

## Field Notes: November-December 2011

- Snowy Owl sightings
- Flycatchers, warblers hang around
- Black Phoebes out in force
- Prairie Falcon numbers up

The weather was mostly drier and warmer than normal, except for the last week of December. An irruption of Snowy Owls into the lower 48 states, including Oregon and Lane County was big news—we'll see if they stay around for the new year or not. A number of semihardy species (i.e., flycatchers, warblers, etc.) were found during the period, most likely because of the mild weather. Large numbers of Black Phoebes were found during the period around the Eugene/Springfield area. Larger than normal numbers of Prairie Falcons were found during the period in the outlying areas of Eugene/Springfield.

## WATERBIRDS

<b>Snow Goose</b> (7)	Dec. 1	FRR	JS	Seen in small numbers during the winter
<b>Ross's Goose</b>	Dec. 2	FRR–Royal Ave	BMc	Individuals seen annually with small geese
<b>Brant</b>	Nov. 25	Siltcoos River	TR	First report for the winter season
<b>Tundra Swan</b> (6)	Nov. 3	FRR	JS	First report for the winter season
<b>Cinnamon Teal</b>	Dec. 10	Delta Ponds	JN	Unusual wintering bird
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>	Nov. 15	Siuslaw River	DP	More common along rocky coastline
<b>Black Scoter</b>	Nov. 15	Siuslaw River	DP	Not common at this location
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b> (2)	Nov. 15	Siuslaw River	DP	Almost annual at this location
<b>Common Goldeneye</b> (8)	Dec. 10	Dexter Reservoir	LJ	Found most winters at this location
<b>Horned Grebe</b>	Nov. 19	FRR	JS	A few winter in the Eugene/Springfield area
<b>Eared Grebe</b>	Dec. 4	FRR–Orchard Pt	JS	Occasionally found in the area
<b>American White Pelican</b>	Dec. 4	FRR	JS	Have wintered in small numbers
<b>Brown Pelican</b> (a few 100)	Nov. 25	Siltcoos River	TR	All headed south
<b>Brown Pelican</b> (3)	Dec. 17	Heceta Head	RR	A few still headed south
<b>Green Heron</b>	Nov. 2	Delta Ponds	LM et al.	Sporadically seen throughout period; they winter in small numbers most years
<b>Plegadis Ibis</b>	Nov. 1	FRR–Royal Ave	JS	A very late report; White-faced or Glossy?

## VULTURES TO OWLS

<b>Turkey Vulture</b> (3)	Nov. 20	Meadowlark Prairie	E&VT	Small numbers winter each year.
<b>Prairie Falcon</b>	Nov. 13	Eugene Airport area	LG	Seen throughout the period.
<b>Prairie Falcon</b>	Dec. 3	Creswell area	NS	A normal wintering location.

<b>Peregrine Falcon</b> (3)	Dec. 10	Eugene Airport area	JS	Good numbers of wintering birds.
<b>Virginia Rail</b> (26)	Dec. 17	Duncan Island	E&VT	High numbers!
<b>Sora</b> (5)	Dec. 17	Duncan Island	E&VT	High numbers!
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b> (25)	Nov. 19	FRR	JS	A normal wintering flock.
<b>Snowy Plover</b> (14)	Nov. 25	Siltcoos River	TR	Annual wintering location.
<b>Dunlin</b> (1000s)	Nov. 19	FRR	JS	Large flocks winter at this location.
<b>American Herring Gull</b>	Nov. 11	Bob Creek	TMn	First report for the winter season.
<b>Snowy Owl</b>	Dec. 9	Siltcoos River	CB	A major irruption year! All except for the
<b>Snowy Owl</b>	Dec. 13	East Springfield	fide RA	FRR bird were "one day wonders".
<b>Snowy Owl</b>	Dec. 16	FRR	JS	Seen until about Christmas.
<b>Snowy Owl</b>	Dec. 28	Awbrey Lane	fide DL	The FRR bird?
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>	Nov. 1	FRR–Royal Ave	JS	First report for the winter season.

## WOODPECKERS TO SPARROWS

<b>Red-naped Sapsucker</b>	Nov. 28	Gimpl Hill area	JT	Rarely found on the west side of the Cascades
<b>Red-naped Sapsucker</b>	Dec. 17	Duncan Island	E&VT	May have been a hybrid with Red-breasted
<b>Say's Phoebe</b>	Nov. 12	Eugene Airport area	SH	Seen throughout period, wintering?
<b>Tropical Kingbird</b>	Nov. 1	Florence	AD	Found almost annually along the coast
<b>Northern Shrike</b>	Nov. 12	FRR–Royal Ave	AH	First valley report for the winter season
<b>Blue Jay</b>	Nov. 2	East Springfield	fide DL	Seen for a day; rare in Lane County
<b>Blue Jay</b>	Nov. 4	Marcola	DSt	Occasionally seen or heard for the month
<b>Tree Swallow</b> (2)	Dec. 10	Washburn Lane	JS	Small numbers occasionally seen during the
<b>Tree Swallow</b> (10+/-)	Dec. 25	Eugene Airport area	A&DH	winter. Early spring migrants because of the
<b>Tree Swallow</b> (3)	Dec. 28	FRR	EC	mild weather?
<b>Violet-green Swallow</b>	Dec. 25	Eugene Airport area	A&DH	Very rarely seen during the winter
<b>Barn Swallow</b>	Dec. 25	Eugene Airport area	A&DH	Have occurred the last few years
<b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b> (2)	Nov. 24	Owosso Bike Bridge	TMe	They appear to be residents along the river in
<b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b>	Dec. 15	Delta Ponds	SG,CK	Black Cottonwood stands
<b>Townsend's Solitaire</b>	Dec. 21	Springfield	LJ	Rarely seen in the winter
<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>	Dec. 5	Alvadore	DB	Seen throughout the period
<b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b>	Dec. 10	North Eugene	TMe	Overwinter in small numbers, but not
<b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b>	Dec. 16	Springfield	RR	normally at suet feeders
<b>Townsend's Warbler</b> (13)	Nov. 5	North Eugene	TMe	A large flock for this time of year
<b>Hermit Warbler</b>	Dec. 21	North River Road	MRu	Rarely found after breeding season
<b>Hermit Warbler</b>	Dec. 22	Springfield	NS	Rarely found after breeding season
<b>Wilson's Warbler</b>	Dec. 20	West-central Eugene	EC	Not a common overwintering bird
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b> (2)	Dec. 4	Creswell area	NS	A late report
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>	Dec. 3	Kirk Pond	TMe	Always a "good" find

## Abbreviations

Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), mouth of the Siltcoos River (Siltcoos River), mouth of the Siuslaw River (Siuslaw River).

## Thank you, contributors!

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