

Field Notes: November–December 2015

Rock Sandpiper

Snowy Owl

Burrowing Owl

Rufous Hummingbird

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

American Tree Sparrow

The weather for the period was relatively normal (wet and cool), with December being very wet! There weren't any really rare or totally out-of-place species during the period, but there were plenty of interesting sightings. With the start of the new year, most birds should be settled in for the rest of the winter, unless we get some really stormy or cold weather.

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

WATERBIRDS

Snow Goose (11)	Dec 1	Fir Butte road	SM	Small numbers are found most winters
Ross's Goose	Dec 13	Greenhill & Milliron	A&DH	Very small numbers winter most years
Tundra Swan (2)	Nov 10	FRR	BC	First report for the winter season
Eurasian Wigeon	Nov 18	Delta Ponds	VB, SM	Normally found with large flock of Am Wigeon
Long-tailed Duck	Dec 25	Florence docks	DP	One winters most years
Common Goldeneye (5)	Dec 1	Willamette River	SG	Not a common location for this species
Common Merganser (106)	Nov 4	Dorena reservoir	TMo	A high number
Pacific Loon (2000)	Nov 2	north Lane Co coast	AC	Migration's in full swing!
Common Loon	Nov 1	Delta Ponds	PS	An unusual location for this species
Eared Grebe (3)	Nov 8	NJSR	AC, JS	Not always seen at this location
Pink-footed Shearwater (2)	Nov 6	Siltcoos River mouth	JS, JL	They've been more common this fall
Black-vented Shearwater	Nov 8	Tokatee Klootchman	AC, JS	The last report for this species
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Dec 11	Florence - Fred Meyer	DP	Blown inland after the storm
Double-crested Cormorant (118)	Nov 4	Dorena reservoir	TMo	A high number
American White Pelican (66)	Nov 4	Dorena reservoir	TMo	An unusual location for this species

VULTURES to OWLS

Turkey Vulture	Nov 22	I-5 @ Coburg	BC	Rare away from FRR area in the winter
Turkey Vulture	Dec 19	Florence area	m.ob.	Rarely found on their CBC
Turkey Vulture	Dec 24	SE Eugene	JSn	Rare away from FRR area in the winter
Osprey	Nov 3	Mt Pisgah	TC	They winter along the local rivers most years
Osprey (3)	Nov 4	Dorena reservoir	TMo	A high number for so late in the year
Osprey (2)	Nov 16	Dorena reservoir	TMo	Maybe one decided to migrate south
Osprey	Dec 18	I-5 @ Coburg	DB	1 or 2 winter most years in the area
Osprey	Dec 19	Florence area	m.ob.	Rarely found on their CBC
Red-shouldered Hawk (17)	Nov 30	Eugene airport area	JL	A high number, but they're increasing yearly
Rough-legged Hawk	Nov 21	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	The first for the winter season
Prairie Falcon	Nov 30	Eugene airport area	JL	They winter most years in very small numbers
Sora (2)	Dec 6	FRR - Royal Ave	JDg, DH	An unusual winter species at this location
Virginia Rail	Dec 6	FRR - Royal Ave	JDg, DH	They winter in small numbers most years
Black-bellied Plover (100)	Nov 13	FRR	JL	They winter most years in varying numbers
Semipalmated Plover	Dec 25	Siltcoos River mouth	GR	Rarely winter in the county
Lesser Yellowlegs	Dec 25	FRR area	A&DH	Rarely found in the winter
Rock Sandpiper	Nov 26	SJSR	JL	Rare along the Lane Co coast
Red Phalarope	Dec 10	Siltcoos River mouth	GR	Found in good numbers after the storm
Red Phalarope	Dec 13	Delta & Goodpasture	SH	Blown inland during the storm
Black-legged Kittiwake (2)	Nov 26	SJSR	JL	First report for the winter season
Black-legged Kittiwake	Dec 14	Deadwood	B&KB	Blown inland with the storm
Heermann's Gull	Nov 6	Siltcoos River mouth	JS, JL	The last report for the year
Glaucous Gull	Dec 13	Junction City area	JS	Rarely winter in the valley
Ancient Murrelet (2)	Nov 6	Siltcoos River mouth	JS, JL	Always a nice bird to see from land
Cassin's Auklet	Dec 13	Siltcoos River mouth	GR	Most likely blown close to shore by the storm
Snowy Owl (possible)	Nov 8	Blachly area	SR	Barn Owls can look quite white

