

## Field Notes March 2012

- Turkey Vulture
- Tree Swallow
- Rufous Hummingbird
- Red Phalarope

I'm not sure what you can say about March's weather – it was the most bizarre weather we've seen in almost sixty years of living here! We had snow twice during the month with 6-8" paralyzing Eugene on the spring equinox. The month also produced lots of rain with high winds mostly during the first part of the month. And there were even a few sunny, spring-like days sprinkled in to raise your hopes before the next blast of winter weather arrived. As for the birds, a few of the hardy migrants arrived as is normal, reminding us that spring migration is just around the corner.

**Abbreviations:** Checkermallow Prairie – part of the West Eugene Wetlands (Checkermallow), Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR)

### WATERBIRDS

<b>Cinnamon Teal</b> (7)	March 25	FRR – Fisher Butte	RR	A couple weeks later than normal.
<b>Surf Scoter</b>	March 14	Dexter Reservoir	DH	More commonly found inland during the fall migration – blown inland?
<b>Black Scoter</b> (3)	March 17	Tokatee	DF	Found in small numbers along the Lane coast.
<b>American White Pelican</b> (16)	March 25	FRR	RR	Their numbers are increasing for the summer.

### VULTURES to OWLS

<b>Turkey Vulture</b> (13)	March 10	Spencer Butte area	JH	First report away from their normal wintering area in the FRR area.
<b>Bald Eagle</b>	March 9	Skinner Butte	AP	Adult on the nest again this year.
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b> (pair)	March 9	Eugene downtown	JFA	Using one of the downtown building ledges.
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>	March 11	Florence	DF	First report for this winter.
<b>Red Phalarope</b> (3)	March 12	SJSR	RC,DW	High winds blew large numbers of migrating
<b>Red Phalarope</b> (lots)	March 15	Siltcoos River mouth	CB	birds onto the beach and sheltered bodies of
<b>Red Phalarope</b> (10)	March 17	Lily Lake	DF	water near the coast.
<b>Snowy Owl</b>	March 15	Siltcoos River mouth	JB	Is it the bird that was found during the first part of December 2011 and has wintered in the area away from where people normally get to?

### HUMMINGBIRDS to GROSBEAKS

<b>Rufous Hummingbird</b>	March 3	Lorane Highway	IB	A little over a week later than normal.
<b>Say's Phoebe</b>	March 29	Checkermallow	JN	About three weeks later than normal.
<b>Northern Shrike</b>	March 17	FRR – Royal Ave.	JS	One of a very few reports this winter.
<b>Tree Swallow</b>	March 5	Oakridge	MLS	First report for the year in the area.
<b>Western Bluebird</b> (4)	March 6	Deadwood Valley	KB	Not often seen in the valley.

<b>Townsend's Solitaire</b>	March 7	Eugene downtown	DH	Another report from the valley this winter.
<b>American Robin</b>	mid-March	Willamette Valley	m.ob.	They were quite numerous – snow in the hills plus migration.
<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>	March 12	Alvadore	DB	Continuing to winter in the area.
<b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b>	March 28	SE Eugene	TMi	About ten days later than normal.
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>	March 10	River Road area	TMe	A breeding plumage bird, which normally is a migrant.
<b>Western Tanager</b>	March 11	Eugene	RL	It's been wintering at his feeder.
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b> (15)	March 11	Springfield	CT	A couple weeks earlier than normal, but they do normally winter in east Springfield.

**JFA** JF Alberson, **IB** Isabella Barnes, **DB** Dave Brown, **JB** Janine Burgess, **CB** Cindy Burns, **KB** Kaki Burruss, **RC** Ron Carley, **DF** Daniel Farrar, **JH** Judie Hansen, **DH** Dan Heyerly, **JN** Janet Jaylor, **RL** Rob Lewis, **TMe** Thomas Meinzen, **TMi** Tom Mickel, **AP** Al Prigge, **RR** Roger Robb, **MLS** Mary Lee Sayre, **JS** John Sullivan, **CT** Colette Trotter, **DW** Dave Ward, **m.obs.** multiple observers.