

ularly in s.c. regions, with many scattered reports of Hoarys mixed in. The farthest south of these was a bird at Port Stanley Feb. 21 (ASm). Practically every feeder across the s. and c. regions received its fair share of Pine Siskins as well. Evening Grosbeaks could also be found at a number of locations. For the first time in Ontario, many feederwatchers reported numerous birds which exhibited all the symptoms of *Salmonella* poisoning, particularly in redpolls, siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks.

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appalachian region



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It was a weird winter. Or was there a winter? Weatherwise the answer is no. How was the birding? Good or bad? It all depended on where you were.

All three months had above-average temperatures, resulting in one of the warmest winters on record. At the Pittsburgh weather station December was drier than normal, January much wetter, and February about average. There was little snow, except at higher elevations. Two major storms crossed the southern part of the Region, bringing up to 40 inches of snow. The ponds and lakes were generally ice free, and even Presque Isle Bay on Lake Erie stayed open. The heavy rainfall, coupled with the melting of mountain snows, produced some extensive flooding. Some of the worst weather occurred at the end of the period, but all in all it was a mild, open winter.

Birds? In the south, and away from lakes

and ponds, birding was dull. Birds had little incentive to patronize feeders. The mild weather did cause many species to remain well into December. Besides the usual "half hearty" species, several sparrows and warblers were found in late December and early January. The ice-free lakes produced nice lists of waterfowl in December. For example, 30 species of waterfowl were listed on the lake at Yellow Creek State Park, Pennsylvania. So most places had good Christmas Bird Counts, which included record numbers for many species. After the first of the year waterfowl numbers dwindled and the late migrants disappeared, leaving only the usual winter residents.

In November there had been suggestions of an upcoming influx of "northern invaders." But in the south this promise fizzled out. A few species, such as Red-breasted Nuthatch, were widespread and numerous. Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks occurred Regionwide, but were spottily distributed. However, in the north there was

an unprecedented flight of crossbills of both species. Redpolls and siskins were numerous, and there were records of Snowy Owls and Northern Shrikes.

There were a few rarities, including one state record and two interesting westerners. At the end of February there was little sign of spring migration, despite the mildness of the season. A few blackbirds had appeared, but the northbound waterfowl flight had not started.

Abbreviations: B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., PA*); Ch.N.F. (*Chattahoochee Nat'l Forest, GA*); G.B.W.M.A. (*Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell Co., WV*); M.L.W.A. (*Mosquito L. Wildlife Area, Trumbull Co., OH*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*); R.C.B.L. (*Robert C. Byrd Locks, Ohio R., Mason Co., WV*); S.H.L. (*South Holston L., Washington Co., VA/Sullivan Co., TN*); Y.C.S.P. (*Yellow Creek State Park, Indiana Co., PA*).

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

The record flight of Red-throated Loons at P.I.S.P. reported in the fall continued with 32 counted through December to Jan. 2 (JM). Single sightings came from Y.C.S.P. Dec. 26 (GL, GS); Elizabethton, TN, CBC, Dec. 20 (GWA); and Booker T. Washington S.P., TN, Feb. 8 & 9 (KC, DJ, JHe). A remarkable 51 Com. Loons were found at Y.C.S.P. Dec. 9 (MH). Up to 15 loons wintered on the n.e. Tennessee lakes (RK), and there were December records of small numbers in w. Pennsylvania, w. Maryland, and e. Ohio. The only late records were Feb. 1 at P.I.S.P. (JM) and Feb. 25 at Meander L., OH (J&DH). The heavy fall flight of Pied-billed Grebes continued through December, while Horned Grebes were also in good numbers early in the season. Red-necked Grebes were found at P.I.S.P. Dec. 7 and Jan. 25-31 (JM), Y.C.S.P. Dec. 26 (GL, GS), at B.E.S.P. Feb. 1 (JF), and R.C.B.L. Jan. 1 (WA, MG). At least five of the Eared Grebes at S.H.L. remained until Mar. 1 (WC).

Two flocks of Double-crested Cormorants totaling 160 birds were seen at Pipestem S.P., WV, Feb. 25 (JP), and at least 11 wintered at Kingsport, TN (RK, WC). Two cormorants were recorded on the Garrett, MD, CBC Dec. 20 (*fide* CS), and singles were on the Ohio R. at Pittsburgh Dec. 27 (PH, SSo) and Willow I., Pleasants, WV, Feb. 3 (JE).

