

Richmondia cardinalis. Cardinal. A pair of these uncommon Colorado visitors was observed in a wild plum thicket along Black Wolf Creek one mile north of Beecher Island, Yuma County, on March 25, 1950. Unfortunately, it was impossible to check the area later in the season to see whether the pair nested.

Pipilo maculatus. Spotted Towhee. On January 10, 1951, a bird of this species was noted in a thicket of a cottonwood creek bottom at the entrance of Spring Canyon, five miles southwest of Ft. Collins. On February 17, 1951, a towhee, perhaps the same individual, was seen in a bush on a nearby hillside. Presence of the species in winter, although not rare, is worthy of note. Spotted Towhees are known to nest in this same area in the spring.—RICHARD G. BEIDLEMAN, *Zoology Department, Colorado A. and M. College, Fort Collins, Colorado, February 20, 1951.*

Sitka Crossbill in Kansas.—The exceptionally severe storms which lashed the Pacific Northwest during late October, 1950, might be expected to have caused some irregular wanderings of birds. The first of the several storms moved inland from the Pacific Ocean on October 26, striking British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and northern California with gale-force winds. On October 27, a pronounced cold front moved inland over Oregon and Washington; this cold front then swept eastward across the continent, reaching eastern Kansas about 7:30 a.m. on November 1.

Late in the afternoon of November 1, Manuel J. Vélez found an adult male Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) on the University of Kansas campus, in Lawrence, Douglas County. Although the bird was still alive, it was emaciated and too weak to fly. Olin L. Webb saw three or four other crossbills, evidently of the same species, feeding in conifers near the same spot just before dusk on November 1. The captured bird died before dawn, November 2, and was brought to me for preparation as a skin. I found no sign of injury or organic disorder. The bird simply appeared to have died from starvation and exhaustion. Its gizzard contained a few tiny seeds and several bits of grit.

I have identified the specimen (no. 29846 Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist.) as *Loxia curvirostra sikkensis* Grinnell (= *minor* in Griscom, cited below), the breeding Red Crossbill of the "humid coastal strip of the northwestern Pacific coast district from southern Alaska south . . . to the coastal ranges of Washington and northwestern Oregon" (Griscom, Proc. Boston Nat. Hist., 41, 1937:121). Although the plumage of the specimen is only slightly worn, its wing measures 79.4 mm., which is a smaller wing measurement for an adult male than any recorded by Griscom (*loc. cit.*) for this "smallest of New World crossbills." Other measurements are: tail, 46.0 mm.; tarsus, 15.6; culmen, 15.0; bill depth, 8.7. In color of the body plumage, the specimen is primarily red (Dragon's-blood Red on crown and back, Coral Red on under parts, except abdomen, which is Coral Pink), with many greenish-yellow feathers interspersed. It was not molting. The testes were not enlarged.

There is, of course, no proof that the crossbills recorded here actually moved out of their normal breeding range as a direct result of the storms mentioned above. However, the severity of those storms, the unseasonably warm weather over much of the United States preceding the storms, the breeding range of the subspecies represented by the specimen captured, and the emaciated condition of the specimen all seem to indicate that the storms were probably responsible for this flight.

This is the earliest fall record (by eight days) for any crossbill in Kansas, and the second time that the subspecies *sikkensis* has been taken in this state. The previous record is of three males and three females collected on January 25, 1920, at Lawrence.—HARRISON B. TORDOFF, *University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas, November 8, 1950.*

Caprimulgus ridgwayi in Michoacán, México.—One of the most interesting birds Roger Hurd and I encountered during our brief sojourn along the Rio de la Alberca, near Chupio, about 12 kilometers south of Tacámbaro, Michoacán, in the early spring of 1949, was the Collared Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus ridgwayi*). We noted the species daily from March 5 to 9, finding it invariably in dry gorge bottoms. Although we made a point of listening for it at night, we never heard it. On two occasions we flushed two birds at once, but none of the four specimens collected (one male and three females) was in breeding condition.

Our four specimens closely resemble Nelson's type of "*Antrostomus ridgwayi*" in both size and color. As a series they are quite uniform, none of them exhibiting paleness of crown at all comparable to that of Nelson's type of "*Antrostomus goldmani*," which possibly is a variant of *ridgwayi*