

## NOTES

## BIRD ARRIVAL DATES ON MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, OREGON

With increasing visitor use (46.2 percent increase from 1968 to 1971) on Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Oregon there is an increasing demand for information on the non-huntable avian species. Of the 28,159 people visiting the refuge in 1971, 84.3 percent were interested in non-consumptive recreation, primarily wildlife observations (refuge files).

Since 1956, refuge personnel have been keeping records on spring arrival dates for common migratory birds occurring in southeastern Oregon. The list following consolidates this information for the benefit of visitors interested in determining the most favorable period for observation of particular species.

It is evident from this data that most migratory waterfowl and large wading birds arrive on the refuge from mid March through the first week in April. Most shorebirds arrive in April, while peak passerine arrivals occur the last week of April and the first two weeks of May.

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Table 1. Spring bird arrival dates at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Oregon, 1956 - 1971.

SPECIES	EARLIEST ARRIVAL DATE	LATEST ARRIVAL DATE	AVERAGE ARRIVAL DATE
Horned Grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i>	8 Apr 69	30 May 64	30 Apr
Eared Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	19 Jan 56	20 Apr 62	4 Apr
Western Grebe <i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	28 Feb 63	4 Apr 62	22 Mar
Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	4 Mar 69	7 Apr 67	*19 Mar
White Pelican <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	28 Feb 63	16 Apr 68	3 Apr
Double-crested Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	8 Mar 60	14 Apr 59	24 Mar
Great Egret <i>Casmerodius albus</i>	24 Mar 68,71	4 Apr 67	*30 Mar
Snowy Egret <i>Egretta thula</i>	13 Apr 57,66	2 May 70	21 Apr
Black-crowned Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	7 Mar 66	10 Apr 67	31 Mar
American Bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	5 Mar 68	28 Apr 63	12 Apr
White-faced Ibis <i>Plegadis chibi</i>	18 Apr 59	24 May 67	7 May

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White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i>	5 Feb 64	6 Mar 67	24 Feb
Snow Goose <i>Chen caerulescens</i>	29 Jan 70	6 Mar 56	14 Feb
Ross' Goose <i>Chen rossii</i>	1 Mar 71	14 Apr 69	18 Mar
Blue-winged Teal <i>Anas discors</i>	11 Mar 63	5 May 58	10 Apr
Cinnamon Teal <i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	20 Feb 70	18 Mar 69	6 Mar
Turkey Vulture <i>Cathartes aura</i>	9 Mar 68	5 Apr 62	19 Mar
Swainson's Hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	14 Mar 70	16 Apr 58	30 Mar
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	15 Mar 56	25 May 62	19 Apr
American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius</i>	10 Feb 70	19 Mar 66	6 Mar
Sandhill Crane <i>Grus canadensis</i>	7 Feb 59	28 Feb 57	20 Feb
Virginia Rail <i>Rallus limicola</i>	12 Mar 70	13 May 67	22 Apr
Sora <i>Porzana carolina</i>	9 Apr 66	20 May 64	27 Apr
Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	17 Feb 69	23 Feb 67	19 Feb
Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	27 Feb 68	20 May 61	26 Apr
Long-billed Curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i>	22 Mar 70	17 Apr 67	28 Mar
Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularia</i>	25 Apr 70	11 May 68	3 May
Willet <i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	21 Mar 58	21 Apr 67	11 Apr
Greater Yellowlegs <i>Tringa melanoleucus</i>	22 Jan 63	7 Apr 67	23 Mar
Least Sandpiper <i>Calidris minutilla</i>	17 Apr 63	6 May 65	26 Apr
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	16 Apr 59	16 May 66,71	5 May
Long-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	16 Mar 59	30 Apr 58,60	4 Apr
Western Sandpiper <i>Calidris mauri</i>	2 Apr 66	4 May 67	19 Apr
Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i>	27 Apr 69,71	18 May 59	4 May
American Avocet <i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	19 Mar 58	14 Apr 67	29 Mar
Black-necked Stilt <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	5 Apr 71	25 May 69	27 Apr

