

FIELD NOTES

Gray Jay near Robert H. Treman State Park: On January 15, 1973 Mrs. Ralph Garvin reported to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology that a Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) had been frequenting her feeders on Gray Road adjacent to the Robert H. Treman State Park for several days. Mrs. Garvin's identification was confirmed that day by Dr. Noel Cutright and myself, and the bird was subsequently seen and photographed by a number of observers. When not feeding on bread crusts, baked beans or suet at the Garvins', the Jay might be found frequenting several adjacent pine plantations in the State Park. This bird constitutes the second confirmed Gray Jay record for Region 3 and the first record for the Cayuga Lake Basin, although Bent *Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows and Titmice*, Part 1:13) lists one occurring only 25 miles to the northeast at Cortland during January 1928. The only previous Region 3 report is of a bird seen at Breeseport on January 25 and 27, 1958. (Kingbird 8(1):(16). Mrs. Garvin reports that her bird continued to frequent her feeder regularly until the first week in February despite unseasonably mild weather which sent temperatures into the 40's and 50's.

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European Fieldfare at Larchmont, Westchester Co., New York: On 3 February, 1973 I was birding in a large overgrown field with crabapples in Larchmont when a European Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) flew up from the ground and lit in a bush about 30 feet from me. I immediately recognized the species, having seen it previously in Europe. It remained perched for about 30 seconds, during which time I noted the following field marks:

The bird's shape was similar to that of a Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) except for its tail, which seemed slightly longer proportionately. Its size appeared about about an inch longer than an average Robin's.

The crown and nape were gray. A dull rusty brown "saddle" crossed the back. This brown back contrasted with a light gray rump which, in turn, contrasted with a very dark tail. The rump stood out very much when the bird banked while flying away. The cheeks were darker than the crown and nape, and there was a faint light eyestripe. The orange-yellow breast was heavily streaked with dark spots. This spotting extended onto its flanks which were white, as was the belly. The bill was dark with yellow at the base.

When the bird flew, the wing linings flashed prominent white. Its flight was distinctive in that it held its wings close to the body for a short time between flaps, causing a slight rising and falling effect.

The bird seemed to be in excellent condition, with no visible evidence of prior captivity (frayed feathers, a band, etc). It was also very wary, never allowing close approach at any time.

Following my initial sighting, the Fieldfare was seen almost daily through the 12 February, 1973, by a number of observers including Robert Arbib, Paul A. Buckley, Thomas H. Davis, Davis Finch, Allan Keith, Georges and Michael Kleinbaum, Noble Proctor, P. William Smith, Robert Smart, et al. The bird was usually seen only very early in the morning at the field where I discovered it, and at the edge of an adjacent march. It normally perched conspicuously for only a few minutes (once for nearly an hour), and then flew off at treetop level to the north. Much effort was made to follow it north, to no avail. No one, for certain, ever saw this bird take food or heard it utter any sound. Attempts to photograph the bird were unsuccessful.

Richard Ryan (pers. comm.), Director of the Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange, New Jersey, informs me that no zoos in the Northeast contain Fieldfares and that, to his knowledge, none have been imported into this country for the past 12 years. He also comments that captive *Turdus* thrushes tend either to become very tame or to beat themselves against their cages, thus damaging their plumage.

That this bird may have arrived in the New York region via assisted passage aboard some ship is not an unlikely possibility. For a full discussion of this phenomenon, the interested reader is urged to consult Allan L. Durand's "Land-birds Over the North Atlantic:" Unpublished Records 1961-1965 and "Thoughts a Decade Later" (*British Birds*, 65(10):428-442, 1972).

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Ed. Note: Excluding Greenland, previous published North American records of the Fieldfare include:

1. April, 1978 — collected at Stamford, Connecticut by Schaler, specimen at Yale Peabody Museum, New Haven (J. Bull, 1964 *Birds of the New York Area*. Harper and Row, N.Y.)
2. 8 January, 1967 — seen at Ottawa, Ontario by H. N. MacKenzie (*The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, 82:51, 1968).
3. 30 March — 4 April, 1969 — seen at Bombay Hook NWR, Delaware by N. E. Holgersen, R.P. Teale, and Mrs. D. A. Ward (*Audubon Field Notes*, 23:465, 1969).
4. 1-2 January, 1973 — seen and photographed at St. John's, Newfoundland, locals said it had been present for "about 2 weeks" prior to its discovery by Dr. Howard Clase. A note is in preparation for *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (6 February, 1973, verb. comm., Dr. Howard Clase).

Audubon's Warbler Winters in Chemung County: On November 30, 1972, Mrs. Joseph Long called me to report that a Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) had appeared very briefly at her home on the Hendy Hollow Road, Pine City, during a heavy snow storm that day. The bird was apparently hunting for dormant insects in the cracks beneath a roof over-hang outside her kitchen window. Her observation of yellow side patches, yellow rump, white wing-bars, and a general grayish appearance convinced me. Myrtle Warblers have occasionally been reported wintering here in the past.

Though she put a suet under the eaves immediately, it was four days before it appeared again, this time in a nearby tree. After a two-week interval she again caught a glimpse of it flitting about in a large willow near the creek. During the next month, I tried to find the warbler on several occasions but was unsuccessful because of his irregular visits. One day late in February, Mrs. Long called and told me that the bird was appearing quite regularly at her feeder each morning and that she was puzzled because he had a yellow throat and no yellow crown patch, resembling no warbler in "Birds of North America".

On February 27, I studied the bird for about three minutes using 8X binoculars as he ate suet spread on top of a wooden feeder twenty feet away. Although he did not resemble exactly any Audubon's Warbler (*D. auduboni*) pictured in my bird guides, I had no doubt as to the identification, having seen the species before in western Texas. He was gray rather than the brown of the immature, although later in the rain I noted that he had a brownish appearance. He seemed to be an alert young male with very dark vertical breast streaks ending abruptly at the yellow throat. Only a tinge of yellow showed at the back of his crown patch. When he flew a large amount of white was visible in the tail feathers. Before the warbler disappeared ten days later, I observed him many times. At first there was one black spot close to the left side patch, but on the day before he disappeared, all the