

January 2009

- Some migrants pop in early • Siltcoos Lake gone loony
- It's a...Gyrfalcon! • Ancient Murrelet found • More

January was much dryer than usual. What caused some of the earliest spring migrants (swallows and Say's Phoebe) to show up during the month? We don't know. You would think that warmer weather would be more important than dryer weather in triggering movement. Then again, the Say's Phoebe may be a bird that's trying to winter here; there was a report from the same location in early November as well.

WATERBIRDS

Tundra Swan (8-10)	Jan.	Deflation Plain	B&ZS	A normal wintering location, but numbers have been greatly reduced in the last few years
Eurasian Wigeon	Jan. 14	Lane Memorial Gardens	LM et al.	Normally found among larger flocks of American Wigeon
Cinnamon Teal (3 pairs)	Jan. 18	Ada Grange area	AC et al.	A little early—even for the coast
Green-winged Teal (Common)	Jan. 24	Siltcoos Lake	AC, DF	The Eurasian form/species which is rarely found in Lane County
Canvasback	Jan. 6	Dexter Reservoir	PS	A normal winter location
Long-tailed Duck (4)	Jan. 16	Klootchman SW	B&ZS	Normally only found as single birds
Common Goldeneye	Jan. 4	LCC ponds	RR	Not a common location for this species
Red-breasted Merganser (25)	Jan. 18	Siuslaw River	A&TM	A good number for this location
Red-throated Loon	Jan. 24	Siltcoos Lake	AC, DF	It's not often that you find all three species of
Pacific Loon	Jan. 24	Siltcoos Lake	AC, DF	loons on the same coastal lake.
Common Loon	Jan. 24	Siltcoos Lake	AC, DF	
Clark's Grebe	Jan. 24	Siltcoos Lake	AC, DF	Not often found on coastal lakes
Brown Pelican (4)	Jan. 18	Heceta Head	AC et al.	Some of these birds are still hanging around at the coast (see February <i>Quail</i>)
Green Heron	Jan. 6	Delta Ponds	DB	They winter in small numbers most years.

VULTURES & RAPTORS

Turkey Vulture	Jan. 2	Alton Baker Park	KL	The wintering birds seem to be moving around
Turkey Vulture (18)	Jan. 31	Airport & J City area	JS, TB	more than in past winters.
Osprey	Jan. 31	Westfir	CF	A most unusual winter location
Bald Eagle (pair)	Jan. 21	Delta Ponds	DA et al.	I would assume these two sightings are of the
Bald Eagle (Pair)	Jan. 23	Alton Baker Park	AM	pair that nests on Skinner Butte.
Bald Eagle (12 adults;38 imm.)	Jan. 25	FRR dam area	A&DH	A large number of eagles for Lane County

Northern Harrier (16)	Jan. 25	Royal Ave. (FRR)	RR	A normal location and number for this species
Golden Eagle	Jan. 19	Alvadore	DS	Rarely found on the valley floor
Merlin	Jan. 18-19		Deflation Plain area	B&ZS Normally only found during migration
Gyr Falcon	Jan. 4	NW Eugene	JS,LJ,BCo	The fourth record for Lane County

SHOREBIRDS & GULLS

Greater Yellowlegs (20)	Jan. 3	End of W. 7 th Ave.	MP	A high number for one location during winter
Jack Snipe	Jan. 4	Fisher Butte (FRR)	LM	A third record for Lane County
Ancient Murrelet	Jan. 9	Bob Creek	RR	A rare wintering species along the coast
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Jan. 1	Clear Lake Rd.	A&DH	The species is increasing in the Eugene-Springfield area
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Jan. 2	N. Eugene	A&DH	
Barn Owl	Jan. 18	Royal Ave (FRR)	TMc	Not often reported from this location
Northern Pygmy-Owl	Jan. 10	Baker Beach	B&ZS	Not a normal location for this species
Short-eared Owl	Jan. 25	Royal Ave. (FRR)	RR	A normal location for this species

PASSERINES

Black Phoebe	Jan. 11	Coburg	BCs, RG	The only report this winter season
Say's Phoebe	Jan. 4	Gimpl Hill	SG,CK	Not normally wintering in the area
Northern Shrike	Jan. 11	Meadowview Rd.	E&VT	Very few are being reported this winter
Northern Shrike	Jan. 31	Meadowlark Prairie	JS,TB	
American Crow (1000+)	Jan. 11	Delta Ponds	A&DH	Numerous large flocks flying to their roost
Tree Swallow (12-20)	Jan. 25	KR Nielsen Rd.	A&DH	About two weeks earlier than normal
Violet-green Swallow	Jan. 13	Junction City area	BCI	About a month and a half earlier than normal
American Pipit (100+)	Jan. 10	Fern Ridge Reservoir		ECA normal number and location for the species
Orange-crowned Warbler	Jan. 21	Delta Ponds	DA et al.	The only report for the winter season
Townsend's Warbler (12)	Jan.	Heceta Head area	B&ZS	A large flock for this area
American Tree Sparrow	Jan. 24	SW of Eugene	IB	A rare winter visitor to Lane County
Fox Sparrow (Red subspecies)	Jan. 2		N. Eugene	HR A second report for the winter season
Fox Sparrow (Red subspecies)	Jan. 22		E. Springfield	GG And a third report for the winter season
Black-headed Grosbeak	Jan. 1	LCC area	BU	Only the second winter record for Lane County

Abbreviations

Deflation Plain South Jetty of the Siuslaw River deflation plain; **FRR** Fern Ridge Reservoir; **Kloutchman SW** Kloutchman State Wayside; **LCC** Lane Community College; **South Jetty** South Jetty of the Siuslaw River; **Siuslaw River** Siuslaw River mouth

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