

House Finch sight record and possible nesting in Clinton County: On 7 April 1977, I received a telephone call from Earl Meisenheimer, my next door neighbor, in Plattsburgh, Clinton County. He thought he had a pair of House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) at his feeder, and suspected that they had tried to nest over his porch light. A storm with high winds the previous week had demolished the finches' nesting efforts, leaving only strands of dried grass. I carefully identified both birds at the feeder as House Finches. Since the pair continued to visit the suet feeder, efforts were made to follow them in order to discover a new nest. On 25 May, I found the pair a block away near an old two-story building in which many House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) nest. Although I never actually saw a nest, I feel it was nearby, since the male was seen driving off a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). The male also gave a continuous alarm note whenever I approached the immediate area. While I am unable to pinpoint the northernmost confirmed nesting record to date, this breeding attempt of the House Finch is probably a jump of over 150 miles. This is also the first definite sight record for Clinton County.

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Franklin's Gull on the St. Lawrence River: On 2 January 1977 at Oak Point in St. Lawrence County, I observed a sub-adult Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). The bird was observed for a period of an hour and a half while at rest and in flight. It had a uniformly dark brownish-gray mantle with a trailing wing edge of white. There was a distinct, white slash separating the brownish-gray from black wing tips. The tail was entirely white. The head pattern could best be described as mottled. The black markings and streakings were limited to, but covered most of the crown and cheek. The black extended right up to a prominent half eye-ring. The occiput, nape, forehead, lore, and chin were white. The lower mandible shape gave the bill a stout or full look.

Prior to these observations a general sense of size was noted. Although it was only in the company of Great Black-backed Gulls, I was able to judge its size directly as four separate Common Goldeneyes passed behind this gull. At this time the gull was prone (lying) on the edge of the ice and open water. One goldeneye was the same size as the gull, but the gull was smaller than each of the other three goldeneyes.

To summarize, this was a small, extensively hooded gull with a uniformly dark mantle that was interrupted by a distinct, white slash near the black wing tips.

Previous winter sightings were in the Buffalo area on 26 December 1955 and 23 December 1967. Fritz Scheider observed a gull of this species on 3 January 1960 at Oswego Harbor (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 284). Most recently, a breeding-plumaged individual was present at Dunkirk, February 6-28, 1975. (Bull, 1976, *Supplement to Birds of New York State*.)

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