

killing any of them, while others were reported as seen in the fall of that year. In the case of birds killed since the approval and promulgation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act it has not been possible to get any reliable information about specimens reported to have been taken.

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#### Nesting of the Red Crossbill in Nebraska.

On March 28, 1920, Messrs. Miles Greenleaf and William Marsh, both of Omaha, found a nest of the Red Crossbill in Elmwood Park, in the western part of Omaha. The nest was in the crotch of a decayed boxelder tree in a well-protected ravine at a height of about twenty feet from the ground. The female crossbill was on the nest, evidently brooding, and the male bird was feeding her. The tree was too badly decayed to permit climbing, but the identification of the bird was beyond question, inasmuch as Mr. Greenleaf is an experienced bird observer, and the birds were watched carefully from a short distance. There were no conifers within 300 yards of the nest. Mr. Greenleaf notified the writer of his find on March 30 and plans were made to visit the nest, and if possible, to obtain some photographs of it within the next few days.

But on April 3 an unseasonable blizzard raged over eastern Nebraska, and it was evident that the trip would need to be postponed. Messrs. Greenleaf and Marsh, however, revisited the nest on Easter Sunday, April 4, and found the storm had wrecked the nest, leaving about half of it clinging in the crotch of the tree. As several inches of snow lay on the ground beneath the tree the fragments of any eggs that might have been in the nest could not be found, nor were they to be found later, after the snow had melted. The birds were still in the vicinity after the storm, and especially around the place where the nest had been, but no rebuilding of the nest was subsequently observed.

The disappointment of not having secured any tangible evidence of this nesting, which was the first record of the breeding of this bird in Nebraska, had scarcely subsided until information was received (on April 26) concerning another nesting, this time in a park in the little city of Broken Bow, Custer county, in the central portion of the state and near the eastern edge of the sandhills. This nest was found by a fourteen-year-old boy, Newell F. Joyner, and his mother, on March 20. This boy is a Boy Scout and keeps a record of the birds of his locality, so he is positive of the date. The nest was in a very open and exposed place in the park, in the crotch of an elm tree, about ten feet above the ground and directly above a side-walk. There are very few conifer trees in Broken Bow. The nest was not disturbed, and the female was ob-

served sitting upon it for several days before she was picked up dead by some children. The male had not been seen for several days before the death of the female.

Master Joyner has written some interesting facts about this nest. He says: "The female is the worker, building the nest all by herself, the male seeming to be the protector, flying with but just a little way off from the female. . . . There were two eggs in the nest, one of which had a hole in it and broke when it was touched. Due to the weather the other egg was frozen, but it soon thawed out and cracked. We saved the pieces."

The crossbills had been noted for some time before their nesting was observed, and on February 15, just after a heavy blizzard, a dead male crossbill was found. Later another dead male bird was found by some children, possibly the nesting male, and finally the nesting female, on the day that the deserted nest and eggs were collected. No injury was noticeable on the bodies of any of these birds thus found dead.

It is unfortunate that none of these dead crossbills were preserved, for it is yet an open question whether this record concerns the Eastern Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) or the Rocky Mountain Red Crossbill (*L. c. bendirei*), which, by the way, is an excellent subspecies and should be recognized as such by the A. O. U. Committee. The Rocky Mountain form abounds in the Pine Ridge of northwestern Nebraska in winter, and may be found there in some years in the summer also, but has not been found nesting. During the winter it occurs more or less commonly over the entire state. The Eastern Red Crossbill we have found only in the late fall, winter and early spring in the eastern part of the state, though in some seasons very commonly.

The nest, along with the fragments of the egg which was frozen and broke on thawing, was presented to the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union collection by Master Joyner, who is entitled to credit for his valuable observations and willingness to place his find where it will be permanently preserved. I am also indebted to Mrs. Frances C. Morgan, a neighbor of Master Joyner, for having first acquainted me with the fact of the nest and for corroborating the above statements and the identification of the birds.

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#### Some Nelson County, Kentucky, Notes, 1920.

**Worm-eating Warbler** (*Helmitheros vermivorus*). Several of our ornithologists state that the song of the worm-eating warbler is somewhat similar to that of the chipping sparrow, and many a time I have hunted out a singing chippie at the edge of some thicket, or woods, half expecting to find this woodland warbler, but