

This is the first definite published notice of the White-winged Crossbill in the District of Columbia, and the only other satisfactory record of the species in the District is that of Mr. James H. Fleming, of Toronto, Canada, who saw one in the grounds of the Department of Agriculture in November, 1906 (Richmond MSS).

Mr. Jouy included the species in his 'Catalogue of the Birds of the District of Columbia'<sup>1</sup> but this was nothing more than a nominal list and the basis for the inclusion of the bird does not appear.

There are other records of the species in papers on the ornithology of the District and vicinity, but they are all of birds seen or taken in adjacent portions of Maryland. The authors of 'Avifauna Columbiana'<sup>2</sup> say: "We said of these species (*Loxia curvirostra minor* and *Loxia leucoptera*) in the original edition that both undoubtedly sometimes make their appearance in severe winters, though we had not been able to ascertain the fact with certainty. It has since been established, and both the Crossbills have been introduced as stragglers in Mr. Jouy's catalogue. Mr. William Palmer states in a note addressed to us: . . . 'I have myself never seen the White-winged Crossbill here, but Mr. Henry Marshall has specimens which he shot at Laurel, Md., about eight years ago, probably 1874, since which time he has seen none.'"

One is said to have been taken about 1864 by Mr. Drexler, but there is no certainty that this was in the District. Mr. Oldys' records one as having been accidentally killed on August 12, 1907, at Oxon Hill, Md., about four or five miles southeast of Washington.<sup>3</sup> Prof. Cooke adds nothing to the foregoing in his 'Bird Migration in the District of Columbia,'<sup>4</sup> and Dr. Richmond's inclusion of the species in his 'List of Birds Found in the District of Columbia,' published in Mrs. Maynard's 'Birds of Washington' is based upon no additional records.—R. W. WILLIAMS, *Takoma Park, Md.*

**Unusual Nesting Site of the English Sparrow.**—As the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) will cheerfully nest in almost any situation, unusual nesting sites would seem to be almost an impossibility, but nevertheless I think that the following should be put in that class. Near my home during the summer of 1909, between Westerly and Watch Hill, R. I., there was an artificial ice plant. In the outside sheathing of this building was cut an opening through which ran a steam exhaust pipe, and as the hole was cut a little large, there was a handy entrance to the interstices of the wall, about an inch and a half square. On July tenth I discovered that a pair of English Sparrows had a nest full of large young in this retreat. Upon investigation I found that the pipe was hot enough to blister one's

<sup>1</sup> Field and Forest, II, 155, March 1877.

<sup>2</sup> Bulletin No. 26, U. S. Nat. Museum, 2nd. Ed., 1883.

<sup>3</sup> Auk, XXIV, 442.

<sup>4</sup> Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, XXI, 115, April, 1918.

hand, and past this the old birds were obliged to squeeze while entering and leaving. The nest proper was a foot or so further along. I cannot see how the young birds could exist for a day without being partially roasted. They must have had to endure over 150 degrees of heat.—A. BRAZIER HOWELL, *Covina, Cal.*

**Swainson's Warbler** (*Helinaia swainsoni*) at **Guantanamo, Cuba.**—I shot a male of Swainson's Warbler on January 18, 1914, in the heavy timber at the San Carlos Plantation, Guantánamo, Cuba. The bird was feeding on the ground among the dry leaves, was not a bit shy, and in fine plumage. This is the first record for this end of the island, and the second for Cuba; the other being by Gundlach at Cojimar near Havana, on the north coast.—CHAS. T. RAMSDEN, *Guantanamo, Cuba.*

**Magnolia Warbler in Colorado.**—I secured a male of this species *Dendroica magnolia* in Denver, Colo., on May 20, 1913. This is a rare warbler in this state; and it is interesting to see that all the previous records, numbering six, show the birds as occurring in May, between the 17th and the 22nd, the single exception being May 12.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

**Canadian Warbler in Colorado.**—A female of this species, *Wilsonia canadensis*, was shot by the writer at Parker, Colo., on Sept. 9, 1913. Parker is about fifteen miles east of the 'foothills,' and nearly sixty miles west of the only other locality in the state where this warbler has been seen, to wit, Lake, Lincoln Co., where it was reported by Aiken as seen and shot, on May 23, 1899.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

**The Short-billed Marsh Wren** (*Cistothorus stellaris*) on **Long Island in Winter.**—On December 28, 1913, Messrs. George W. Hubbell, Jr., Nicholas F. Lenssen and I were at Jones Beach, Long Island, for the purpose of studying waterfowl. During the afternoon, while searching for Myrtle Warblers and sparrows in a large tract of bay-berry bushes Mr. Lenssen found a bird unknown to him, which proved to be a Short-billed Marsh Wren. It was perched on a bush about a foot from the ground eyeing us with great curiosity. The bird by its actions was half-dead with the cold, as it permitted the three of us to approach within four feet, and finally flew away passing between two of us who were not more than two feet apart. It was finally stunned with a bay-berry stick and caught alive. This is the fourth record of the occurrence of this species on Long Island, and so far as I know, the first winter record for New York state. The specimen is now in the American Museum of Natural History.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *New York City.*

**The Red-bellied Nuthatch** (*Sitta canadensis*) **Feeding among Weeds.**  
—The Red-breasted Nuthatch occurred in unprecedented abundance in