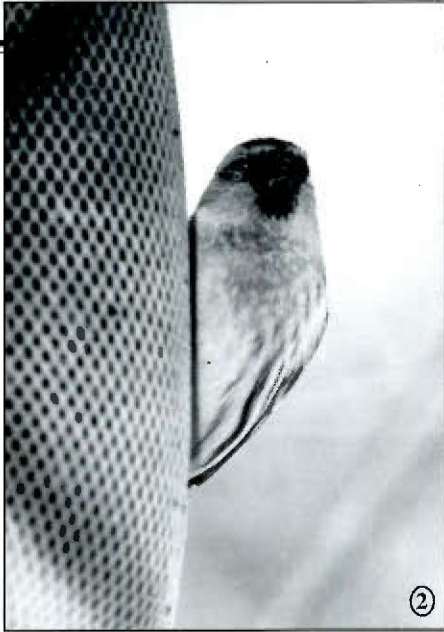


# Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemannii*) Visits Evanston/Skokie

by Eric Walters



On 7 February 2000, Ed and Geri Mooney noticed a flock of Common Redpolls (*Carduelis flammea*) at their yard feeders in Skokie (Cook County). Among these birds was an individual so pale they considered the possibility it was a Hoary Redpoll (*C. hornemannii*.) Several days later, Ed sent an email to the state bird chat line reporting he had Common Redpolls at his feeder, which prompted Josh Engel and me to attempt to view these unusual winter visitors from the north.

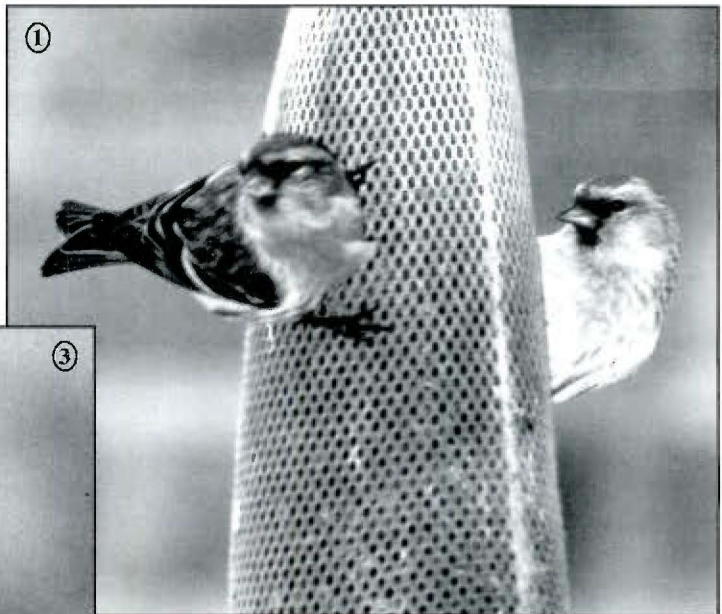


Photo 1: Common Redpoll at left on feeder, with Hoary Redpoll, Cook County 20 Feb. 2000. Note, if you can, the paler face and auriculars on the bird in question compared with the Common. Also note the minimal amount of pink shading (seen as gray in this black and white photo) on the breast of the Hoary compared with the Common. Photo by Eric Walters.

Photo 2: The diminished amount of streaking on the flank in this photo points to Hoary Redpoll. Photo by Eric Walters.

Photo 3: Male Hoary Redpolls contain no streaking on the undertail coverts, or else very few, compared with fairly noticeable streaking on the Common. The undertail covert of the bird in this photo showed one thin mark at the base. Photo by Eric Walters.