

## **FALL MIGRATION OF BIRDS AT MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, OREGON**

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In recent years, interest in fall wildlife observations has increased at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Oregon. Previously, fall visitor use was primarily limited to hunting. An earlier paper (Littlefield and McLaury, *West. Birds* 4:83-88, 1973) reported the average spring arrival dates for birds. Numerous requests have been received for a similar report for fall migration dates.

Average fall arrival dates are not as precise as spring dates because many species nest at Malheur NWR, and it is not possible to distinguish between local nesters and fall migrants. In Table 1 we present the earliest fall arrival date, approximate peak period of fall migration, and latest fall departure for those species for which adequate information was available. For species that nest locally, "summers" is given instead of a fall arrival date; and for species wintering commonly on the refuge, "winters" is shown instead of a fall departure date. Several species have been observed in the winter, but are not common then or do not winter every year. These species are identified with an asterisk (\*).

Fall migration at Malheur NWR begins in late June and extends through mid-December. Migrants move through the area over a 6-month period, but the greatest species diversity occurs in late August and early September. Most large wading birds reach their greatest abundance in September, whereas waterfowl do not peak until October. Migrant shorebirds are common in August, whereas peak passerine numbers and species occur from mid-August through late September.

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FALL MIGRATION AT MALHEUR REFUGE

Table 1. Fall arrival dates, peaks of migration, and latest fall departure dates of birds at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon.

SPECIES	EARLIEST FALL ARRIVAL DATE	FALL PEAK	LATEST FALL DEPARTURE DATE
Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Summers	1 Sep-1 Oct	4 Dec 71*
Eared Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Summers	5 Sep-5 Oct	23 Nov 71*
Western Grebe <i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	Summers	10 Sep-20 Sep	14 Nov 73
American White Pelican <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Summers	1 Sep-1 Oct	8 Dec 75*
Double-crested Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Summers	10 Sep-20 Sep	9 Dec 71*
American Bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Summers	10 Sep-1 Oct	9 Dec 59,60*
Great Blue Heron <i>Ardea herodias</i>	Summers	10 Sep-1 Oct	Winters
Great Egret <i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Summers	1 Sep-1 Oct	19 Nov 74*
Snowy Egret <i>Egretta thula</i>	Summers	1 Sep-10 Sep	25 Oct 73,75
Black-crowned Night-Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Summers	1 Sep-1 Oct	13 Dec 63*
White-faced Ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	Summers	1 Sep-10 Sep	28 Nov 76*
Tundra Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Early Oct	10 Nov-25 Nov	Mid-Dec*
Greater White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i>	21 Aug 80	20 Sep-20 Oct	7 Dec 63*
Snow Goose <i>Chen caerulescens</i>	3 Sep 61	20 Oct-1 Nov	20 Dec 58*
Ross' Goose <i>Chen rossii</i>	27 Oct 65	3 Nov-12 Nov	16 Nov 65
Green-winged Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	Summers	1 Oct-15 Oct	Mid-Dec*
Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	Summers	25 Aug-10 Sep	Early Dec*
Cinnamon Teal <i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	Summers	15 Aug-30 Aug	7 Dec 64*
Northern Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	Summers	1 Sep-10 Sep	Late Nov*
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	Summers	1 Oct-1 Nov	Mid-Nov*

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Table 1 (Cont.)

SPECIES	EARLIEST FALL ARRIVAL DATE	FALL PEAK	LATEST FALL DEPARTURE DATE
American Wigeon <i>Anas americana</i>	Summers	25 Sep-10 Oct	Early Dec*
Canvasback <i>Aythya valisineria</i>	Summers	10 Oct-1 Nov	Mid-Dec*
Redhead <i>Aythya americana</i>	Summers	1 Aug-10 Aug	Late Oct*
Ring-necked Duck <i>Aythya collaris</i>	24 Aug 74	1 Nov-30 Nov	Early Dec*
Lesser Scaup <i>Aythya affinis</i>	Summers	10 Oct-1 Nov	Early Dec*
Common Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	23 Sep 75	1 Dec-10 Dec	Winters
Bufflehead <i>Bucephala albeola</i>	22 Sep 64	20 Oct-1 Nov	Early Dec*
Hooded Merganser <i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	9 Oct 60	20 Nov-1 Dec	Winters
Common Merganser <i>Mergus merganser</i>	Summers	20 Oct-10 Nov	Mid-Dec*
Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Summers	1 Oct-10 Nov	Mid-Dec*
Turkey Vulture <i>Cathartes aura</i>	Summers	1 Sep-15 Sep	20 Oct 65*
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	26 Aug 80	10 Sep-15 Sep	18 Sep 62
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	31 Aug 81	15 Oct-15 Nov	Early Dec*
Northern Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Summers	10 Oct-20 Oct	Early Dec*
Sharp-shinned Hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	17 Aug 73	5 Oct-25 Oct	Late Nov*
Cooper's Hawk <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1 Sep 59	20 Sep-10 Oct	1 Dec 70*
Swainson's Hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Summers	20 Aug-10 Sep	1 Oct 64
Red-tailed Hawk <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Summers	25 Sep-15 Oct	Late Nov*
Rough-legged Hawk <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	10 Oct 80	15 Nov-1 Dec	Winters
American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius</i>	Summers	20 Aug-15 Sep	Early Nov*
Prairie Falcon <i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Summers	20 Aug-15 Oct	Winters

