

WINTERING PINE WARBLER TAKES NIGER SEED

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On 9 Dec 1998, I saw a small nondescript bird perched on a hanging sunflower feeder, picking among the seeds and hulls in the feeder trough. Closer examination through a pair of 7 x 50 Bausch & Lomb binoculars at 50 feet, revealed a Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*). It had a medium yellow breast and throat, unstreaked back, two wing bars, white undertail coverts and a small eyering.

Snow was falling and the thermometer stood at 25 degrees F. The bird was very active and also fed on the suet which hung above the feeder. I supplemented the suet with peanut butter mixed with with cornmeal and cracked sunflower seed.

On 5 Jan 1999, I observed the bird taking niger seed from the porthole of the niger seed feeder. Thereafter, it visited the niger seed feeder regu-

larly, taking three to five seeds each time. It also visited the other seed feeders in the yard.

Earlier that week, Robert Hagar and Sean O'Brien of Saranac Lake, confirmed the identity of the warbler.

On 14 Jan, the thermometer dropped to 25 degrees F, several inches of snow fell, and a winter stormwatch was in effect. I did not see the warbler that day, or any day after that.

I had recorded the bird on 22 separate days between 9 Dec 1998 and 13 Jan 1999.

ADDENDUM BY REGION 7 REGIONAL EDITOR J.M. C. PETERSON

Salzman (1998) writing about the Pine Warbler states, "most upstate birds leave between late Sep and early Oct, but are now occasionally noted in Nov (e.g. Saranac Lake, Franklin Co., 23 Nov 1994), and it is rare but increasing in winter". The Tupper Lake warbler noted above is the first Winter Season (Dec-Feb) record for Franklin County and only the second for the Adirondack-Champlain Region 7. Carleton (1976, 1980) reported, one winter record at a TI feeder (Antoinette O'Brien) in the Champlain Valley of Essex County.

LITERATURE CITED

- Carleton, G. 1976, 1980. Pine Warbler in birds of Essex County, NY, Elizabethtown, NY: *High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc.* p.21 (and 2nd ed.) p.23.
- Salzman, E. 1998. Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) in Levine, E., Ed. *Bull's birds of New York State*, Cornell University Press, pgs. 471-473