

Field Notes: February 2012

- Swallows • Sandhill Crane • Wrentit • Northern Mockingbird

February's weather was a little more normal, except for the snow on February 29. It's not uncommon to get snow in February, but it always seems late. A few of the early migrants (swallows and cranes) have started to show up, but Rufous Hummingbird is still missing, later than normal again this year. Also, the resident birds are starting to tune-up for the upcoming breeding season, so this is a good time to learn or refresh your memory of their songs.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

WATERBIRDS

Red-throated Loon	Feb 5	N. Delta Highway	RR	Not commonly found inland.
American Bittern	Feb 25	FRR – Royal Ave	BB	Not often found during the winter.

OSPREY to PLOVERS

Osprey	Feb 23	UO millrace	MS	A wintering bird?
Turkey Vulture	Feb 4	Sutton/Baker Beach	KC,DL	First report on the coast for the "spring".
Bald Eagle (pair)	Feb 5	Skinner Butte	AP	Will they be nesting again this year?
Bald Eagle (pair)	Feb 11	Springfield @ IP Mill	CT	Another breeding pair in the area?
Sandhill Crane (50)	Feb 23	Bloomberg Park	AP	A few days later than normal.
Snowy Plover (6)	Feb 4	Sutton Beach	KC,DL	Northernmost wintering location.
Snowy Plover (large flock)	Feb 5	Siltcoos River mouth	KC,DL	Always a good wintering location.

SWALLOWS to SPARROWS

Tree Swallow	Feb 15	FRR – Royal Ave	LM, et al.	A little over a week later than normal.
Violet-green Swallow	Feb 15	FRR – Royal Ave	LM, et al.	About two weeks earlier than normal.
Barn Swallow (5)	Feb 19	FRR – Royal Ave	E&VT	Another rare winter sighting.
Wrentit (2)	Feb 29	Delta Ponds	DA, et al.	Not a normal location for this species.
Townsend's Solitaire	early Jan	N. River Road	MD	Occasionally found in the valley during the winter.
Northern Mockingbird	Feb	Alvadore	DB	Still being seen.
Hermit Warbler (2)	Feb	SW Eugene & Springfield		They were reported at the LCAS meeting. A rare wintering species, but a few have been reported the last few winters.
American Tree Sparrow	Feb 18	N. River Road	BL	Almost annual, but rarely found at feeders.

DA Dennis Arendt, **DB** Dave Brown, **BB** Ben Burnette, **KC** Kathy Castelein, **MD** Margie DeMoss, **DL** Dave Lauten, **BL** Bonnie Leathers, **LM** Larry McQueen, **AP** Al Prigge, **RR** Roger Robb, **MS** Maeve Sowles, **E&VT** Eddie & Vjera Thompson, **CT** Colette Trotter.