

FIELD NOTES: NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

• Ancient Murrelets at mouth of Siuslaw River • Gyrfalcon at Green Island • Nashville and Palm Warblers seen in Florence • Lewis's Woodpecker appears at Willow Creek

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The weather was fairly typical for November and December. One of the highlights was a female or immature American Redstart that occasionally visited Brandon's backyard for about a month without any other birders ever seeing it. This was only the fourth record for Lane County. A Gyrfalcon found on Green Island was only the sixth Lane County record. There were three reports of Sandhill Cranes, which normally just migrate through in the spring and fall, as well as three reports of Ancient Murrelets, a species that hasn't been easy to find in the county for a number of years. There was also the somewhat bazaar sighting of a Barred Owl being mobbed by American Crows in a backyard near the corner of Coburg and Cal Young Roads. Last, but not least, a few species warblers popped up in Eugene, and it appears that more of these Neotropical migrants are attempting to winter here than in the past.

WATERBIRDS

Greater White-fronted Goose (50+)	Nov. 8	Oakridge	CF	Not normally found in the area
Snow Goose	Nov. 8	Oakridge	CF	One was spotted with the White-fronted Geese
Brant (5)	Nov. 27	No. coast	AC	Flying south – not common at this time
Canvasback (12)	Nov. 28	Dexter Reservoir	CF	A normal wintering location
Redhead	Nov. 28	LCC ponds	E&VT	They winter in small numbers some years
Redhead	Dec. 5	Dexter Reservoir	AC	They winter in small numbers some years
Hooded Merganser (12)	Nov. 28	LCC ponds	E&VT	A large number for any one location
Red-breasted Merganser (20)	Nov. 11	Siuslaw River mouth	AC	A large number for the Lane Co. coast
Northern Fulmar	Nov. 11	Kloutchman SW	AC	Around in small numbers during the winter
American White Pelican	Dec. 5	FRR	JS	One bird found through the month
Brown Pelican (40)	Nov. 11	Heceta Head	AC	Still around
Green Heron	Nov. 25	East Regional Park	MP	Small numbers winter some years
Green Heron	Dec. 22	Delta Ponds	LM,et.al.	Small numbers winter some years

VULTURES TO ALCIDS

Turkey Vulture (2)	Nov. 15	Lorane area	DG	Late migrants or wintering?
Turkey Vulture (7)	Nov. 29	Willow Creek	CQ	First winter sighting for the preserve
Osprey	Nov. 20	FRR	JS	Last report from FRR.
Osprey	Last wk Nov.	Cottage Grove dam	LK	Not a normal wintering location
Gyrfalcon	Dec. 27	Green Island	RR	Sixth record for Lane Co.
Merlin	Nov.-Dec.	Eugene/Springfield	m.ob.	About normal numbers for time of year
Prairie Falcon	Nov. 21	Eugene airport area	JS	One or two winter most years

Sora (7)	Dec. 18	Florence CBC	fide RR	A large number for the ECBC
Sandhill Crane (9)	Nov. 3	Mt. Pisgah	LM,et.al.	A late report for the area
Sandhill Crane (9)	Nov. 17	Cloverdale Rd area	LM,et.al.	Same birds as above?
Sandhill Crane (39)	Nov. 22	River Bend Hospital	JH	A large number for winter in Lane Co.
Snowy Plover (10)	Nov. 26	Heceta Beach	RM	Not commonly found here
Red Phalarope (3)	Nov. 6	NJSR	DP	A normal time for their migration
Parasitic Jaeger	Nov. 6	NJSR	DP	Never common from land
Heermann's Gull	Nov. 7	SJSR	DF, LC	A few still around
Heermann's Gull	Nov. 11	No. coast	AC	Small numbers flying south
Glaucous Gull	Dec. 26	Florence	DF	They are around in small numbers most winters
Ancient Murrelet (2)	Nov. 6	NJSR	DP	<i>Not commonly found in Lane Co. in the</i>
Ancient Murrelet	Nov. 11	Kloutchman SW	AC	<i>last few years, but maybe things are</i>
Ancient Murrelet	Nov. 27	Siuslaw River mouth	AC	<i>changing after the reports this year</i>
Rhinoceros Auklet	Nov. 11	Siuslaw River mouth	AC	Not commonly found in the river this time of year
Rhinoceros Auklet	Nov. 11	Kloutchman SW	AC	A more normal winter location

PIGEONS TO SPARROWS

-crowned Warbler	Nov. 14	Valley River BB	SG	They winter in small numbers most
Band-tailed Pigeon	Dec. 18	Florence CBC	fide RR	They don't normally winter in Lane Co.
Barred Owl	Dec. 12	No. Eugene	CT	In someone's backyard!
Belted Kingfisher	Dec. 5	Gold Lake	LG	The lake was frozen over, but it was fishing where Salt Creek flows out of the lake.
Lewis's Woodpecker	Nov. 12	Willow Creek	TM	First report for the preserve
Acorn Woodpecker	Dec. 6	So central Eugene	NN-P	Not a normal location for the species
Black Phoebe	Nov. 3	Mt. Pisgah	LM,et.al.	First report for this area?
Northern Shrike (2)	Nov. 11	Deflation Plain	AC	A normal wintering location
Tree Swallow	Nov. 11	Siuslaw River mouth	AC	They occasionally winter
Bushtit (100+)	Nov. 10	Millrace	AM	A very large flock
White-breasted Nuthatch	Nov. 14	Delta Ponds	SG	Not commonly found away from oaks
Varied Thrush	Nov./Dec.	Eugene/Springfield	m.ob.	Large numbers reported at feeders/yards
Northern Mockingbird	Nov. 11	Aubrey Lane	SH	Found in small numbers each winter
Northern Mockingbird	Dec. 17	Florence	KL	Not commonly found at the coast
Orange				winters
Orange-crowned Warbler	Dec. 11	FRR	JS	They winter in small numbers most winters.
Nashville Warbler	Dec. 30	Florence	TM	Very seldom found wintering in Lane Co.
Hermit Warbler	Dec. 20	East Eugene	LM	A species that doesn't winter here, but
Hermit Warbler	Dec. 27	Cottage Grove	MP	There have been a few reports over the last few years
Palm Warbler	Nov. 7	SJSR	DF, LC	Found in very small numbers some

Palm Warbler	Dec. 17	Florence	RH	winters, so finding three is way above
Palm Warbler	Dec. 18	Tiernan boat ramp	A&DH	average for Lane Co.
American Redstart	Nov. 6	No. Eugene	BG	Fourth record for Lane Co.
Swamp Sparrow (2)	Dec. 18	Tiernan boat ramp	A&DH	An area where they haven't been found before
White-throated Sparrow (6)	Dec. 28	River Road area	BC	A large number for anyone's backyard feeder!

Abbreviations

Bike Bridge (BB), Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw (SJSR), State Wayside (SW).

Thank you, contributors!

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