

November-December 2008

• **Brown Pelicans late traveling south** • **Rare Clay-colored Sparrow** • **Merlins in Alton Baker** • **Heerman's Gull on Dexter Lake**

The weather was a real mixed bag in November and December. We started with warm, sunny, unusually dry weather before our typical winter rains set in, but then the rains gave way to a very cold snowy spell. The biggest news of the period was the late lingering Brown Pelicans along the coast. Pelicans typically head south before November, but good numbers were observed migrating into December this year.

**WATERBIRDS**

<b>Ross's Goose</b>	Dec. 19	Canary Rd. area	VD	A rare sighting near the coast
<b>Tundra Swan</b> (32)	Dec. 15	Deflation Plain	JS	A normal wintering location, but numbers have been quite low the last few years.
<b>Mandarin Duck</b> (male)	Dec. 7	Delta Ponds area	JH	Most likely an escaped bird from "captivity"
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>	Dec. 2	Alton Baker Park	RR	There have been very few reports this winter.
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>	Dec. 15	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	JS	A normal winter location
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>	Dec. 28	Delta Ponds	DD	Rarely found at this location
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b> (3)	Dec. 29	Lane Memorial pond	PP	Not a normal location for this species
<b>Eared Grebe</b>	Nov. 10	Siuslaw River mouth	AC	They normally winter in small numbers here.
<b>Brown Pelican</b> (220)	Nov. 15	Heceta Head	AC	Large number for this late in the year
<b>Brown Pelican</b> (100)	Nov. 30	Heceta Head	AC, RH	Late in the year to sight this bird at all
<b>Brown Pelican</b> (90)	Dec. 15	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.	JS	An even later date to find any, much less 90!
<b>Green Heron</b>	Dec. 2	Alton Baker Park	RR	They winter in small numbers most years.

**VULTURES & RAPTORS**

<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	Nov. 7	Highway 126 & "Q" St.	TE	Late in the year for sightings except in the W. Eugene area
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>	Dec. 17	north Santa Clara	MRu	Either wintering numbers are increasing or they're foraging over a larger area than in past years.
<b>Osprey</b>	Nov. 22	Junction City pond	DF	Not normally found away from a major river this time of year
<b>Osprey</b>	Dec.	Willamette River	m. ob.	Numerous reports of a single bird around Delta Ponds and I-5 along the river
<b>Bald Eagle</b> (pair)	Nov. 24	Alton Baker Park	AM	The "Skinner Butte Pair" getting ready for another breeding season?

<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>	Nov. 3	Eugene airport area		DF	First report for the winter season
<b>Merlin (3)</b>	Dec. 10	Alton Baker Park	LM et al.		High number for a small area
<b>Prairie Falcon</b>	Nov. 3	Eugene Airport area		DI	A species that winters in small numbers
<b>Prairie Falcon</b>	Dec. 30	Cantrell Rd.		HR	A normal location for this species

### SHOREBIRDS & GULLS

<b>Wilson's Snipe</b>	Dec. 16	Skinner Butte		EC	Not a normal location for this species, especially in the snow
<b>Red Phalarope (6)</b>	Nov. 10	Kloutchman		AC	Normal time for their southward migration
<b>Heermann's Gull</b>	Nov. 4	Dexter Reservoir		RS	Quite unusual inland
<b>California Gull (5000 adults)</b>	Nov. 15	Siuslaw Estuary		AC	An unusually high number
<b>Herring Gull (100)</b>	Dec. 15	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.		JS	A large number
<b>Thayer's Gull (50)</b>	Dec. 15	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.		JS	A large number
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>	Dec. 28	Florence CBC		fide RR	One bird normally found in the area
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>	Dec. 29	Alton Baker Park		DD	One bird occasionally winters in the area
<b>Pigeon Guillemot</b>	Nov. 10	Siuslaw River mouth		AC	A late date for sightings close to shore
<b>Barn Owl</b>	Nov. 8	E. Eugene		LM	Heard at night—the first in many years

### PASSERINES

<b>Say's Phoebe</b>	Nov. 4	Crow Rd.		DI	A late report for this late fall migrant
<b>Northern Shrike</b>	Nov. 5	Eugene Airport area		LM et al.	The first winter report from the valley
<b>Black-throated Gray Warbler</b>	Dec. 28	Florence CBC		fide RR	Very rarely found in winter
<b>Summer Tanager</b>	Nov. 12	Heceta Beach		DP	A possible female was briefly seen, but not found on subsequent attempt.
<b>American Tree Sparrow</b>	Dec. 15	South Jetty, Siuslaw R.		JS	A rare winter visitor from the north
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>	Nov. 1	SW Eugene		DI	Late for this breeding species
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>	Dec. 2	SW Eugene		SG	The same bird?
<b>Clay-colored Sparrow</b>	Dec. 28	Florence CBC		fide RR	Only about ten previous sightings in Lane Co.
<b>Fox Sparrow (Red subspecies)</b>	Nov. 9	SE Eugene		A&TM	The subspecies from eastern N. America not commonly found in Oregon
<b>Swamp Sparrow (2)</b>	Dec. 8	FRR—Perkins Peninsula		A&DH	A normal location for this wintering species

### Abbreviations:

**Deflation Plain** South Jetty of the Siuslaw River deflation plain; **FRR** Fern Ridge Reservoir; **Kloutchman** Kloutchman State Wayside

### Thank you, contributors!

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