Field Notes: February 2024

Great Gray Owl, Costa’s Hummingbird, Brown Pelican, Osprey, Swamp Sparrow

After the ice storm last month, February seemed normal. Several of the wintering species were around this month, so they seemed to have survived the ice storm. Some of the early breeding species (Hutton’s Vireo, Pacific Wren, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, etc.) have started singing (which is normal), so spring can’t be too far off.

Abbreviations:
Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR)

Costa’s Hummingbird ....................... Feb .................. Chambers St area .............. M.ob. ...................... Still being seen
Brown Pelican .................................... Feb .................. Lane coast ..................... M.ob. ...................... Normally not around this time of year
Snowy Egret ........................................ Feb .................. FRR ..................................... M.ob. ...................... Still being seen
Osprey ................................................. Feb 19 ............. Alton Baker ..................... RG ...................... Rarely found in the area during winter
Osprey ................................................. Feb .................. Lane coast ..................... M.ob. ...................... Small numbers now winter in the area
Golden Eagle ...................................... Feb .................. Junction City area ............. M.ob. ...................... Reported a couple times this month
Great Gray Owl.................................. Feb 19 ............. S of Eugene ....................... RF ...................... Very rare in the valley foothills
Prairie Falcon ..................................... Feb 20 ............. Washburn Ln ..................... FT ...................... Small numbers winter in the valley
Mountain Chickadee ....................... Feb ................. Eugene/Oakridge .......... M.ob. ...................... Small numbers are being reported
Swamp Sparrow ................................. Feb 1 ............... FRR – Royal Ave .......... SH ...................... Only report for the month
Spotted Towhee ................................. Feb 6 ............... Armitage Rd area .......... JO ...................... All white – albino/leucistic
Yellow-headed Blackbird .................. Feb 3 ............... FRR - Fisher Butte .......... JJ,KT-J .................... Still being seen in the area
Bullock’s Oriole .................................. Feb 5 ............... Florence ......................... LW ...................... They have wintered in the past
Tricolored Blackbird ......................... Feb 3 ............... FRR – Fisher Butte .......... SQ, PR .................... Rarely winter away from dairies
Brown-headed Cowbird (25) ............. Feb 20 ............. Creswell area .................. NS ...................... In large blackbird flock at local dairy
Western Tanager ................................. Feb 1 ............... U of O area ................. BN ...................... Still being seen at feeder
Rose-breasted Grosbeak .................... Feb 7 ............... Lost Creek Rd area ......... RP ...................... Still being seen at feeder
Black-headed Grosbeak ................... Feb 11 ............... Cottage Grove area .......... SS ...................... Still being seen at feeder

BN Bruce Newhouse, FT Forest Tomlinson, JJ Jacob Jones, JO Joan Ojerio, KT-J Kellum Tate-Jones, LW Lisa Wallace, NS Noah Strycker, PR Paul Reed, RF Rachael Friese, RG Rachel Glaeser, RP Ritch Pope, SH Sally Hill, SQ Samantha Queeno, SS Susan Sheppard, M.ob. signifies many observers.