There were many more Great Blue Herons in the Region through December,

topped by the record count of 29 on the Pittsburgh CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* PH). At Cherokee L., TN, 50+ Great Blue Herons were standing on nests Feb. 19 (RK). A Great Egret at Waynesboro, VA, Dec. 6 furnished the first winter record for *Augusta* (YL). Great Egrets in *Mason*, WV, Jan. 10 (WA, MG, KP); at Cherokee Dam, TN, Dec. 8-Jan. 21 (DE); and Hiwassee R. area, Bradley, TN, Dec. 27 (R&DS) were noteworthy. Up to 21 Black-crowned Night-Herons wintered at Kingsport, TN (RK, WC), while two at Y.C.S.P. Feb. 4 were locally unusual (MB, ML).

WATERFOWL

The good fall waterfowl flight continued into December, but numbers were not so large. Even so, many CBCs reported unusual numbers of waterfowl. With the mild winter season it becomes difficult to tell whether a given observation is of a late southbound migrant, a winterer, or an early northbound migrant.

Tundra Swans continued to move south in December with the only large concentration being 1200 over *Butler*, PA, Dec. 12-13 (*fide* PH). Small numbers wintered in w. Pennsylvania and e. Ohio. Reports Feb. 28 of 100-125 at Warren, PA (DW), and 115 at Derry L., *Westmoreland*, PA (DL), were possible early northbound birds. Most unusual were the reports of four ad. and two young **Trumpeter Swans** near Ligonier, PA, Jan. 26 (RCL, RM), and one at G.B.W.M.A. Jan. 24 onward (WA et al.). None of these birds was apparently banded or marked.

Reports of single Greater White-fronted Geese from 3 locations in *Augusta*, VA, Dec. 9 & 20 and Jan. 20 (YL) may represent only one bird. Another Greater White-fronted Goose was at *Hamilton*, TN, Jan. 19 (KC). There were December records of Snow Geese in *Venango*, PA (JS), and *Augusta*, VA (YL). Five Snow Geese wintered at M.L.W.A. (J&DH), and one was in *Bledsoe*, TN, Jan. 25-Feb. 18 (D&RS). Other January records were Pymatuning L., PA, Jan. 6 (DSn); *Wood*, WV, Jan. 11 (NO); R.C.B.L. Jan. 1 (WA, MG); and Y.C.S.P. Jan. 14 (GL). Small numbers of Canada Geese wintered at many places throughout the Region, but only a few large concentrations were reported. The Mosquito L., OH, CBC Dec. 21 listed 5300, which was considered low (CB), and 1066 in *Augusta*, VA, Dec. 21 was new high winter peak (YL).

Most localities had all the regular species of dabbling ducks, but numbers were not large. Two high counts were 90 Gadwalls Dec. 20 in *Murray*, GA (HD), and

45 N. Pintails Feb. 28 at Y.C.S.P. (DL). A Eur. Wigeon was in *York*, PA (CG). Buffleheads and Ruddy Ducks continued to be in higher than normal numbers, but Com. Goldeneyes, once the most numerous winter duck, were in low numbers for the 2nd year. A count of 222 Canvasbacks at Derry L., PA, Dec. 8 (DL) was noteworthy. The rare Greater Scaup was reported from 3 w. Pennsylvania (*fide* PH) and three e. Tennessee stations (RK). Oldsquaws were at P.I.S.P. (JM); Pymatuning L., PA (RFL, IF), Kahle L., PA (GE); L. Arthur, PA (GW), Y.C.S.P. (m.ob.); Derry L., PA (DL); and *Bledsoe*, TN (D&RS), but numbers were rather low.

All 3 scoter species were at P.I.S.P. through December and January, with Black Scoters remaining to the end of the period (JM). A Surf Scoter was at Huntington, WV, Jan. 4 (WA et al.), White-winged Scoter was at Y.C.S.P. Dec. 21-28 (m.ob.), and Black Scoters, normally the rarest of the three, were found at Pittsburgh Dec. 10 (CT) and Chickamauga L., TN, Dec. 20 to the end of period (KC et al.). All 3 merganser species were in good numbers, but a count of 319 Com. Mergansers at Conneaut L., PA, Feb. 22 (RFL, IF) was especially noteworthy.

RAPTORS

Two noteworthy concentrations of Black Vultures were reported: 250 at Cherokee Dam, TN, Jan. 21 (RK, WC), and a roost of 65-100 near Athens, WV, all winter (JP). Turkey Vultures had arrived in the north by the last week of February.

