

this winter, (although New Brunswick did have twice as many siskins as in 1990-91). The differences between years were evident in most provinces, not just in the east as with Evening Grosbeak.

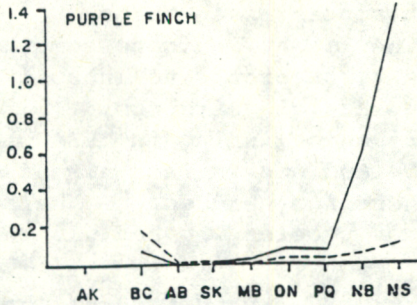


Figure 2. Average weekly number of Purple Finch at northern feeders. Solid line shows 1991-92, while dashed line indicates 1990-91.

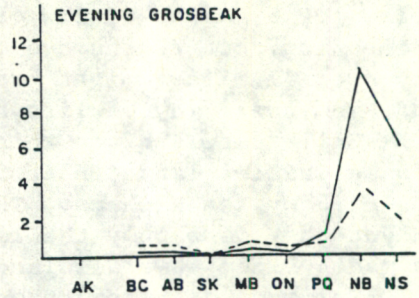


Figure 3. Average weekly number of Evening Grosbeak at northern feeders. Solid line shows 1991-92 while dashed line indicates 1990-91.

Goldfinch is yet another species whose main winter distribution is in eastern Canada (Figure 4). It declined generally though the U.S., but remained stable in Canada. As usual, the Maritimes had all the big numbers.

If participants from the east coast provinces know of special conditions that might have caused finches to be so abundant there last winter, we would really appreciate hearing of them. Was there a great cone crop in 1991, for example? Or a wide spread outbreak of spruce budworm (or gypsy moth)?

Another bird more common in western Canada than in the east is Pine Grosbeak. Like redpolls, these grosbeaks increased in central Canada and a little in the east, while remaining at usual levels in Alberta and Alaska. Changes were not nearly as marked as in redpolls however.

We recently had cause to estimate the effort put into Project FeederWatch by Canadian volunteers. Assuming that each active participant spends one hour on the survey each count period (a figure we suspect is minimum), more than 3 person-years of effort are put into the project each winter in Canada alone (more than 20 years continent wide)! This illustrates the power of volunteer surveys to collect vast amounts of data over a broad geographical area -- and underscores the debt we owe to you for your dedicated observations. Keep up the good work!

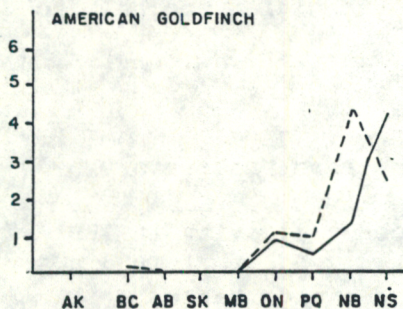


Figure 4. Average weekly number of American Goldfinch at northern feeders. Solid line shows 1991-92, while dashed line indicates 1990-91.

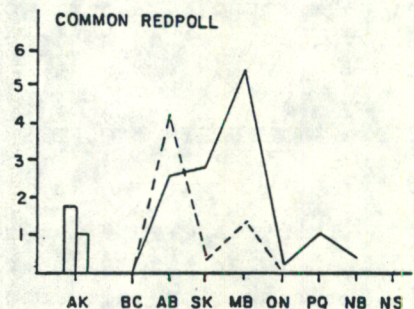


Figure 5. Average weekly number of Common Redpoll at northern feeders. Solid line shows 1991-92, while dashed line indicates 1990-91.

Editor's Note: You can participate in Project FeederWatch by sending your membership fee of \$16 to Project FeederWatch, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario L4G 2B1.