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Wilson's Phalarope <i>Steganopus tricolor</i>	2 Apr 64	7 May 60	26 Apr
Northern Phalarope <i>Lobipes lobatus</i>	6 May 71	30 May 64	13 May
California Gull <i>Larus californicus</i>	17 Feb 69	2 Apr 66	*12 Mar
Ring-billed Gull <i>Larus delawarensis</i>	18 Feb 66	19 Mar 67	*1 Mar
Franklin's Gull <i>Larus pipixcan</i>	11 Apr 70	3 May 58,64	23 Apr
Bonaparte's Gull <i>Larus philadelphia</i>	27 Apr 69	30 May 64	10 May
Forster's Tern <i>Sterna forsteri</i>	15 Apr 71	5 May 63	27 Apr
Caspian Tern <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	20 Apr 61	24 May 57	8 May
Black Tern <i>Cblidonias niger</i>	23 Apr 59	12 May 61	3 May
Mourning Dove <i>Zenaida macroura</i>	13 Feb 59	21 Apr 60	1 Apr
Burrowing Owl <i>Speotyto cunicularia</i>	27 Feb 70	20 Apr 67	31 Mar
Poor-will <i>Phalaenoptilus nuttalli</i>	14 Mar 64	28 May 71	3 May
Common Nighthawk <i>Chordeiles minor</i>	21 May 61	28 May 64	26 May
Rufous Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus rufous</i>	21 Apr 59	25 May 62	1 May
Lewis' Woodpecker <i>Asyndesmus lewis</i>	14 Mar 70	4 May 62,63	21 Apr
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	27 Mar 66	29 Apr 67	14 Apr
Hairy Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos villosus</i>	30 Mar 70	13 Apr 68	4 Apr
Eastern Kingbird <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	4 May 63	29 May 60	18 May
Western Kingbird <i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	20 Apr 71	3 May 67	27 Apr
Ash-throated Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	2 May 70	23 May 71	13 May
Say's Phoebe (1) <i>Sayornis saya</i>	13 Feb 69	13 Mar 62	27 Feb
Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii</i>	29 Apr 69	27 May 62	10 May
Dusky Flycatcher <i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	22 Apr 62,66	10 May 64	1 May
Western Flycatcher <i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	23 Apr 70	30 May 66	*1 May
Western Wood Pewee <i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	16 Apr 68	21 May 60,65	10 May

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Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Nuttallornis borealis</i>	6 May 64	31 May 66	18 May
Violet-green Swallow <i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	9 Mar 59,64	28 Apr 62	30 Mar
Tree Swallow (2) <i>Iridoprocne bicolor</i>	24 Feb 70	18 Mar 64	10 Mar
Bank Swallow <i>Riparia riparia</i>	21 Apr 66	25 May 62	9 May
Rough-winged Swallow <i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i>	6 Mar 68	22 Apr 60	13 Apr
Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	27 Feb 67	19 Apr 62	8 Apr
Cliff Swallow <i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	29 Mar 64	28 Apr 65	14 Apr
Common Crow <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	10 Feb 71	3 Apr 69	16 Mar
Red-breasted Nuthatch <i>Sitta canadensis</i>	29 Apr 68,71	18 May 63,69	6 May
Brown Creeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	21 Mar 70	3 May 67	17 Apr
Sage Thrasher <i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	27 Feb 68	5 May 62	29 Mar
Varied Thrush <i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	21 Feb 68	10 Apr 64	13 Mar
Hermit Thrush <i>Catbarus guttatus</i>	7 Apr 71	24 May 66	6 May
Swainson's Thrush <i>Catbarus ustulatus</i>	15 May 70	31 May 61	23 May
Western Bluebird <i>Sialia mexicana</i>	10 Feb 64	11 Mar 67,69	6 Mar
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (3) <i>Regulus calendula</i>	21 Mar 70	21 Apr 65	4 Apr
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	13 Feb 69	16 Apr 67	15 Mar
Cedar Waxwing <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	28 Feb 68	31 May 62	29 Apr
Solitary Vireo <i>Vireo solitarius</i>	18 Apr 71	15 May 67	3 May
Warbling Vireo <i>Vireo gilvus</i>	3 May 62	17 May 70	11 May
Orange-crowned Warbler <i>Vermivora celata</i>	16 Apr 58,66, 68	11 May 59	24 Apr
Nashville Warbler <i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	16 Apr 61	8 May 64	27 Apr
Yellow Warbler <i>Dendroica petechia</i>	16 Apr 71	8 May 64	26 Apr
Yellow-rumped Warbler Myrtle Warbler <i>Dendroica coronata coronata</i>	29 Mar 66	15 May 65	29 Apr
Audubon's Warbler <i>D. c. auduboni</i>	30 Mar 68	22 Apr 63	9 Apr

