Field Notes: November - December 2022

Leach’s Storm-Petrel, Surfbird, Harris’s Sparrow, Palm Warbler

This period seemed a little more normal for Lane County (cooler and wet), except for the deep freeze and ice storm in mid-December. Observers found some very rare birds for the county this period (see below). Also, there were numerous breeding species that stayed later than normal and wintering species that arrived later than normal. Related to our warming climate?

Abbreviations:
Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJSR), Oregon Birds Record Committee (OBRC), South Jetty of the Siuslaw River (SJSR), University of Oregon (UO)

Ross’s Goose.......................Nov 25..... Jefferson Park...........NB ................ Small numbers seen most winters
Tundra Swan .....................Nov 9...... FRR..........................CKJ,CC ......... First report for the winter season
Long-tailed Duck ...............Dec 5 ...... Tokatee-Klootchman ...RF ................ First report for the winter season
Common Goldeneye .........Nov 8 ...... FRR - Kirk Park.......... MG .............. First report for the winter season
Bufflehead X Goldeneye (3) ...Nov 18...... Siletz River .......... MJ .............. Birds showed markings of both species
Eared Grebe .....................Nov 2...... NJSR.......................... TJ,AC ......... Normally not a wintering species
Band-tailed Pigeon (6) ...........Nov 14...... W Eugene .......... VT ............. Not normally found during the winter
Band-tailed Pigeon (2) ..........Dec 14 ...... Fir Butte Rd area .....J&SB ............ Not normally found during the winter
Sandhill Crane (26) .............Nov 9 ..... Harms Park .......... SS ............. Only the second flock this fall
Semipalmated Plover .........Dec 17 ...... Baker Beach .......... TC,OO ...... Late date for this species in Lane Co
Surfbird .........................Nov 8...... Bob Creek .......... AC,TJ .......... Getting harder to find than in the past
Red Phalarope ....................Dec 27...... NJSR.......................... MS .......... A very late date for this species
Black-legged Kittiwake ...........Nov 2...... NJSR.......................... TJ,AC ......... First report for the winter season
Short-tailed Shearwater .....Nov 2...... NJSR.......................... TJ,AC ........... First report for this fall migration
Leach’s Storm-Petrel (2) .........Nov 5 ...... SJSR.......................... DF,RF ...... Rarely seen from shore
Brown Pelican .................Dec 5 ...... Alton Baker Park ......... JL .......... Very rare inland occurrence
Brown Pelican .................Dec 9 ...... FRR dam area .......... LA .......... The same bird as above?
Green Heron ......................Dec 21 ...... Delta Ponds .......... DA,et al ...... They overwinter sometimes
Turkey Vultures ..................Nov 11 ...... FRR area .............. AC .......... Around wintering roost again this year
Bald Eagle .......................Dec 14 ...... Fir Butte Rd area .....J&SB .......... Pair at nest
Rough-legged Hawk ............Nov 8 ...... SJSR.......................... AC,TJ ......... First report for the winter season
Short-eared Owl .................Nov 8 ...... Bob Creek .......... AC,TJ .......... Rarely seen on the beach
Short-eared Owl (2) ..............Dec 12 ...... FRR - Royal Ave .....AM .......... First report for the winter season
Say’s Phoebe .....................Nov 5 ...... Purkerson Rd .......... SH .......... First report for the winter season
Tropical Kingbird (2) ..........Nov 3 ...... Florence .......... LW,et al ...... Normal time for this species to show up
Tropical Kingbird (4) ..........Nov 8 ...... Florence .......... AC .......... Higher numbers than normal
Tropical Kingbird ..............Dec 11 ...... Florence .......... RF,DF ...... Quite late for this species
Northern Shrike ..................Nov 9 ...... KR Nielsen Rd ......... RF .......... First report for the winter season
Tree Swallow (6) ...............Dec 1 ...... FRR - W Coyote ...... MN .......... Occasionally found during the winter
Barn Swallow (3) ...............Dec 1 ...... FRR - W Coyote ...... MN .......... Occasionally found during the winter
Winter Wren ......................Dec 10 ...... Skinner Butte .......... CC,CKJ ...... First record for Lane Co if approved by OBRC

Swainson’s Thrush (photos) ....Nov 23 ...... Skinner Butte .......... PT ............. Very late sighting - great photos & notes

Evening Grosbeak ...............Dec 25 ...... Cottage Grove .......... SS .......... Last report for the breeding season
Evening Grosbeak ...............Dec 25 ...... Creswell area .......... NS .......... Last report for the breeding season
Evening Grosbeak ...............Dec 25 ...... W Eugene .......... VT .......... Last report for the breeding season
Lapland Longspur ..............Nov 13 ...... SJSR ......... AC,TJ .......... Small numbers seen this time of year
Snow Bunting.........................Nov 4..... SJSR.............................RF .............. Small numbers seen this time of year
American Tree Sparrow ............Nov 9..... KR Neilsen.........................RF .............. A normal time for finding this species
Harris’s Sparrow .....................Nov 22..... Oakridge..........................MLS.......... Rare in Lane Co - reported every few years
W-C X G-C Sparrow...............Nov 22..... N River Road area ........MRu............. Bird showed markings of both species
Fox Sparrow (Red) ................. Dec 2 ..... Oakridge.............................MLS.......... A rare subspecies for Lane Co
Swamp Sparrow (8) ............... Dec 17 ...... Waite Ranch.....................DF,RF......... A very large number for one location in Lane

Orchard Oriole ...................... Dec 11 ...... Florence .......................Fide AC ........ Second record for Lane Co
Nashville Warbler.................. Nov 5....... Friendly St area..............DA ........ Later than normal for this breeding species
Nashville Warbler.................. Dec 6 ...... Florence.........................KT .......... Later than normal for this breeding species

Common Yellowthroat.............. Dec 20 ...... Springfield mill race ....VT .............. Last report for the breeding season
Palm Warbler ...................... Dec 10 ..... Florence .........................JL-SH ....... A typical location for this species
Palm Warbler ...................... Dec 13 ...... Eugene.............................SG .......... Not often found away from the coast
Black-throated Gray Warbler...... Nov 4....... Alton Baker Park ........KW .............. Last report for the breeding season
Wilson’s Warbler.................. Nov 18..... UO.................................AK .......... Next to the last report for the breeding season
Wilson’s Warbler.................. Nov 19..... FRR.................................RS .......... Last report for the breeding season
Western Tanager.................... Nov 27..... Near UO............................BN .......... Last report for the breeding season

AC Alan Contreras, AK Andrew Kern, AM Alex Murphy, BN Bruce Newhouse, CC Caleb Centanni, CKJ Courtney Kelly Jett, DA Dennis Arendt, DF Daniel Farrar, J&SB Jim & Sharon Blick, JL Joshua Little, JL-SH Jenn Lodi-Smith Hebrank, KT Ken Tweedt, KW Karl Wallulis, LA Levi Ashe, LW Lisa Wallace, MG Marissa Gibson, MJ Mary James, MLS Mary Lee Sayre, MN Mark Nikes, MRu Mark Rudolph, MS Martin Sheehan, NB Neil Bjorklund, NS Noah Strycker, OO Ondie O, PT Phil Thompson, RA Ramiro Aragon, RF Rachael Friese, RS Robert Snowden, SG Steve Gordon, SH Sally Hill, SS Susan Sheppard, TC Thomas Cable, TJ Tye Jeske, VT Vjera Thompson. Fide references a sighting reported to the listed observer.