

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 flaked 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.