

E. H. Eaton, in 'Birds of New York' (New York State Museum Memoir, no. 12) reviews the yearly records of European Goldfinches in New York since their introduction into the State in 1878. The last records that he gives are in 1900 and 1901. Although Pearson's 'Birds of America' lists a bird from Ithaca seen in 1899, we find no records of this bird in the 'Cayuga Fauna,' which surely would have included it had it been known.—WILLIAM MONTAGNA, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Red Crossbill in the West Virginia Mountains.—During the summer of 1939, Dr. George M. Sutton and Maurice Brooks saw, and recorded (Wilson Bull., 52: 36, 1940) the presence of Red Crossbills in the Cheat Mountains of Randolph and Pocahontas Counties, West Virginia. Although one bird was shot, it could not be found, thus making subspecific determination impossible.

On the afternoon of June 15, 1940, the writers found a number of Red Crossbills on Gaudineer Knob of the Cheat range, and one bird, a young male, was secured. The birds were feeding on the new cones of spruce trees at elevations around 4400 feet.

The bird secured was not in full red plumage, the rump being bright vermilion red, and the breast with red streakings. The gonads were of intermediate size, and some evidence of molt was to be seen in the tail. Measurements were as follows: wing, 90 mm.; tail, 55; tarsus, 19; culmen, 17; depth of bill, 9. These dimensions all fall within the limits of Griscom's (Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 41: 77-210, 1937) recently described northeastern race of the species, *Loxia curvirostra neogaea*. The length of the wing (90 mm.) places our specimen outside the limits of the putative southern Alleghenian race of the Red Crossbill, since Griscom gives the wing limits for these birds as 81-87 mm. Our bird is therefore the first representative of *Loxia curvirostra neogaea* to be recorded from West Virginia. The only other Red Crossbills recorded from the State are two individuals, a male and a female, of *Loxia curvirostra minor* (Brehm), which were taken in Ritchie County on July 1, 1889.

Among the other Red Crossbills which we saw on Gaudineer Knob on June 15 were one or two brightly colored males, and one streaked juvenile bird which pursued a male as though it were begging food. Obviously, this is not sufficient evidence to indicate the local breeding of the birds, but the presence of crossbills in the Cheat Mountains during two successive years suggests the possibility that they *may* have bred locally.

Brooks and Sutton (in the paper cited above) suggest three possible explanations to account for the presence of the birds in the West Virginia mountains.

1. The birds may be vagrants from more northern points. However, their presence during two successive years, with no records known to the writers of notable southward movements of the birds in other sections, and with the evidence of streaked juveniles seen both years, tends to discredit this proposition.

2. The birds may be stragglers from the mountains of Tennessee. If this were true our birds should correspond in measurements with the Tennessee birds which Griscom suspects may represent an unnamed race. It has been pointed out above that our single specimen falls well within the size limits of *L. c. neogaea*, but outside the measurements (of the wing) given for the southern birds.

3. The birds may represent a more or less permanent resident population in the Cheat Mountains system. In this connection it might be well to state that Brooks observed Red Crossbills in the Cheat Mountains during the summer of

1924, and on October 24, 1929. Since these were sight records it was not thought well to publish them. Mr. Brown Beard, a farmer of Bartow, West Virginia, near the Cheat system, informs us that during the winter of 1938 a crossbill was found dead near his home. Thus, with the 1939 and 1940 records, there is some evidence to show that Red Crossbills have occurred in the Cheat Mountains during five recent years.

It should be noted that in no other portion of West Virginia is there such a vast expanse of good-sized spruce forest as in the Cheat area. Much of it is virtually unexplored, from the biological standpoint, and there is a fifty-mile expanse of mountain ridge which lies above 3500 feet. Throughout the region, Hermit and Olive-backed Thrushes, Olive-sided Flycatchers, Winter Wrens, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Purple Finches, and several species of warblers of northern association are characteristic birds.

One specimen certainly does not offer a basis for general conclusions, but the weight of evidence does indicate that these mountains may harbor a permanent Red Crossbill breeding population which has long been overlooked.—WILLIAM A. LUNK, *Fairmont*, and MAURICE BROOKS, *West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia*.

Lark Sparrow in Maine.—Since records of the Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) in Maine are not numerous, my observation of a female bird at Petit Manan Point, Washington County, on August 14, 1938, seems worthy of note. This bird was seen at close range with a binocular, but attempts to collect it were not successful. To the best of my knowledge, this species is known from only four other localities in Maine: sight records at Matinicus Island and at Monhegan Island (Forbush, *Birds of Massachusetts*, 3: 68-69, 1929); a bird banded at Bar Harbor (U. S. Biological Survey), and a specimen from Appledore Island (Auk, 54: 547, 1937). All these localities are on or surrounded by salt water.—ROBERT C. McCLANAHAN, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Recent records from Lake Ontelaunee, Pennsylvania.—The following recent sight records, all from Lake Ontelaunee, near Reading, Pennsylvania, are of unusual interest. Two of the species observed appear to be unique for Eastern Pennsylvania and the others are sufficiently rare in this region to warrant publication.

GREATER SNOW GOOSE (probably *Chen hyperborea atlantica*).—A single individual of this species appeared on the lake on November 12, 1938, and remained until January 1, 1939. This individual was seen by many local students, and was judged "probably *atlantica*" on the basis of its size compared with the ducks with which it associated. It was previously mentioned by C. Brooke Worth (Auk, 56: 329, 1939) who cites several previous Pennsylvania records, but omits mention of a flock of twenty-six seen flying southward at Hawk Mountain on October 30, 1938 (Maurice Broun and others).

EUROPEAN WIDGEON, *Mareca penelope*.—The first local record of this species was a drake observed on the lake on May 8, 1937. I had an excellent view of this bird at close range and was attracted by its distinctive, clear whistled call. It was associated at the time with Black Ducks and Baldpates.

On February 26, 1939, Charles Mohr and Samuel Guss reported two drakes of this species on a small dam at Moselem near the head of the lake. These were subsequently joined by still another (March 10), two at least continuing to frequent the Moselem Dam and Lake Ontelaunee until March 19, and one remained