellow Warbler**.

4/22- 5 **Black-necked Stilts** were at Pintail Marsh. A **Peregrine Falcon** was also present in the dead snags where it's frequently seen.

BASKETT SLOUGH

4/29-150 **Greater White-fronted Goose** and 3 **SNOW GEESE** mixed in with **Cackling and Canada geese** (Goslings are hatched and can be found on several marshes!)

5 **American White Pelicans** on Dusky Marsh

4 **Wilson's Phalarope** at Taverner's Marsh

4/14- On Baskett Butte Trail: **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, an **Orange-Crowned** and the usual **Yellow-Rumps** along with a **House wren**. Off the HQ road there was a **Western Grebe** and in Morgan Lake there is still a **Horned Grebe**.

4/8- A **Merlin** was perched in a tall tree on Baskett Butte



photo courtesy of Joe Staff

FINLEY

4/30- A **Black Headed Grosbeak** joined the several **Band-Tailed Pigeons** and **Evening Grosbeaks** at the HQ feeder. **Rufous Hummingbirds** continue squabbling over their feeder

4/29- **Hermit Warblers** were heard singing at the back entrance to Finley

A **bobcat** was seen in the field north of refuge headquarters, near the Woodpecker Loop Dr. Several **Western Pond Turtles** also made an appearance on logs in Turtle Flats.

4/28- 14 **black-bellied plovers** and 4 **short-billed dowitchers** passed over McFarland Road. A **Wilson's Phalarope** was seen at Finley Rd Conservation Wetland

4/27- 5 **STREAKED HORNED LARKS**, 3 **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS**, 2 **BALD EAGLES** (one Juvie, one Adult), 3 **NORTHERN HARRIERS** (good view of courtship behavior), numerous **WESTERN MEADOWLARKS**, 2 mating **KILLDEER**, and 6 **CINNAMON TEAL**. **PURPLE MARTINS** were also seen over N Prairie.

An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was near the Feichter House.

To the north of McFarland Rd, west of the railroad tracks, was a **Solitary Sandpiper** and at least 5 **Greater Yellowlegs**, and 8 **Western Sandpipers** with many more shorebirds farther north. Flitting around the road side were 2 Black Phoebes.

Garter Snakes and **Gopher Snakes** can be found on sunny days. **Elk** were recently seen from the Prairie Overlook to the southeast.

4/26- **WESTERN KINGBIRD**, Prairie Overlook

SOLITARY SANDPIPER, Turtle Flats

PEREGRINE FALCON swept through the sandpiper flocks at the conservation wetlands on Finley Rd. (**Dunlin**, **Least** (mostly) and **Western**)

PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER, **CASSIN'S VIREO** heard along the Intertie Trail

A remarkable display of **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRDS** at the HQ feeders, perhaps a half-dozen or more jockeying at the feeder and the Red-flowering Currants.

4/25- FRCW south of Finley Rd- 3 **Streaked Horned Larks** in beautiful breeding plumage.

4/25- North of Finley Rd- **Dunlin**, 6 **Black-bellied Plover**, 1 **Western Sandpiper**

4/24- Thousands of **Greater White-fronted Geese** are migrating north, heard at high altitudes over the valley and Coast Range.

Pigeon Butte- A **Warbling Vireo** sang repeatedly from trees on the top of the butte.

Acorn woodpecker, **Western bluebird**, **Orange-crowned warbler**, **Western meadowlark** and **Band-tailed Pigeon** were observed. An **Osprey** soared high, calling repeatedly. A flock of **Evening Grosbeaks** landed in a distant tree.

Two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** have arrived at the Mitigation Wetland.

Several thousand **Cackling Canada geese** can be seen busily feeding in the field to the south of Bruce Rd, preparing for migration in coming weeks.

4/23- A short visit by a **Long-billed curlew** on the east end of the Finley Road Conservation Wetland, south of Finley Rd

4/21- **HOUSE WREN**, in oak savanna at start of Mill Hill trail

Good numbers of warblers in oak woodland at junction of the Mill Hill loop and all over Pigeon Butte, both **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS** and **ORANGE-CROWNED**, and a good smattering of **TOWNSEND'S** and **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS**. **CASSIN'S VIREO** sighted on east slope of Pigeon Butte.

WILSON'S WARBLERS were found along the trail between Beaver Pond and Pigeon Butte and one on Pigeon Butte summit.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER continues at conservation wetland on Finley Rd.

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER remains on south slope of Bald Top.

4/20- **Barn and rough-winged swallows**, about 10 **snipe**, a **black bellied plover**

4/12- **LB dowitchers** at Turtle Flats

6-8 **LESSER YELLOWLEGS** among a flock of about 35-40 **yellowlegs**, at south end of Turtle Flats area. On Finley road in the grass field at the RR tracks were at least 60 **AMERICAN PIPITS**. About 30 **DUNLIN** lined up on a log in Cabell Marsh. Several pairs of **CINNAMON TEAL** at the mitigation wetland and McFadden Marsh.

4/9- 10 **BLACK-NECKED STILTS** in the wetland south of Finley road, 35 **DUNLIN** in same area.

Many Audubon's and one Myrtle **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, as well as some **Orange-crowneds**

25 GREATER YELLOWLEGS

A **Marsh Wren** was working on its nest

5 **CINNAMON TEAL** (1 in Cabell Marsh, seen from the blind off the Homer Campbell trail, and 4 in flight in the wetlands off Bruce Road)

2 **Black Phoebe** seen on Bruce Rd near Muddy Cr bridge

A **River Otter** was in Beaver Pond

4/8- An **American Bittern** was seen at Mitigation Wetland on Bruce Rd

Two **Black phoebe** were near the Homer Campbell blind

A **Merlin**, **Wilson's snipe** and first **Osprey** of the year dove into Cabell and caught a fish

4/3- A male **COMMON YELLOWTHROAT** at Finley this morning, in a small wetland behind the hedge along the trail to the Cabell Marsh overlook. The **LEWIS'S WOODPECKER** was still in the area of the Fiechter Barn



Photo courtesy of Joe Staff