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Black-throated Gray Warbler <i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>	4 May 66	19 May 61,63	14 May
Townsend's Warbler <i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	28 Apr 66	18 May 63	10 May
MacGillivray's Warbler <i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>	15 Apr 61	16 May 67	5 May
Common Yellowthroat <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	22 Apr 57	20 May 64	4 May
Yellow-breasted Chat <i>Icteria virens</i>	7 May 68,69	19 May 66	12 May
Wilson's Warbler <i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	19 Apr 63,68	12 May 64	3 May
American Redstart <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	22 May 68	4 Jun 67	29 May
Bobolink <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	21 May 60,64	10 Jun 68	1 Jun
Western Meadowlark <i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	22 Feb 66	8 Mar 65	27 Feb
Yellow-headed Blackbird <i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	10 Mar 68	13 Apr 65	31 Mar
Northern Oriole <i>Icterus galbula bullocki</i>	25 Apr 59	14 May 65,67	6 May
Brewer's Blackbird <i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	12 Feb 69	25 Feb 66	15 Feb
Brown-headed Cowbird <i>Molothrus ater</i>	17 Apr 66	13 May 60	1 May
Western Tanager <i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	28 Apr 69	15 May 61	3 May
Black-headed Grosbeak <i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	20 Apr 64	2 Jun 68	17 May
Lazuli Bunting <i>Passerina amoena</i>	24 Apr 66	25 May 65	6 May
House Finch <i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	10 Mar 65	16 May 61	14 Apr
Pine Siskin <i>Spinus pinus</i>	28 Mar 66	11 May 69,71	29 Apr
American Goldfinch <i>Spinus tristis</i>	7 Feb 70	15 May 67	25 Apr
Green-tailed Towhee <i>Chlorura chlorura</i>	2 May 71	24 May 66	14 May
Rufous-sided Towhee <i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	25 Feb 63,69	19 Mar 62	5 Mar
Savannah Sparrow <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	8 Mar 56	12 Apr 62	21 Mar
Vesper Sparrow <i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	13 Mar 63	28 Apr 62	1 Apr
Lark Sparrow <i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	19 Mar 71	5 May 62,67	1 May
Sage Sparrow <i>Ambispiza belli</i>	26 Feb 70	26 Apr 63	27 Mar

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Chipping Sparrow <i>Spizella passerina</i>	14 Apr 71	11 May 63,68	28 Apr
Brewer's Sparrow <i>Spizella breweri</i>	13 Apr 66	19 May 64	5 May
White-crowned Sparrow (4) <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	5 Mar 68	13 Apr 62	23 Mar
Golden-crowned Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>	22 Apr 60	28 May 61	6 May
Fox Sparrow <i>Passerella iliaca</i>	16 Mar 69	27 Apr 68	14 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow <i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	31 Mar 66	14 May 60	22 Apr

\*Five-year average. All others are 16 year averages.

1. One record 18 December 1941.
2. One record 9 January 1958.
3. Records in December 1940, January 1941 and February 1941.
4. One record 28 January 1941.

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