The only report of Osprey came from Cherokee Dam, TN, Dec. 7-Jan. 21 (RK). Bald Eagles were reported from 22 locations throughout the Region, with a remarkable count of at least 18 in *Hardy*, WV, Feb. 11 (AW). These birds appeared to be feeding on dead chickens illegally dumped from the extensive poultry farms of the region. Another highlight was seven in view at once at Pymatuning L., PA, Dec. 13 (RFL). Probably because of the open weather, N. Harriers were more numerous than usual, with a high count of 12 on the Mosquito L., OH, CBC (CB). Despite the lack of weather extremes, there were more reports of Cooper's Hawk raids on feeding stations than normal. Two N. Goshawks were at Cook Forest S.P., PA, all season, no doubt attracted by the huge flocks of crossbills. Another Goshawk was seen at Erie, PA, Dec. 14 (DHo).

Small numbers of Rough-legged Hawks appeared at many places in n. Pennsylvania, as far south as *Cambria* and *Indiana*. A few

Rough-leggeds were found as far south as Canaan Valley, WV (WA); Burke's Garden, VA, Feb. 7 (WC, RK); and *Bledsoe*, TN, Jan. 25–Feb. 9 (KC et al.). The hawk watch station on Bald Eagle Mt., PA, tallied 122 Golden Eagles during the fall season, with 20 seen Dec. 1 (DBr). A Golden Eagle wintering in *Somerset*, PA, was captured in a waterlogged condition and sent to a distant rehabilitator. It escaped and returned to its original winter territory (AM). Six were present all season at Burke's Garden, VA (RK, WC). One was seen in *Bledsoe*, TN, Jan. 31 (R&DS).

American Kestrels were in good numbers at some places, but lack of snow probably reduced the number of roadside observations. Four to five Merlins wintered on a golf course in urban Pittsburgh (*fide* PH). One spent most of the winter at New Cumberland, PA (*fide* DHe). Other records came from *Erie*, PA, Jan. 3 (JC); West Newton, PA (DK); and Stuart's Draft, VA, Dec. 22 (SR). A lone imm. Peregrine Falcon appeared in urban Pittsburgh, where 2 pairs are already present (PH).

BOBWHITE THROUGH LARIDS

Reports of N. Bobwhites from *Wood*, WV (BJ); *Rockingham*, VA (MGS); and 3 locations in *Augusta*, VA (YL), may indicate a comeback for this nearly vanished species. There were some unusually large concentrations of Am. Coots: 1925 at Deep Creek L., MD, Dec. 1 (CS); 600 at Prince Gallitzin S.P., PA, Dec. 16 (JSa); 500+ in Presque Isle Bay (JM); and 330 at Y.C.S.P. (MM). The 6361 Sandhill Cranes on the Hiwassee R. Refuge, TN, CBC furnished an all-time high (KC). During February, 1150 cranes passed over Dalton, GA (HD). Three cranes were seen at Fairview, *Erie*, PA, Dec. 3 (JM), and one was at Slippery Rock, PA, Dec. 20 (GW).

A Killdeer was found in *Wood*, WV, Jan. 12 (KCa) and migrants had arrived in the north by Feb. 20. An early migrant Greater Yellowlegs was at Cherokee L., TN, Feb. 19 (RK). A very late Spotted Sandpiper was at Pymatuning L., PA, Dec. 14 (RFL). A Dunlin was at P.I.S.P. Jan. 3 (DSn). Wintering Com. Snipe were in slightly reduced numbers in n.e. Tennessee (RK). Unusual snipe reports came from *Lawrence*, PA, with 19 Dec. 7 (BD, BW); four at *Centre*, PA, Feb. 1 (JPe); and one at Maysville, PA, Jan. 24 (DL). February 26 was a record-early date for displaying Am. Woodcock at Mosquito L., OH (D&JH). A Red Phalarope was seen in *Hamilton*, TN, Feb. 16 (ph), the first Tennessee winter record (KC et al.).



Lesser Black-backed Gull in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, on March 3, 1998. Up to three were present here in late February. Photograph/ Don Henise

A Pomarine Jaeger Dec. 7 at P.I.S.P. provided the 5th *Erie*, PA, record († JM). Several very large concentrations of gulls were reported. Bonaparte's sightings included "hundreds" at *Erie*, PA, during January and February (JM) and 500 at Cherokee L., TN, Feb. 19 (RK). Ring-billed Gulls numbered 10,000 at Cherokee L. Feb. 19 (RK), 1647 on the Mosquito L., OH, CBC Dec. 21 (CB), and 1335 at Edinburg L., PA, Dec. 6 (B&GD). Herring Gull reports were of 80–100 at *Cumberland*, PA (DHe) and 80 at Edinburg L., PA, Dec. 14 (G&BD).

