

species to which the name *mexicanus* has been generally applied. Thus, it appears that Nelson's suspicions were well grounded and the changes of names suggested by him are necessary. The name *mexicanus* becomes a synonym of *cinerascens* and *cooperi* becomes available for the species recently known as *mexicanus*.—WILFRED H. OSGOOD, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**White-winged Crossbill at Raleigh N. C.**—On February 23 a small flock, roughly estimated to contain about thirty individuals, was observed in Pullen Park, about two miles west of town. The birds seemed quite tame and were working about in the tops of the red cedars, apparently feeding on the cedar berries. Three specimens were collected, two of which, adult male and female, were secured by me in the flesh for our museum. So far as I know, this is the first recorded occurrence of the White-winged Crossbill in North Carolina. My assistant was out again all day yesterday, February 25, in quest of more specimens, but none were seen.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Curator, N. C. State Museum.*

**Loxia curvirostra minor in Florida.**—So far as I have been able to ascertain, no record of the occurrence of the American Crossbill in Florida existed prior to December last when Mr. W. W. Worthington collected several specimens on Amelia Island, Nassau County, a few miles below Fernandina. He writes me: "Red Crossbills were common in the pine barrens where I met you that day in the carriage. The first one was taken Dec. 4, 1906. They were common all through December, some flocks seen having at least 50 individuals. Small scattering flocks were seen and were still there on Jan. 16, 1907, when the last were taken."

I am obliged to Mr. Worthington for permission to publish this record.—R. W. WILLIAMS, JR., *Tallahassee, Florida.*

**The Vesper Sparrow on Long Island, N. Y., in Winter.**—On February 12 I observed two or three Vesper Sparrows (*Poæcetes gramineus*) at Bellmore, Long Island. It was very difficult to make out the white in the tail against a background of snow, and I had to follow them about and get them against a dark background to make out this mark satisfactorily. Two birds seen February 10, some where between Babylon and Massapequa, which I was unable to identify, I now believe to have been this species.—JOHN TREADWELL NICHOLS, *New York City.*

**Malformed Bill of Rose-breasted Grosbeak.**—On September 4, 1904, a boy brought to me an adult female Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*), the bill of which presented a curious malformation. Careful examination shows that the condition was not caused by injury, as there is no trace whatever of a fracture, and the upper mandible has grown strongly downwards. The eye cavity—which in the normal state is

very nearly circular — is forced into a pyriform shape. The malar and squamosal bones are bent almost at right angles, the junction of the angle pressing forcibly against the muscles of the lower mandible. (See illustration.) From the irritated appearance it must have caused considerable pain to the bird.

The entire body was fearfully emaciated and the bird was almost dead. It was absolutely impossible for the bird to have fed itself, and from the appearance of the sides of the mouth it was evident that another bird had been feeding it. A few soft seeds, about the shape of wild rice, though smaller and apparently predigested, were protruding from one side of the mouth, but the bird could not pass them through far enough to swallow them.—FRANK M. WOODRUFF, *Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Ill.*



Malformed bill of Rose-breasted Grosbeak

**Breeding of the Rough-winged Swallow in Berkshire County, Massachusetts.**—On July 3, 1906, as I was waiting for a train at the railroad station in Glendale, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, I saw a pair of Rough-winged Swallows flying back and forth over the Housatonic River. Skimming just above the surface of the rapidly flowing water they passed and repassed the station very many times, giving me excellent opportunities for making out their characteristic coloring and markings. Once they alighted on a large, flat-topped boulder at the water's edge where they moved about by a succession of short, quick runs, reminding me of Semipalmated Plover feeding on a sand beach. I have never before seen swallows of any kind move so quickly by the aid of their feet alone. After drinking at a pool of rain water which had collected in a hollow in the rock, these birds took wing again and resumed their regular, coursing flights. They frequently passed under a bridge by which the road from the village to the station crosses the river, and twice they turned sharply upwards and disappeared for a moment among its supporting rafters, which were twenty-five or thirty feet above the water. Suspecting that they might have a nest there I went out on the bridge, but I could not well see under it. On a telephone wire stretched across the river near the bridge I found, however, three young Rough-winged Swallows, fully grown and feathered, clamoring loudly for food, which their parents brought to them every few minutes. I had a fine view of these young birds, for they were perched in full sunlight within ten or twelve yards of me. Probably