

an eight-power Zeiss binocular.—T. L. QUAY, *University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.*

**Red Crossbill breeding in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.**—

On April 10, 1938, I observed an adult female Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra* subsp.) feeding a juvenal in a grove of short-leaved pines near my home, close to the Little Pigeon River, in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The familiar notes of this species had attracted me to the scene where I caught sight of an adult male and female bird along with two heavily-streaked birds which I did not at once recognize. However, they were in view but a very short time before one of the strange-looking individuals suddenly began quivering its wings, whereupon the olive-green female placed food in its mouth. I now realized that these two unfamiliar birds were young Red Crossbills and the fact regarding the uncrossed mandibles of the juvenals, mentioned by Mr. Ludlow Griscom in his 'A monographic study of the Red Crossbill' (Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 41: no. 5, 1937), then occurred to me.

The young birds were capable of fair flight but one in particular I kept in view for some time. Edging closer and closer to the adult female who was feeding upon seeds of the pine, the juvenal would cause the older bird to desert her perch three or four successive times before she yielded and repeated the feeding episode. Altogether I witnessed this on three occasions before all the birds were lost to view. During this time the adult male and the second young bird were nearby, for I occasionally heard the notes of the adult. The notes made by the young birds were not as "ringing" in quality as those of the adults, and while begging for, or insisting upon, food, the juvenals uttered cries much like those made by very young domestic chickens.

Again on the following day I witnessed an adult female Red Crossbill feeding a young bird. This took place less than a mile from the locality where the previous observation had been made. I was directed to the spot by Mr. Joseph Manley, Assistant Forester, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, who had informed me of some strange-looking birds, somewhat resembling female and immature Purple Finches, which had recently been feeding on the ground near his home. The feeding episode was observed twice by Mr. Manley and me before the crossbills disappeared. On this occasion we noted to good advantage the very short tail of the young bird. Since the nearby mountains were carpeted with a recent heavy snowfall, Mr. Manley suggested that this may have been a factor in forcing these birds down from the spruce-fir zone. (The species frequently visits areas far below the Canadian zone at other times of the year, however.)

Several days later, on April 19, I again observed a young Red Crossbill. This time the place was some miles distant in the very heart of the Great Smokies—at Indian Gap (elevation 5200 feet), near the Tennessee-North Carolina state line. The bird was accompanied by an adult crossbill and was seen at close range—its sides heavily streaked, the tail very short, the mandibles not crossed, and the notes which it uttered decidedly unlike those in the repertory of the Purple Finch—a species with which it might be confused. This bird and the other juvenals which I have seen, were darker than the young bird pictured by Audubon.

Mr. Griscom, who is authority for the statement that there is no authentic breeding record south of Pennsylvania, and who presumes that a resident breeding population may well inhabit this area, has urged me to publish these observations.—ARTHUR STURKA, *Park Naturalist, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, Tennessee.*

**Polygamy in the Western Lark Sparrow.**—In 1936, I found and photographed a nest of the Western Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*), at Regina,

Saskatchewan, the eggs of which successfully hatched. On May 24, 1937, I again located a nest and on May 28, 1937, a second nest at least one hundred yards distant from it. On the latter date I saw the male and female copulating about twenty feet from nest no. 1, and was surprised to see a second female with wings quivering, fly close to the pair. The male then commenced to copulate alternately with the two females. This was accomplished several times and one of the females then flew to nest no. 1, while the other, when disturbed, flew immediately to nest no. 2, the site of which was clearly visible from where I was standing. This I think is evidence that one male had two mates. Both nests were on the ground and in each case on the northwest side of a clump of grass.—E. H. M. KNOWLES, 1104 College Ave., Regina, Saskatchewan.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Colorado.**—The Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*) is an unusual species in Colorado, having been recorded only a few times; the first record was by W. W. Cooke ('Birds of Colorado,' p. 167, 1897) of a pair that nested near Longmont, Boulder County, in the summer of 1894. Another pair was observed near Loveland, Larimer County, June 1, 1902, by L. E. Burnett, and the male was collected (W. L. Burnett, Condor, 4: 94, 1902). This specimen, the first taken in the State, is in the collection of this museum (C. M. N. H. no. 715).

During the summer of 1924, Robert B. Rockwell saw a bird on a feeding-shelf of Dr. C. E. Sidwell, at Longmont, Boulder County, and Dr. Sidwell has recently written Mr. Rockwell regarding his birds as follows: "I first saw the Rose-breasted Grosbeak on my feeding-shelf, May 10, 1924. The next year he returned on the same day, May 10. I wrote in my notebook, 'he is plump and sleek. Every day he comes several times to eat the sunflower seeds and later in the season he brought his mate and a young one belonging to him, because I saw him feed it.' May 5, 1926, he returned, and I quote from my notes, 'Well, old Rose-breast arrived five days ahead of time, and he seems fond of sunflower seeds'. May 13, 1927, he came again and it proved to be the last season for we missed him the middle of the summer. Each year we had observed the bird all during summer, but he left fairly early in the year. Every year we saw the Black-headed Grosbeaks on our feeding-shelf, sometimes observing both species at the same time, but the Rose-breast has not been seen since 1927."

Two other sight records are available. Bergtold mentions one bird at Colorado Springs, El Paso County, observed by Mrs. Ivah Elliott, May 11, 1929 (Bird-Lore, 31: 279, 1929), and another (Bird-Lore, 37: 295, 1935), by E. Hellstern, of Fort Morgan, Morgan County, during May or June 1935.

In view of the rarity of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Colorado, we were greatly pleased to see a male on May 20, 1938, feeding among the scrub oaks in the broken country twenty miles southeast of Denver, in Douglas County; it was an added pleasure to have the privilege of showing the bird to our companion, the veteran Colorado naturalist, Horace G. Smith, who has accomplished so much in advancing knowledge of our local birds. The specimen was collected (C.M.N.H. no. 18900) and proved to be in worn plumage with testes undeveloped.—ALFRED M. BAILEY AND ROBERT J. NIEDRACH, *The Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado.*

**Notes from West Virginia.**—For the past three years I have been attempting to build up a private collection of West Virginia birds and through this work, I have been able to visit many interesting localities within the State. The principal parts of the State where collecting has been carried on are: Brooke County; Ohio County; near Point Pleasant, Mason County; Fort Gay, Wayne County; Pineville, Wyoming