

very hostile conditions in the Northeast. Hairy Woodpeckers increased in the Appalachians; six of them and three Downies were particularly gratifying to birders in Northwest Canada where only Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers are common!

For a species not normally considered an irruptor, the Horned Lark was found in incredible numbers between the Rockies and the Appalachians; flocks of 10,000 were seen in the Pawnee National Grasslands, Colo., and in Montana, and flocks of 1000 or more were reported from the prairies to Louisiana.

Almost every northern corvid was regarded to be expanding its range, Gray Jays, Blue Jays, Scrub Jays especially in the Northwest, Black-billed Magpies in the East (Minnesota and Ontario) as well, and Common Crows, here and there from Ontario to the Lower Colorado River Valley.

Last year 26 Varied Thrushes were reported from the regions east of the Rocky Mountain states, for an unprecedented high. This winter the total was more than triple; of the 80, 15 were in Massachusetts, two came as far northeast as Nova Scotia and three others as far southeast as Maryland and Virginia. Not just a western species east, ten individuals were a record-breaking total in the Southwest, California reported a massive invasion, and in Kodiak, Alaska, there were a remarkable 30-50 per day at feeders.

Pyrrhuloxias were found in unusual numbers from west Texas to Galveston Island, north and east of their usual range. House Finches continue their inexorable expansion, consolidating as they go. First records were reported this year in two Louisiana sites,

Bozeman, Mont., and Kalispell, Ida.; flocks of dozens to hundreds were seen as far west as Ohio and Kentucky and south to piedmont North Carolina. The scarcity of Tree Sparrows in the Northeast contrasted with the usual abundance in Nebraska and Kansas and well-above-average totals in Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee and Arkansas.

Happenings.

IN THE MOUNTAIN of sober and instructive data that follows, an occasional tale is buried which only cover-to-cover reading is likely to expose. One birder's Starling may be another's Ross's Gull, but who would not be the owner of the garden swing in Québec where a pair of Short-eared Owls was wont to roost, or the observer in a Texas research institute when it was inspected by a confused Cave Swallow? You may be glad that you do not have the problem of Churchill birders scoping through ice crystals in the air, or that you were not the witness of the encounter between a Golden Eagle and a porcupine somewhere in Ontario. Our outrage at a Nebraska hooligan's shooting of the state's first Great Gray Owl since 1893 is matched only by our satisfaction in his apprehension by the Law. Finally, if you must be confined to a seventh story office in, say, a city in the hills, what could be a better way to have the day turned upside down than to have three Wood Storks fly by your window?

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Abbreviations frequently used

ad : adult, Am.: American, C: Celsius, CBC: Christmas Bird Count, Cr.: Creek, Com.: Common (bird name), Co.: County, Cos.: Counties, *et al* and others, E.: Eastern (bird name), Eur.: European, Eurasian (bird names), F: Fahrenheit, *fide*: reported by, F.&W.S.: Fish & Wildlife Service, Ft.: Fort, imm.: immature, I.: Island, Is.: Islands, Isles, Jct.: Junction, L.: Lake, m.ob.: many observers, Mt.: Mountain, Mts.: Mountains, N.F.: National Forest, N.M.: National Monument, N.P.: National Park, N.W.R.: Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N.: Northern

(bird name), Par.: Parish, Pen.: Peninsula, P.P.: Provincial Park, Pt.: Point, not Port, Ref.: Refuge, Res.: Reservoir, not Reservation, R.: River, S.P.: State Park, sp.: species, spp.: species plural, ssp.: subspecies, Twp.: Township, W.: Western (bird name), W.M.A.: Wildlife Management Area, v.o.: various observers, N,S,W,E.: direction of motion, n., s., w., e.: direction of location, ♂: male, ♀: female, Ø: imm. or female, *: specimen, ph.: photographed, †: documented, ft: feet, mi: miles, m: meters, km: kilometers, date with a + (*e.g.*, Feb. 28+): recorded beyond end of period. Authors may also abbreviate often-cited locations.