Snowy Owl	Dec20	Deadwood area	B&KB	at night Seen about four times during the day
Burrowing Owl	Nov 26	SJSR	JS	Rarely found along the coast
Great Gray Owl	Dec 20	Creswell area	fide NS	Rarely found away from the high Cascades
Short-eared Owl	Nov 26	SJSR deflation plain	BB, LMy	They winter in small numbers at this location
Short-eared Owl	Dec 6	Meadowlark Prairie	BC	A normal wintering location

HUMMINGBIRDS to SPARROWS

Rufous Hummingbird	Nov2	Cottage Grove area	TMo	There have been reports the last few years
Rufous Hummingbird	Dec 13	Valley River area	SH	
Say's Phoebe	Nov 23	EWEB - Roosevelt	VB	Rarely found this time of year
Northern Shrike (imm)	Nov 8	SJSR	AC, JS	First report for the winter season
Northern Shrike	Nov 18	FRR - E Coyote	SH	First report for the valley this winter
Northern Shrike	Dec 26	Alton Baker Park	RR	An unusual location for this species
Gray Jay	Nov 5	Lorane Highway area	KW	A species that isn't normally reported from this
Gray Jay (4-6)	Nov 22	Lorane Highway area	RF	area—lack of observers
Horned Lark	Dec 4	Siltcoos River mouth	GR	Rarely found along the coast
Mountain Chickadee	Nov 1	SW Eugene	AC	This species has made a mini-invasion into the
Mountain Chickadee	Nov 4	SE Eugene	LMf	valley this fall/winter
Mountain Chickadee	Nov 11	Island Park area	LM, et al.	Some are still being seen
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Nov 11	Island Park area	LM, et al.	A rare species in Lane Co, especially in winter
Wrentit	Dec 18	Oakridge area	fide JG	Not often found on their CBC
Townsend's Solitaire	Dec 19	Florence area	fide KL	Rare on their CBC
Northern Mockingbird	Nov 21	SJSR area	LG	They're normally found in small numbers most winters
Northern Mockingbird	Dec 18	SJSR area	JS	Still being seen in the area
Snow Bunting	Nov 25	Siltcoos River mouth	GR	Rare, but most common along the coast
Orange-crowned Warbler	Nov 2	Waite Pasture	AC	They normally winter in small numbers
Common Yellowthroat	Nov 2	Waite Pasture	AC	They winter over some years

Common Yellowthroat	Dec 5	Meadowlark Prairie	VT	They winter over some years
American Tree Sparrow	Nov 21	FRR - Royal Ave	AS	Rare, but this is the time they are found
Chipping Sparrow	Nov 1	Washington St, Eugene	CWS	Later than normal
Vesper Sparrow (2+)	Nov 21	Ricketts Rd	JDr	A rare wintering species
Swamp Sparrow	Dec 4	Baker Beach Road	DS	Unusual, but good habitat for them to winter over in

A&DH Anne & Dan Heyerly, **AC** Alan Contreras, **AS** Andrew Schopieray, **B&KB** Billy & Kaki Burruss, **BB** Bill Bradford, **BC** Barbara Combs, **CWS** Catlin Wells Salerno, **DB** Dave Budeau, **DH** Dave Hicks, **DP** Diane Pettey, **DS** Douglas Stotz, **GR** Glenn Reubon, **JDg** Joni Dawning, **JDr** Jim Destaebler, **JG** Joel Geier, **JL** Joshua Little, **JS** John Sullivan, **JSn** Julia Siporin, **KL** Kit Larsen, **KW** Karen Warren, **LG** Linda Gilbert, **LM** Larry McQueen, **LMf** Lori Markoff, **LMy** Lora Minty, **m.ob.** many observers, **NS** Noah Strycker, **PS** Priscilla Sokolowski, **RF** Rachael Friese, **RR** Roger Robb, **SG** Steve Gordon, **SH** Sally Hill, **SM** Sylvia Maulding, **SR** Sam Reaves, **TC** Thomas Cable, **TMo** Tori Morgan, **VB** Vickie Buck, **VT** Vjera Thompson. **Fide** indicates a sighting that was reported to the listed observer.