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Virginia Rail <i>Rallus limicola</i>	Summers	20 Aug-1 Sep	1 Nov 73*
Sora <i>Porzana carolina</i>	Summers	1 Sep-15 Sep	8 Nov 72*
American Coot <i>Fulica americana</i>	Summers	20 Sep-10 Oct	Mid-Dec*
Greater Sandhill Crane <i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	Summers	1 Oct-20 Oct	15 Dec 77*
Black-bellied Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	30 Jun 73	10 Sep-20 Sep	18 Oct 57
Semipalmated Plover <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	18 Jul 67	1 Aug-15 Aug	7 Sep 59
Black-necked Stilt <i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Summers	1 Aug-10 Aug	9 Oct 71
American Avocet <i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	Summers	10 Aug-20 Aug	18 Nov 70
Greater Yellowlegs <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	21 Jun 69	1 Sep-25 Sep	25 Nov 76*
Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i>	22 Jun 40	1 Aug-1 Sep	30 Oct 35
Willet <i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	Summers	10 Jul-20 Jul	5 Sep 64
Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularia</i>	Summers	20 Aug-1 Sep	25 Nov 76
Long-billed Curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i>	Summers	10 Aug-25 Aug	15 Oct 64
Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i>	10 Jul 73	None noted	6 Oct 72
Western Sandpiper <i>Calidris mauri</i>	7 Jul 69	10 Aug-31 Aug	10 Nov 68
Least Sandpiper <i>Calidris minutilla</i>	2 Jul 69	25 Jul-25 Aug	5 Nov 62
Baird's Sandpiper <i>Calidris bairdii</i>	28 Jul 59	20 Aug-31 Aug	19 Sep 72,83
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotis</i>	28 Aug 74	10 Sep-20 Sep	21 Oct 79
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	24 Jul 73	20 Aug-25 Aug	1 Sep 62
Long-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	30 Jun 73	10 Aug-31 Aug	26 Nov 71
Wilson's Phalarope <i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	Summers	10 Aug-20 Aug	22 Sep (?)

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Red-necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	2 Jul 25	25 Aug-10 Sep	22 Oct 69
Franklin's Gull <i>Larus pipixcan</i>	Summers	1 Aug-5 Aug	2 Oct 76
Bonaparte's Gull <i>Larus philadelphia</i>	24 Aug 78	25 Sep-10 Oct	22 Oct 55
Ring-billed Gull <i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Summers	1 Aug-20 Aug	9 Dec 65*
California Gull <i>Larus californicus</i>	Summers	1 Aug-1 Sep	3 Dec 65
Caspian Tern <i>Sterna caspia</i>	Summers	1 Aug-1 Sep	9 Oct 40
Forster's Tern <i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Summers	20 Aug-10 Sep	22 Oct 71
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Summers	10 Aug-31 Aug	11 Oct 40
Mourning Dove <i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Summers	25 Aug-10 Sep	17 Nov 70*
Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	Summers	25 Oct-25 Nov	7 Dec 40*
Northern Saw-whet Owl <i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	9 Sep 62	5 Oct-25 Oct	11 Nov 61*
Common Nighthawk <i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Summers	15 Aug-31 Aug	3 Oct 71
Rufous Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	27 June 70	25 Jul-25 Aug	22 Sep 71
Lewis' Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	29 Aug 74	15 Sep-25 Sep	7 Oct 66
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	18 Aug 77	15 Sep-25 Sep	18 Oct 70
Hairy Woodpecker <i>Picoides villosus</i>	1 Oct 77	10 Oct-1 Nov	Mid-Nov*
Northern Flicker <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Summers	10 Oct-10 Nov	Winters
Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus borealis</i>	18 Aug 76	10 Sep-15 Sep	24 Sep 77
Western Wood-Pewee <i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	5 Aug 62	25 Aug-10 Sep	30 Sep 62
Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Summers	20 Aug-30 Aug	25 Sep 62
Dusky Flycatcher <i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>	15 Aug 65	5 Sep-20 Sep	22 Oct 63

