

FIELD NOTES: FEBRUARY 2011

• **Rough-legged Hawks at Eugene Airport** • **Over 300 Sandhill Cranes at Mt. Pisgah** • **Tree Swallows – first report for spring!** • **Black-throated Gray Warbler makes rare winter appearance**

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February began with some warm weather before turning cold late in the month with snow and overnight temperatures in the teens! For the most part, the spring migrants are returning at about their typical times, with the exception of Rufous Hummingbirds. They're normally found in the Eugene/Springfield area by the third week of February, but no reports were received by the end of the month.

WATERBIRDS

Cinnamon Teal	Feb. 21	Delta Ponds	TM	Arrived about a week earlier than normal
Green-winged (Common) Teal	Feb. 5	Stewart Pond	A&TM	One to two are found most years in large
Green-winged (Common) Teal (2)	Feb. 12	Stewart Pond	BMc,JRi	flocks of "American" Green-winged Teal
Common Goldeneye	Feb. 6	Siltcoos River	DF	An unusual location for this species
American White Pelican	Feb. 16	FRR	LM, et.al.	Still being reported from the reservoir

TURKEY VULTURES TO SHOREBIRDS

Turkey Vulture	Feb. 4	Southeast Eugene	A&TM	Given these reports, migrant birds must be moving into the area, because none of AC these areas are places where wintering birds are found.
Turkey Vulture	Feb. 6	Santa Clara	MRu	
Turkey Vulture	Feb. 10	Valley River Center		
Turkey Vulture	Feb. 15	Florence area	DP	The first report for the spring on the coast
Osprey	Feb. 1	Walterville area	DHy	Not a normal wintering area
Bald Eagle (18)	Feb. 5	Eugene Airport area	JS	Average of 4.8 on the raptor route
Bald Eagle (pair)	Feb. 21	Judkins Point	PSt	A pair sitting in a large fir tree
Rough-legged Hawk (3)	Feb. 5	Eugene Airport area	JS	Average of 1.5 on the raptor route
Merlin	Feb. 7	East Eugene	JD	A species that likes to hunt from tall trees
Prairie Falcon	Feb. 5	Eugene Airport	JS	Seen in the area the last couple months
Sandhill Crane (35)	Feb. 20	Mt. Pisgah	MP	A normal time for their northward migration
Sandhill Crane (300+)	Feb. 23	Mt. Pisgah	JRn	They normally use the eastern edge of the valley.
Dunlin (20,000+)	Feb. 16	FRR	LM, et.al.	Large flocks can be found along the muddy edges of the reservoir in the winter.

FLYCATCHERS TO GROSBEAKS

Say's Phoebe	Feb. 19	Eugene Airport	DW	The same date it's been reported the last three years
Northern Shrike	Feb. 5	Meadowlark Prairie	JS	An area where one has been reported this winter
Northern Shrike	Feb. 5	Washburn Lane	JS	Always a good area for the species
Horned Lark	Feb. 12	FRR – E Coyote	BU	An area where nesting may occur
Horned Lark (2)	Feb. 19	Eugene Airport area		DW An area where nesting has occurred
“White-bellied” Swallow	Feb. 7	FRR – E Coyote	A&DH	Several large flocks flying high overhead
Tree Swallow (15-20)	Feb. 15	Delta Ponds	AC	First report for the spring identified to species
Violet-green Swallow (4)	Feb. 28	LCC Ponds	JS	Right on time!
Varied Thrush (white form)	Dec. 21	SE Eugene	DHm	A rare form of the species where all orange feathers are replaced with white feathers. It was seen and photographed until Feb. 19.
Varied Thrush (white form)	Feb. 13	North Eugene	DS	A different bird based on photos
Orange-crowned Warbler	Feb. 5	North Eugene	BG	A species that winters in small numbers
Black-throated Gray Warbler (2)	Feb. 11	E Regional Park	J&JD	A very rare wintering species
Chipping Sparrow	Feb. 12	North Eugene	BG	A species that winters in small numbers
Swamp Sparrow	Feb. 16	FRR - Zumwalt Park		LM, et.al. Found in small numbers in appropriate habitat around the reservoir
Fox Sparrow	Feb. 1	SE Eugene	AC	First one seen since Oct. in yard
Red Crossbill	Jan 30	FRR - E Coyote	ER,JE	An unusual location for this coniferous species
Evening Grosbeak	Feb. 21	SE Eugene	TM	An early report for the area
Evening Grosbeak (9-21)	Feb.	South Eugene	SG	First winter they've had them at their feeder

Abbreviations

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

Thank you, contributors!

AC Alan Contreras, **JD** Joni Dawning, **J&JD** Jim & Jodi DeLapp, **JE** John Egan, **SG** Steve Gordon, **BG** Brandon Green, **DF** Daniel Farrar, **DHm** David Hausam, **A&DH** Anne & Dan Heyerly, **BMc** Barry McKenzie, **LM** Larry McQueen, **A&TM** Allison & Tom Mickel, **MP** Margie Paris, **DP** Diane Pettey, **JRi** Jim Regali, **JRn** Jim Robertson, **MRu** Mark Rudolph, **ER** Eleanor Ryan, **DS** Don Schrouder, **PSt** Paula Staight, **JS** John Sullivan, **BU** Becky Uhler, **DW** Davey Wendt.