The roster of rarer gulls at P.I.S.P. included: one Little Gull Dec. 18, and up to three Jan. 3 onward (JM); three or four Thayer's Gulls Jan. 22–Feb. 13 (JM); a total of six Iceland Gulls Jan. 31–Feb. 14 (JM); four or five Lesser Black-backed Gulls Jan. 5–Feb. 14 (DSn); and five or six Glaucous Gulls Dec. 29–Feb. 15 (JM et al.). There were two rare gulls reported away from L. *Erie*. Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were in *Cumberland*, PA, Feb. 23–Mar. 3 (ph., DHe, CG). A Little Gull was seen in *Pleasants*, WV, Feb. 7, a first state record (JZ, WT). (Note on high-tech ornithology: During the observation of this gull, the observers were in contact with a gull expert via cellular telephone).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

With the mild weather Mourning Doves were numerous in the north and cooing started very early. A Barn Owl seen in *Indiana*, PA, Dec. 25 provided one of the very few recent records for w. Pennsylvania (A &DB). A Snowy Owl was reported from *Lucasville*, PA, Dec. 17–19 (JF, SB), and one was at P.I.S.P. Feb. 27 (RFL). A Long-eared Owl was at *Moraine* S.P. Dec. 27 (DD). Short-eared Owls were found in *Venango*, PA, Jan. 11 (JS); *Lawrence*, PA, all period (SB); *Indiana*, PA, all period (MK); *Greene*, PA, Dec. 27 (RB); and *Greene*, TN, Dec. 8 (DM). Reports of N. Saw-whet Owls came from P.I.S.P. Dec. 1 (DD), *Venango*, PA, Dec. 16 & 17 (JS), Slippery Rock, PA, Dec. 10 (GW), and *Moraine* S.P., PA, Dec. 17–23 (DD).

The Rufous Hummingbird reported from *Westmoreland*, PA, in the fall was still present Mar. 1 (*fide* RCL, RM). A pair of Rufous Hummingbirds was at Dalton, GA, from November through January (HD). The imm. Allen's Hummingbird at *Johnson City*, TN, reported in the fall, was last seen Dec. 16, and another bird identified as an adult male Allen's Hummingbird was at a feeder in *Bristol*, VA, from late December to Jan. 7 (ph., RK et al.). This species is still extremely rare anywhere in the east.



Two views of the Say's Phoebe that spent much of the winter at Newville, Pennsylvania. Photographs/ Don Henise

Ten Belted Kingfishers furnished the highest total in 26 years of the Pipestem S.P., WV, CBC (JP). Red-headed Woodpeckers were more common than in recent years, with reports from Trumbull, OH (CB, J&DH); Wood, WV (*vide* JE); Washington, TN (RK); Burke's Garden, VA (RK); and Murray, GA (HD). Red-bellied Woodpeckers at Sheffield, PA, Jan. 20 (CP); Warren, PA, Feb. 21 (DW); and Oakland, MD, Jan. 25 onward (CS) were slightly out of the present-day range. A record CBC count of 37 Red-bellieds at Butler, PA (SB), is illustrative of the northward movement of the species. After several years of low numbers, more Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS

Illustrative of the mild season was the large number of E. Phoebe reports from the n. parts of the Region. The bird of the season was a **Say's Phoebe** at Newville, Cumberland, PA, Jan. 3 through at least Mar. 1 (ph., DHe, CG, NP). Equally interesting, if correct, was a well described E. Kingbird Feb. 8 in Wood, WV (JBl, JBe). There were several reports of sizable concentrations of Horned Larks, topped by 600+ in Lawrence, PA, in December (B&GD) and 450 in Armstrong, PA, Jan. 1 (MH). Early record arrivals of Tree Swallows were Feb. 15 in Blount and

Monroe, TN (DT), and Feb. 26 in Unicoi, TN (FA). Absence of a mast crop in parts of Virginia and West Virginia resulted in an absence of Blue Jays. A Fish Crow in a flock of Am. Crows in Garrett, MD, Jan. 18 (KD) was unexpected at that location. In Somerseset, PA, Com. Ravens were nest building Jan. 27 and incubating Feb. 26 (AM). Indicative of the continued range expansion of ravens was the record count of nine on the Pipestem, WV, CBC (JP), and the species' continuing presence in Greene, PA (RB).