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Gray Flycatcher <i>Empidonax wrightii</i>	4 Aug 61	None noted	24 Sep 61
Western Flycatcher <i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	12 Aug 65	25 Aug-10 Sep	3 Oct 61
Say's Phoebe <i>Sayornis saya</i>	Summers	None noted	10 Oct 70
Ash-throated Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	Summers	1 Aug-1 Sep	13 Oct 75
Western Kingbird <i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	Summers	15 Aug-25 Aug	13 Sep 80
Eastern Kingbird <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Summers	None noted	11 Sep 71
Tree Swallow <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Summers	10 Sep-1 Oct	27 Nov 79
Northern Rough-winged Swallow <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Summers	10 Jul-20 Jul	4 Oct 75
Bank Swallow <i>Riparia riparia</i>	Summers	5 Jul-15 Jul	12 Sep 40
Cliff Swallow <i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	Summers	10 Jul-25 Jul	7 Sep 70,71
Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Summers	8 Sep-8 Oct	10 Nov 77
Mountain Chickadee <i>Parus gambeli</i>	19 Sep 83	1 Oct-1 Nov	Mid-Nov*
Brown Creeper <i>Certhia americana</i>	1 Oct 62	10 Oct-2 Nov	13 Nov 61
House Wren <i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Summers	None noted	9 Nov 75
Golden-crowned Kinglet <i>Regulus satrapa</i>	27 Aug 66	25 Sep-25 Oct	1 Nov 40
Ruby-crowned Kinglet <i>Regulus calendula</i>	3 Sep 62	24 Sep-15 Oct	13 Nov 61*
Western Bluebird <i>Sialia mexicana</i>	30 Sep 71	20 Oct-1 Nov	22 Nov 73
Townsend's Solitaire <i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	29 Aug 76	10 Nov-20 Nov	Winters
Swainson's Thrush <i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	30 Aug 62	None noted	12 Oct 79
Hermit Thrush <i>Catharus guttatus</i>	3 Sep 61	20 Sep-10 Oct	31 Oct 75

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Varied Thrush <i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	14 Sep 75	5 Oct-25 Oct	9 Nov 70*
Sage Thrasher <i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	Summers	25 Aug-15 Sep	9 Nov 77
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	11 Sep 70	10 Oct-20 Oct	7 Nov 40
Northern Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i>	7 Oct 80	1 Nov-1 Dec	Winters
Solitary Vireo <i>Vireo solitarius</i>	21 Aug 61	15 Sep-5 Oct	24 Oct 63
Warbling Vireo <i>Vireo gilvus</i>	24 Jul 66	25 Aug-7 Sep	16 Sep 70
Orange-crowned Warbler <i>Vermivora celata</i>	23 Aug 62	4 Sep-22 Sep	17 Oct 62
Nashville Warbler <i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	16 Aug 65	25 Aug-1 Sep	15 Sep 70
Yellow Warbler <i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Summers	15 Aug-10 Sep	8 Oct 63
Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler <i>Dendroica coronata</i>	12 Sep 71,75	1 Oct-10 Oct	15 Nov 71
Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler <i>Dendroica coronata</i>	5 Aug 66	15 Sep-15 Oct	14 Nov 74*
Townsend's Warbler <i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	14 Aug 76	23 Aug-7 Sep	4 Oct 75
American Redstart <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	17 Aug 70	1 Sep-20 Sep	14 Nov 70
MacGillivray's Warbler <i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>	7 Aug 61,72	15 Aug-25 Aug	10 Oct 71
Common Yellowthroat <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Summers	15 Aug-1 Sep	30 Sep 40
Wilson's Warbler <i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	10 Aug 66	5 Sep-30 Sep	22 Oct 62
Yellow-breasted Chat <i>Icteria virens</i>	Summers	25 Aug-10 Sep	27 Sep 60
Western Tanager <i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	16 Jul 66	25 Jul-20 Aug	21 Oct 63
Black-headed Grosbeak <i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	30 Jul 62	15 Aug-1 Sep	7 Sep 61
Lazuli Bunting <i>Passerina amoena</i>	7 Aug 71	12 Aug-20 Aug	25 Aug 71

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Green-tailed Towhee <i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>	1 Aug 61	25 Aug-10 Sep	11 Oct 71
Rufous-sided Towhee <i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	27 Aug 66	10 Sep-5 Oct	8 Nov 61*
Chipping Sparrow <i>Spizella passerina</i>	8 Aug 61	25 Aug-10 Sep	12 Oct 61
Brewer's Sparrow <i>Spizella breweri</i>	Summers	5 Aug-25 Aug	8 Sep 71
Vesper Sparrow <i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	27 Jul 71	10 Sep-20 Sep	23 Sep 70
Lark Sparrow <i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	16 Jul 76	5 Aug-23 Aug	16 Sep 71
Sage Sparrow <i>Amphispiza belli</i>	Summers	1 Sep-1 Oct	20 Nov 70*
Savannah Sparrow <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Summers	10 Sep-5 Oct	25 Nov 76*
Fox Sparrow <i>Passerella iliaca</i>	5 Aug 18	15 Sep-5 Oct	20 Nov 70*
Lincoln's Sparrow <i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	25 Aug 66	15 Sep-1 Oct	23 Oct 61*
Golden-crowned Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>	6 Sep 61	20 Sep-5 Oct	27 Nov 69
White-crowned Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	28 Aug 80	18 Sep-10 Oct	6 Nov 40*
Dark-eyed Junco <i>Junco hyemalis</i>	1 Sep 62	5 Oct-25 Oct	Winters
Northern Oriole <i>Icterus galbula</i>	Summers	5 Aug-15 Aug	11 Sep 70
Pine Siskin <i>Carduelis pinus</i>	5 Sep 63	15 Oct-31 Oct	9 Nov 62
Evening Grosbeak <i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	15 Sep 71	15 Oct-30 Oct	Early Nov*

\*Has been recorded in winter

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