Field Notes: February 2014

• Eurasian Wigeon • Pine Siskin • Sandhill Crane

Snow and then freezing rain during the first week of the month broke the dry spell! After the cold, the rest of the month was a little more normal with rain, some sun, and warmer temperatures. The winter's cold temperatures and lack of rain seemed to have moved a lot of the waterfowl out of the valley, but they're returning now. The snow and cold may be the reason for the lack of kites in the area—the weather makes it difficult for them to hunt. It will be interesting to see if their numbers return to typical levels after the breeding season. As is normal, the earlier migrants are starting to return.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

WATERBIRDS

Tundra Swan (320)	Feb 2	Alvadore area	JS	A normal location and number
Eurasian Wigeon (2)	Feb 1	Kirk Pond	TMe	Increased numbers reported this month
Eurasian Wigeon (3)	Feb 2	Kirk Pond	JS	Increased numbers reported this month
Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)	Feb 20	Stewart Pond	BC	Occasionally seen in G-w Teal flocks
Greater Scaup	Feb 2	Danebo/Roosevelt	VT	A very small pond for this species
Greater Scaup (8)	Feb 2	Kirk Pond	JS	A normal location for this species
Common Goldeneye	Feb 2	Beltline/Barger Pond	VT	A very small pond for this species

VULTURES to SANDPIPERS

Turkey Vulture	mid-Feb	Eugene/Springfield	m.ob.	Increasing numbers being reported
Turkey Vulture	Feb 12	Siltcoos River mouth	DP	Increasing along the coast also
Osprey	Feb 19	FRR	DS, et al.	First report from their nesting area
White-tailed Kite	Jan/Feb	Eugene area	JS	No reports of this species
Rough-legged Hawk	Feb 2	Eugene Airport area	JS	One of the better areas for this species
Sandhill Crane	Feb 25	FRR	ЈН	Normal migration time, but unusual place
Sandhill Crane (38)	Feb 26	North Eugene HS	TMe	Normal migration time, but unusual place
Spotted Sandpiper	Feb 4	Willamette River	KS	Found in small numbers during the winter

PIGEONS to FINCHES

Band-tailed Pigeon	Feb 16	Lorane Highway	ECo	A little earlier than normal
Band-tailed Pigeon	Feb23	McKenzie View Dr	JSo	About the same time as last year at this yard
Rufous Hummingbird	Feb 12	Siltcoos Lake	fide DP	A normal time for their return on the coast
Rufous Hummingbird	Feb 24	SW of Eugene	MS, DL	Right on time!
Violet-green Swallow (3)	Feb 23	Row River Nature Park	A&TM	A few days earlier than normal
White-throated Sparrow	Feb	Eugene/Springfield	m.ob.	An increased number of reports this month
Pine Siskin (2)	Feb 9	Oakridge	MLS	First report for the area this winter
Evening Grosbeak	Feb 16	East Springfield	JF	Very few have been reported this winter

A&TM Allison & Tom Mickel, BC Barbara Combs, DL Dick Lamster, DP Diane Pettey, DS Don Schrouder, ECo Elizabeth Cookson, JF Joan Flint, JH Jim Hardman, JS John Sullivan, JSo Jim Salerno, KS Kate Shapiro, m.ob. many observers, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, MS Maeve Sowles, TMe Thomas Meinzen, VT Vjera Thompson. Fide indicates a sighting that was reported to the listed observer.