As mentioned in the fall season report, very few Black-capped Chickadees came s. of the normal range. Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread and numerous, although few locations had very many. At Dalton, GA, Brown-headed Nuthatches were beginning to nest Feb. 21 (HD). Brown Creepers were more numerous than usual, with a record count of 37 on the Rector, PA, CBC (RCL, RM). The mild winter was a boon for the Carolina Wren. From the n. edge of the range came reports of several wintering in Erie, PA (JM), the best numbers in 20 years in n.e. Ohio (CB, D&JH), and an encouraging report from Garrett, MD (CS). It has been several years since I have been able to write of **Bewick's Wren** in these accounts, but a convincing report came from Dalton, GA, Feb. 21 (LR,

vide HD). House Wrens were found on 3 CBCs in n.e. Tennessee (RK), and one was seen in Murray, GA, Feb. 14 (HD). Single Marsh Wrens were recorded on the Chattanooga, TN, CBC Dec. 20 (KC) and the Nickajack, TN, CBC Jan. 1 (JHe).

KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS

Golden-crowned Kinglets were in good numbers. A CBC count of 117 was a record high at Rector, PA, as was the count of 86 at Bushy Run S.P., PA (RM, RCL). The Pittsburgh CBC tallied 2115 Am. Robins, nearly 3 times the 10-year average (JV), and there were a few other reports of good-sized flocks, but robins were scarce at most places. A few had returned by the end of the period. A **Varied Thrush** had been coming to a feeder in Churchill, Allegheny, PA, for about a month before it came to the attention of the birding community Feb. 27 (SK).

Single Gray Catbirds were reported from Erie, PA, Jan. 3 (J&TC); Venango, PA, Dec. 2 (JS); and Wood, WV, Dec. 27 (JE). Single Brown Thrashers were found at P.I.S.P. Jan. 23 (DSn) and Staunton, VA, Feb. 9-21 (AL). Sightings of N. Mockingbirds in Lander, PA, Dec. 27 and Jan. 31 (DW, BH) were well n. of the expected range, and a record CBC count of 18 at Pittsburgh (JV) is indicative of the ongoing range expansion. In Murray, GA, 100 Am. Pipits were seen Dec. 20 (HD). There were a few temporary concentrations of Cedar Waxwings reported, but generally they were scarce or absent.

Northern Shrikes were found in Erie, PA, with one Jan. 3 (SS) and up to three Feb. 19 onward (J&TC); in Crawford, PA, three were on the Linesville CBC Dec. 28 and one at Pymatuning L. Dec. 13 (RFL); in Clarion, PA, two stayed through January and February (*vide* PH); and in Armstrong, PA, Feb. 2 (KB). Loggerhead Shrikes were in below-average numbers in their usual stronghold in n.e. Tennessee (RK), but sightings in Monroe, WV, Jan. 1 (JP), Stuart's Draft, VA, Dec. 22 (SR), and Murray, GA (JSp), represented good news.

The mild weather produced a remarkable number of warbler reports. The expected Yellow-rumped Warblers, which occurred as far north as Warren and Crawford, PA, and Warren and Trumbull, OH, were plentiful. Somewhat surprising were the Palm Warblers in Augusta, VA, during a snowstorm Jan. 7 (MHo) and at Hawkins, TN, Feb. 8 (FA), and Pine Warblers on the Penn State University campus Dec. 21 for a 2nd county winter record (DP, JB), and Augusta, VA, Dec. 20 (CHu)

and Dec. 29–Feb. 1 (ES), 3rd and 4th county winter records. Totally unexpected were Orange-crowned Warbler at *Washington*, TN, Feb. 1 (RK); Ovenbird at Spring Mills, PA, Dec. 30 (LS, E&JG); and Com. Yellowthroat at the Mosquito L., OH, CBC (CB); Edinboro, PA, Dec. 9 (DSn); and Stuart's Draft, VA, Dec. 22 (SR).

