

**Crossbills in Michigan.**—When winter storms sweep the North and the ground is covered deep with snow, as one wanders through field and wood only a few bird species are present. Such was January 28, 1923, as, warmly dressed, I had waded through the snow to a little tamarack swamp near Battle Creek. There had been very few birds observed, but voices came to me from the marsh indicating that here the birds had selected a winter feeding place. It had been here, on a cold snowy day two weeks previous, that both a Bluebird and a Robin had been noted, joined in search for food with the Chickadees, Nuthatches, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Brown Creeper, Tree Sparrows, and Juncos. Also the Pine Siskin, a covey of Quail and one Ruffed Grouse.

These birds were again there except that nothing could be found of either the Bluebird or Robin. Two Cardinals had joined the flock, also a Song Sparrow near the grassy edge of the marsh and some Blue Jays. But most of all, seven birds in a larch tree attracted my attention. They were eating seeds apparently from small cones. They were Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*). Their whistling calls and noisy rustling of cones while feeding readily located them.

But these birds were only part of the flock, several others being observed, while nearer to the ground, eating seeds, was another crossbill, a lighter colored bird with two distinct white wing bars and a black tail. This was a White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*), and proved quite unafraid, allowing me to approach within five or six feet before flying. When, the next week, on February 4, I returned, there were four of this species observed and none of the Red Crossbills. Since then neither of the species has ever been observed. Each winter the little tamarack swamp is searched, but each year brings the same result—no crossbills.—LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW, *Battle Creek, Mich.*

**A Phoebe Nest in an Abandoned House.**—While passing by an abandoned farm two miles west of Burton, Ohio, on June 5, 1927, a pair of the Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) were noticed flying in and out of a two by three inch opening in a broken window pane of the kitchen. The opening was closed, and on entering the house the nest was found on a wooden mantel about five feet above the floor. Alarmed by the warning cries of the parent birds, the five young left the nest, flying to the entrance window, where one of them, together with the adult birds, succeeded in escaping. The remaining four were marked with bands numbered 193548, 193549, 193550, and 193551.

Scattered on the floors of the farm buildings were many poultry feathers, similar to those which had apparently been used in the construction of the nest, but due to the interval of several years since the farm had been abandoned, all parasites must have disappeared from the feathers, as no parasites were to be found either on the young or in the nest.

If it is true that the male usually selects the territory or general location of the nesting site while the female does the greater part of the nest building, then in this instance the male bird showed a successful pioneering spirit in selecting this location, but the female was more conservative and built the customary moss covered nest, though the green color of the moss contrasted sharply with the yellow painted mantel and cream colored wall paper.—E. C. HOFFMAN, *Lakewood, Ohio.*