

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) in West Virginia.—The following notes on the recent occurrence of this species at French Creek, Adrian and Buckhannon, all in Upshur County, West Virginia, have been sent to me by competent observers. These records are as follows, and constitute the first reliable data in regard to the presence of the White-winged Crossbill in West Virginia:

"I saw the Crossbills at French Creek, W. Va., on the afternoon of January 22, 1920, and the two days following. January 22 was a cold day with a heavy sleet. I walked to the village, and, as soon as I came in sight of the hemlocks, noticed the birds in the trees and on the ground beneath. A nearer view revealed them as strangers, and I at once noticed their remarkable tameness. One finely colored male was working busily at a cone on a branch a foot above my head, and I stroked his side with the tip of my umbrella. Instead of flying he edged away, threw his head to one side and scolded me softly for interrupting his feast. There must have been thirty or forty of the birds present and I looked and puzzled until I was tired. I did not catch a sight of the crossed beak and could not think what they were. An hour later I returned and found the birds still there. A little group of three females were sitting in the road eating from a cone, and I approached them and picked one up in my hand. Then I saw the beak and recognized the birds, I carried the specimen home with me, made sure of the identification, then took it out on the porch and opened my hand. The bird flew about two feet and alighted on a vine. I think I might have picked it up again without any difficulty.

"Another flock appeared at the same time around the hemlocks near Adrian. I think I heard of a dozen being caught in the hand. Three or four days thereafter all disappeared and have not been seen since."

The next note was written in reference to a flock of White-winged Crossbills observed at Buckhannon, W. Va., the same day. It is as follows:

"On January 22, when passing by a large hemlock tree that stands well down on Kanawha Street, in Buckhannon, my attention was attracted to unfamiliar bird notes. I stopped and found that the birds making the notes were in the hemlock tree and on the ground under it. Just as I looked several of them flew down and began picking at the cones. I walked up closer to get a good look and found that they were very tame. There was a full-plumaged male very close and, by practising a little Indian stealth, I was able to place my hand over it. It kept prying at the cone scales all the time I was approaching, and only a few times looked up. I saw two or three males and perhaps five or six females or immature birds. The day was stormy and the birds acted as if they were very hungry."—EARLE A. BROOKS, *Everett, Massachusetts*.

An Erroneous Kansas Record for Baird's Sparrow.—In the *Oölogist* for 1907,¹ Mr. Logan Evans has recorded Baird's Sparrow (*Ammo-*

¹ Vol. XXIV, Aug., 1907, p. 124.

dramus bairdi) as breeding near Wilsey, Kansas, on the basis of a set of eggs taken with two specimens of the bird. At the time this note was published, I wrote from the University of Kansas at Lawrence requesting that the specimens be forwarded for examination. Mr. Evans responded promptly to this request, and on receiving the skins, I found that they were not Baird's Sparrow, but instead were Henslow's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowi*). The bird was unknown to Mr. Evans and his note was made on the basis of the eggs which he forwarded to a dealer for identification. Although Baird's Sparrow probably passes through western Kansas during migration there is no record known of this species for the State. I have made careful search for it at a number of localities in the eastern part of the State (a search that has entailed a considerable mortality among obscurely marked individuals of LeConte's Sparrow, a species that abounds in migration) but as yet have failed to find it.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

A Scarlet Tanager at Thirty-fourth Street, New York.—On May 22, 1899, I took lodgings at 30 West Thirty-fourth Street, New York City, for a stay of three days; and on one of these days, as I sat at a south window, looking out over nearby yards into a solitary, rather large deciduous tree, I caught sight of a Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*) descending from a great height in a northeasterly direction. A moment or two later he had alighted in the tree before me.

I do not remember what next happened to this bird, but I believe that he had disappeared when I returned to the window after a short absence. It may be assumed, I think, that he was migrating and, since he was making his journey so late in the month and did not go a few blocks farther to one of the parks before alighting, that he was an example of the laggards, more or less subnormal, which are always to be found at migration time.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

Bohemian Waxwing at Seattle, Washington, During the Winter of 1919-20.—After the remarkable invasion of this region in the winter of 1916-17 by the Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula*), it was hardly to be expected that another might soon occur, but during the past winter 1919-20, this locality has again been visited by this attractive bird, although by comparison the number of individuals was not nearly as great as in the preceding flight of three years ago.

The first report given us of their occurrence came from Mr. C. J. Albrecht, of this city, who noted a small flock November 25, about twelve miles east of the city and from that date the birds began to be seen in flocks of varying sizes, these increasing in numbers until about the middle of December when the maximum appeared to be reached, and it is also at this time and during a few subsequent weeks that the largest flocks were seen, we on two occasions observing one aggregating fully two thousand individuals.



Wetmore, Alexander. 1920. "An Erroneous Kansas Record for Baird's Sparrow." *The Auk* 37, 457–458. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4073284>.

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