EMBERIZIDS THROUGH FINCHES

It was a contrasty winter for sparrows. Eastern Towhees were above average. The Am. Tree Sparrow was especially numerous, with a record CBC count of 251 at Rector, PA (RCL, RM), and 130 were seen at M.L.W.A. Feb. 18 (D&JH). A Chipping Sparrow was listed on the CBC in *Wood*, WV (JE), and small numbers of Field Sparrows wintered in *Venango*, PA (JS), and *Shenandoah*, VA (DDa). Vesper Sparrows were found on the Mosquito L. CBC (CB) and in *Augusta*, VA, Feb. 4 (YL). A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen at G.B.W.M.A. Dec. 21 (WA). Wintering Savannah and Swamp sparrows were more widely reported than usual, but Song and White-throated sparrows were in lower-than-normal numbers at most places. The CBC count of 89 Dark-eyed Juncos at Pipestem S.P., WV, was the lowest in 26 years (JP), and low numbers were also reported from Dalton, GA (HD).

Snow Buntings in good sized flocks were reported from n. Pennsylvania—*Erie*, *Crawford*, *Warren*, and *Clarion*—with a high count of 800 on the Linesille CBC (RFL). Small numbers were seen farther south in *Cambria* (DG) and *Cumberland* (DHe). Lapland Longspurs were scarce, with only reports of single birds at P.I.S.P. Dec. 15 (RW) and Feb. 10 (DSn); *Clarion*, PA, in late January (*fide* PH); Slippery Rock, PA, Dec. 20 (RS, JS); *Cambria*, PA, Dec. 31 (DG); and *Cumberland*, PA, Dec. 6 (DHe).

Despite the mild weather, few blackbirds wintered in the Region. January records of Com. Grackles came from Canfield, OH, Jan. 13 (NB) and Edinboro, PA, Jan. 15 (DSn). Eastern Meadowlarks had arrived in Somers, PA, Feb. 22 (AM). Only small numbers of grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds had arrived by the end of the period. Fifteen Rusty Blackbirds were listed on the Rector, PA, CBC (RCL, RM), one was listed on the Mosquito L. CBC (CB), and a flock of 50+ was at Conemaugh Res., PA, Jan. 31 (DL). A female Brewer's Blackbird was seen in a flock of Rusties at M.L.W.A. Feb. 18 (†J&DH).

The only report of Pine Grosbeak was of three with the other finches in Cook Forest S.P., PA (*fide* PH). Purple Finches continue

to be uncommon. Few were seen in the Dalton, GA, region (HD) and CBCs in *Butler*, PA, *Indiana*, PA, and Pittsburgh totaled only 47 birds. House Finch tallies in these 3 CBCs were 25–35% below the 10-year average (*fide* PH). Small flocks of Com. Redpolls were seen at most of the w. Pennsylvania stations, with high counts of 400 in *Clarion*, PA, in late January (*fide* PH) and 300 in *Venango*, PA, Jan. 22 (RSt). A few got as far south as *Garrett*, MD, Jan. 30 (CS) and Bluefield, WV, Feb. 28 (AMc). The *Clarion* location also produced three Hoary Redpolls Jan. 25–27 (DH).

In January and February, flocks of Pine Siskins varying in size from four or five to several hundred were present throughout the Region, even as far south as n. Georgia. But distribution was spotty and some places had none. American Goldfinches were also in good numbers at some places. Small bands of Evening Grosbeaks were seen at many places throughout the Region as far south as Ch.N.F. (HD) and Tesnatee Gap, GA (MO). The flight was not as heavy as might have been expected from the November records. The only reports of large numbers came from high elevations in *Highland*, VA (YL), and Canaan Valley, WV (WA).

CROSSBILLS

Northern Pennsylvania experienced the greatest flight of crossbills in recent years. Both species were involved, but White-winged Crossbills were more numerous than the Reds. A few had appeared in November, but the heaviest numbers came in late January and February. Large flocks of both species occurred along a line from *Crawford*, *Venango*, *Clarion*, *Jefferson*, and *Centre*. The largest numbers occurred at Cook Forest S.P., *Clarion*, PA, where minimum estimates were 1200 Reds and 1500 White-wingeds, together with 500 siskins. Almost as if there were a wall across the area, practically none was found s. of this line of counties. A few were seen in *Armstrong*, PA, and a CBC in *Westmoreland* recorded three White-wingeds. Farther east, the birds appeared as far south as *Perry* and *Cumberland*, PA (DHe), and *Garrett*, MD (CS). Oddly, only a very few appeared in *Erie*, the northernmost county, and they were not reported from *Warren*. It is hoped that some specimens were obtained so the possible origin of these birds can be estimated. The flock of five at Ch.N.F. Dec. 20 (HD) probably came from the s. Appalachian population.

EXOTIC

A Barnacle Goose (wild bird or escape?) was seen with Canada Geese in Russell, VA, Feb. 24–Mar. 1 (TO et al.).

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