

# ***Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program***



## **Wildlife Viewing Report – 01 March 2018**

---

### **Birds**

Birding on Fort Drum was very slow during the first half of the winter but has picked up the past few weeks, thanks to the arrival of irruptive finches starting in January and unseasonably warm weather during the last 10 days of February that kicked off an early start to spring migration.

Our last wildlife viewing report described the arrival of Red Crossbills to Fort Drum, which continue to be observed in red pine plantations throughout the southern portion of the installation. Red Crossbills are almost certainly nesting in Training Area (TA) 14 and perhaps TAs 6A, 7, and elsewhere, although they have only been found in a few locations so far. Despite an abundance of Pine Siskins in the Adirondacks and other nearby areas, none were seen on Fort Drum until 20 February, but since then siskins have been found in many TAs. Similarly, Purple Finches were undetected on Fort Drum until late February but are now being seen or heard throughout the installation. The extensive conifer forest in TAs 14C and 14D along Weaver and Lewisburg Roads is probably the best place on Fort Drum to see these finches.



***Red Crossbill in Training Area 5D  
in May 2015.***

A variety of early-season spring migrants were seen on or over Fort Drum during the last week of February, thanks to unusually warm weather and southerly winds.

On 21 January the season's first Red-winged Blackbirds were seen flying over TA6A, along with Horned Larks, at least one Lapland Longspur, and several species of finch. Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles continued to move in small numbers for the rest of the month, with numbers increasing by 25 or 26 February. At the same time large numbers of Snow and Canada Geese started passing over Fort Drum, with many flocks seen every day through the end of the month. Raptor migration also kicked off during this period, with many sightings of Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, and Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawk. The first Northern Harrier of the year was seen in TA12D on 27 February, and the first Killdeer the following day.

As of this writing it appears that northerly winds and some snow are likely going to stop migration for a few days, but migration is just starting, and there should be plenty more Snow Geese, hawks, and other early migrants when the weather warms up again.

**(continued)**

# ***Fort Drum Fish & Wildlife Management Program***

## **Wildlife Viewing Report – 1 March 2018 (continued)**

---

Species observed on Fort Drum from February 7 – March 1, 2018:

Snow Goose	Red-headed Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	White-throated Sparrow
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
American Black Duck	Northern Flicker	Northern Cardinal
Common Merganser	Pileated Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird
Wild Turkey	Merlin	Common Grackle
Ruffed Grouse	Blue Jay	House Finch
Ring-necked Pheasant	American Crow	Purple Finch
Bald Eagle	Common Raven	Red Crossbill
Northern Harrier	Horned Lark	Pine Siskin
Cooper's Hawk	Black-capped Chickadee	American Goldfinch
Northern Goshawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch	
Red-tailed Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	
Rough-legged Hawk	Brown Creeper	
Killdeer	Golden-crowned Kinglet	
Ring-billed Gull	American Robin	
Rock Pigeon	European Starling	
Mourning Dove	Lapland Longspur	
Snowy Owl	Snow Bunting	
Barred Owl	American Tree Sparrow	