

Field Notes: February 2023

Sandhill Crane, Red-breasted Merganser, Rufous Hummingbird, Nashville Warbler

The month started and ended cool, with snow in the middle and at the end, and it seemed like less rain than normal. It will be interesting to see if the cold weather and snow at the end of the month will have any effect on the less hardy wintering species (i.e., phoebes, warblers, etc.). I know we had a cold snowy period a few winters ago that really dropped the numbers of White-tailed Kites and Black Phoebes. The phoebe's numbers have bounced back, but kite numbers are still very low.

Abbreviations:

Fem Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

Red-breasted Merganser.....	Jan 31.....	Dorena Reservoir.....	SS.....	Rarely found away from the coast
Rufous Hummingbird.....	Feb 19.....	Sutton Lake.....	SK.....	First report with many to follow
Sandhill Crane (2).....	Feb 12.....	Marcola area.....	RR,DA.....	First report of north-bound cranes
Surfbird (9).....	Feb 16.....	Stonefield Beach.....	LG.....	It's getting more difficult to find this species
Western Sandpiper.....	Feb 15.....	Siltcoos River mouth ...	LG.....	Always rare during the winter
Black-legged Kittiwake (30).....	Feb 9.....	Tokatee Klootchman ...	RR.....	Very large number for Lane Co
Brown Pelican.....	Feb 4.....	Heceta Beach.....	TB,KK.....	Rare winter sighting
Swainson's Hawk.....	Feb 4.....	Junction City area.....	KY.....	Last sighting – gone or is no one looking?
Turkey Vulture.....	Feb 13.....	Junction City area.....	MG.....	First report of vultures away from FRR area
Great Gray Owl.....	Feb 10.....	Pheasant Hill area.....	CA.....	Sporadic reports over the years
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	Feb 19.....	Florence.....	DB,JRB.....	Last sighting – gone or is no one looking?
Northern Shrike.....	Feb 25.....	FRR.....	SH.....	Last sighting – did they all leave?
Violet-green Swallow (4).....	Feb 25.....	River Road area.....	RH.....	First report away from local ponds
Mountain Chickadee (2).....	Feb 19.....	McKenzie Bridge area..	LP.....	Rarely found away from the high Cascades
Winter Wren.....	Feb 16.....	Skinner Butte.....	JS.....	Last sighting – gone or is no one looking?
American Tree Sparrow.....	Feb 3.....	KR Nielsen Rd.....	JS,et al.....	Last sighting – gone or is no one looking?
Harris's Sparrow.....	Feb.....	River Road area.....	TG.....	Seen throughout the month
Orchard Oriole.....	Feb 20.....	Florence.....	JS.....	Last sighting – gone or is no one looking?
Nashville Warbler.....	Feb 26.....	Eugene - Friendly St....	DA.....	Rarely found in the winter
Hermit Warbler.....	Feb 2.....	Skinner Butte.....	SD.....	Rarely found in the winter

CA Chrissy Anderson, DA Dennis Arendt, DB Don Berg, JRB Jonathan Reimer-Berg, JS John Sullivan, KK Kelly Koopman, KY Kaplan Yalcin, LG Linda Gilbert, LP Leah Pipkin, MG Mary Garrard, RH Rich Hoyer, RR Roger Robb, SD Steve Dignam, SH Sally Hill, SK Steve Klomp, SS Susan Sheppard, TB Trent Bray, TG Tim Griffith