

Field Notes: November-December 2011

- Snowy Owl sightings
- Flycatchers, warblers hang around
- Black Phoebes out in force
- Prairie Falcon numbers up

The weather was mostly drier and warmer than normal, except for the last week of December. An irruption of Snowy Owls into the lower 48 states, including Oregon and Lane County was big news—we'll see if they stay around for the new year or not. A number of semihardy species (i.e., flycatchers, warblers, etc.) were found during the period, most likely because of the mild weather. Large numbers of Black Phoebes were found during the period around the Eugene/Springfield area. Larger than normal numbers of Prairie Falcons were found during the period in the outlying areas of Eugene/Springfield.

WATERBIRDS

Snow Goose (7)	Dec. 1	FRR	JS	Seen in small numbers during the winter
Ross's Goose	Dec. 2	FRR–Royal Ave	BMc	Individuals seen annually with small geese
Brant	Nov. 25	Siltcoos River	TR	First report for the winter season
Tundra Swan (6)	Nov. 3	FRR	JS	First report for the winter season
Cinnamon Teal	Dec. 10	Delta Ponds	JN	Unusual wintering bird
Harlequin Duck	Nov. 15	Siuslaw River	DP	More common along rocky coastline
Black Scoter	Nov. 15	Siuslaw River	DP	Not common at this location
Long-tailed Duck (2)	Nov. 15	Siuslaw River	DP	Almost annual at this location
Common Goldeneye (8)	Dec. 10	Dexter Reservoir	LJ	Found most winters at this location
Horned Grebe	Nov. 19	FRR	JS	A few winter in the Eugene/Springfield area
Eared Grebe	Dec. 4	FRR–Orchard Pt	JS	Occasionally found in the area
American White Pelican	Dec. 4	FRR	JS	Have wintered in small numbers
Brown Pelican (a few 100)	Nov. 25	Siltcoos River	TR	All headed south
Brown Pelican (3)	Dec. 17	Heceta Head	RR	A few still headed south
Green Heron	Nov. 2	Delta Ponds	LM et al.	Sporadically seen throughout period; they winter in small numbers most years
Plegadis Ibis	Nov. 1	FRR–Royal Ave	JS	A very late report; White-faced or Glossy?

VULTURES TO OWLS

Turkey Vulture (3)	Nov. 20	Meadowlark Prairie	E&VT	Small numbers winter each year.
Prairie Falcon	Nov. 13	Eugene Airport area	LG	Seen throughout the period.
Prairie Falcon	Dec. 3	Creswell area	NS	A normal wintering location.

Peregrine Falcon (3)	Dec. 10	Eugene Airport area	JS	Good numbers of wintering birds.
Virginia Rail (26)	Dec. 17	Duncan Island	E&VT	High numbers!
Sora (5)	Dec. 17	Duncan Island	E&VT	High numbers!
Black-bellied Plover (25)	Nov. 19	FRR	JS	A normal wintering flock.
Snowy Plover (14)	Nov. 25	Siltcoos River	TR	Annual wintering location.
Dunlin (1000s)	Nov. 19	FRR	JS	Large flocks winter at this location.
American Herring Gull	Nov. 11	Bob Creek	TMn	First report for the winter season.
Snowy Owl	Dec. 9	Siltcoos River	CB	A major irruption year! All except for the
Snowy Owl	Dec. 13	East Springfield	fide RA	FRR bird were "one day wonders".
Snowy Owl	Dec. 16	FRR	JS	Seen until about Christmas.
Snowy Owl	Dec. 28	Awbrey Lane	fide DL	The FRR bird?
Short-eared Owl	Nov. 1	FRR–Royal Ave	JS	First report for the winter season.

WOODPECKERS TO SPARROWS

Red-naped Sapsucker	Nov. 28	Gimpl Hill area	JT	Rarely found on the west side of the Cascades
Red-naped Sapsucker	Dec. 17	Duncan Island	E&VT	May have been a hybrid with Red-breasted
Say's Phoebe	Nov. 12	Eugene Airport area	SH	Seen throughout period, wintering?
Tropical Kingbird	Nov. 1	Florence	AD	Found almost annually along the coast
Northern Shrike	Nov. 12	FRR–Royal Ave	AH	First valley report for the winter season
Blue Jay	Nov. 2	East Springfield	fide DL	Seen for a day; rare in Lane County
Blue Jay	Nov. 4	Marcola	DSt	Occasionally seen or heard for the month
Tree Swallow (2)	Dec. 10	Washburn Lane	JS	Small numbers occasionally seen during the
Tree Swallow (10+/-)	Dec. 25	Eugene Airport area	A&DH	winter. Early spring migrants because of the
Tree Swallow (3)	Dec. 28	FRR	EC	mild weather?
Violet-green Swallow	Dec. 25	Eugene Airport area	A&DH	Very rarely seen during the winter
Barn Swallow	Dec. 25	Eugene Airport area	A&DH	Have occurred the last few years
White-breasted Nuthatch (2)	Nov. 24	Owosso Bike Bridge	TMe	They appear to be residents along the river in
White-breasted Nuthatch	Dec. 15	Delta Ponds	SG,CK	Black Cottonwood stands
Townsend's Solitaire	Dec. 21	Springfield	LJ	Rarely seen in the winter
Northern Mockingbird	Dec. 5	Alvadore	DB	Seen throughout the period
Orange-crowned Warbler	Dec. 10	North Eugene	TMe	Overwinter in small numbers, but not
Orange-crowned Warbler	Dec. 16	Springfield	RR	normally at suet feeders
Townsend's Warbler (13)	Nov. 5	North Eugene	TMe	A large flock for this time of year
Hermit Warbler	Dec. 21	North River Road	MRu	Rarely found after breeding season
Hermit Warbler	Dec. 22	Springfield	NS	Rarely found after breeding season
Wilson's Warbler	Dec. 20	West-central Eugene	EC	Not a common overwintering bird
Chipping Sparrow (2)	Dec. 4	Creswell area	NS	A late report
Swamp Sparrow	Dec. 3	Kirk Pond	TMe	Always a "good" find

Abbreviations

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), mouth of the Siltcoos River (Siltcoos River), mouth of the Siuslaw River (Siuslaw River).

Thank you, contributors!

RA Rich Adney, **DB** Dave Brown, **CB** Cindy Burns, **EC** Ellen Canter,

AD Adele Dawson, **LG** Linda Gilbert, **SG** Steve Gordon, **A&DH** Anne & Dan Heyerly, **SH** Sally Hill, **LJ** Laura Johnson, **CK** Cary Kerst, **DL** Dick Lamster, **BMc** Barry McKenzie, **LM** Larry McQueen, **TMe** Thomas Meinzen, **JN** Janet Naylor, **DP** Diane Pettey, **RR** Roger Robb, **MRu** Mark Rudolph, **DSt** Dianne Stewart, **NS** Noah Strycker,

JS John Sullivan, **JT** Janie Thomas, **E&VT** Eddie & Vjera Thompson