Field Notes: February 2020

Short-eared Owl, Red-throated Loon, Sooty Shearwater, Palm Warbler

The weather for the month was drier and cooler than normal, especially the last half of the month. The very early migrants are starting to show up, but many more are on their way in the next couple months.

Abbreviations: Fern Ridge Reservoir (FRR), North Jetty of the Siuslaw River (NJ SR)

WATERFOWL TO RAPTORS

Brant ........................................... Feb 2 ........... Heceta Head .............. TJ, et al ............. An unusual location
Redhead (3) .................................. Feb 8 ........... Kirken Pond ............... SH ............. Earlier than normal
Ruddy Duck (lots) .................................. Feb 1 ........... FRR .................................. JF ............. Larger numbers than normal
Band-tailed Pigeon .................................. Feb 16 ........... Creswell area .......... TMo .......... An early returning bird
Anna’s Hummingbird .................................. Feb 20 ........... College Hill area ...... Fide NC .......... Female building nest
Anna’s Hummingbird .................................. Feb 23 ........... NW Eugene .......... Fide AC .......... Female on nest
Rufous Hummingbird .................................. Feb 24 ........... Westlake .............. M, ob ............. First report from the coast
Rufous Hummingbird .................................. Feb 25 ........... Mt. Pisgah area ...... FT ............. A few days later than normal
Sandhill Crane (30) .................................. Feb 14 ........... East Springfield .... RR .......... First of many sightings
Black Oystercatcher (11) .................................. Feb 6 ........... Bob Creek .......... AC ............. Large number for the Lane coast
Semipalmated Plover (4) .................................. Feb 14 ........... FRR .......... JS, FT .......... Uncommon during winter in the valley
Surfbird (120) .................................... Feb 2 ........... Klookchuman .... TJ, et al ............. Large number for the Lane coast
Lesser Yellowlegs .................................. Feb 17 ........... Junction City area .... BC ............. Rare in the valley during the winter
Ancient Murrelet .................................. Feb 12 ........... Florence area .......... SH, DP .......... Seen all along the northern Lane coast
Bonaparte’s Gull .................................. Feb 10 ........... NJSR .......... SH .......... Rare during the winter
Glaucous Gull .................................. Feb 15 ........... Glenwood .......... JS .......... Rare in the valley
Red-throated Loon .................................. Feb 1 ........... Dexter Reservoir .... TJ, et al .......... Rare away from the coast
Sooty Shearwater (2) .................................. Feb 16 ........... NJSR .......... DP .......... Rare in the winter
Osprey .................................. Feb 6 ........... FRR .......... EC .......... Very early sighting for this location
Northern Goshawk .................................. Jan 31 ........... Goshen area .......... JS, FT .......... Rare in the valley
Short-eared Owl .................................. Feb 23 ........... Eugene airport area .... JS, TJ .......... Only report for the month
Prairie Falcon .................................. Feb 7 ........... FRR .......... EC .......... They winter in very small numbers

FLYCATCHERS TO WABLERS

Say’s Phoebe .................................. Feb 8 ........... Oakridge ...... MLS .......... The first migrant outside of the valley
Vermilion Flycatcher .................................. Feb ........... Alton Baker Park ...... M, ob .......... Seen throughout the month
Tree Swallow .................................. Feb 22 ........... Oakridge ...... MLS .......... The first returning birds for the area
Violent-green Swallow (10) .................................. Feb 23 ........... Delta Ponds ...... PN .......... A couple days earlier than normal
Cliff Swallow .................................. Feb 18 ........... Ada area .......... NT .......... A very early report
Townsend’s Solitaire .................................. Feb 16 ........... Lowell area .......... SH .......... More seen than normal - early migrant?
Townsend’s Solitaire .................................. Feb 21 ........... Skinner Butte ...... SH .......... More seen than normal - early migrant?
Townsend’s Solitaire .................................. Feb 21 ........... U of O .......... NC .......... More seen than normal - early migrant?
Townsend’s Solitaire .................................. Feb 22 ........... Wild Iris Ridge ...... EG .......... More seen than normal - early migrant?
American Pipit (150+) .................................. Feb 16 ........... FRR area .......... NB, RA .......... A large flock for midwinter
Chipping Sparrow .................................. Feb 7 ........... Springfield .... SM .......... A rare winter sighting
Orange-crowned Warbler .................................. Feb 3 ........... Downtown Eug area .... EC .......... More sightings than normal
Orange-crowned Warbler .................................. Feb 7 ........... Florence .......... DP .......... More sightings than normal
Orange-crowned Warbler .................................. Feb 15 ........... Churchill area ...... BD .......... More sightings than normal
Orange-crowned Warbler .................................. Feb 15 ........... River Rd area ...... LM .......... More sightings than normal
Orange-crowned Warbler .................................. Feb 19 ........... Alton Baker Park ...... RR .......... More sightings than normal
Palm Warbler .................................. Jan 10 ........... Alton Baker Park ...... DR .......... Rare sighting away from the coast