

of the seeds. Almost at the same moment I heard a soft and very melodious *cheep*, and on looking up into the tree I beheld a flock of thirty-nine of these strangely beautiful birds. They were very silent and quite unsuspecting. Only now and then a soft *cheep-cheep* was uttered by one or the other of the party. When they were alarmed they uttered a rather sharp and quick *chip* and then all took wing. One morning I found a few on a mountain ash where they evidently were feeding on the seeds of the dry fruit. They were only seen early in the morning, never later in the day. In the West Park, a place where the birds are always protected, they were rather abundant during the months mentioned.—H. NEHRING, *Milwaukee, Wisc.*

**Feeding Habits of the Pine Siskin.**—Mrs. W. C. Horton, president of the Brattleboro, Vt., Bird Club (a branch of the American Society of Bird Restorers), and a member of this Society's patrol, reports that on April 14 of this year, Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) were observed feeding on the seeds of cones in a pine grove near her Brattleboro home. Two young Siskins were also noted, apparently just out of the nest. These youngsters were assiduously fed by at least one of the parents, but with *what* was not clear. Several feedings occurred and between them the parent procured no visible supply of food. To the observers it seemed highly probable that the feeding was done by regurgitation.—FLETCHER OSGOOD, *Boston, Mass.*

**Large Flight of White-winged Crossbills on Long Island, N. Y.**—The Red Crossbills, *Loxia curvirostra minor*, are more or less regular in their appearance on Long Island each year and occasionally breed there, but the presence of the White-winged Crossbill, *Loxia leucoptera*, is of such rare occurrence, that I consider their appearance in such large numbers during the past fall and winter worthy of note.

Capt. James G. Scott presented me with a fine adult male of this species that he shot on the 7th of November from a flock of seven or eight at Montauk Point, L. I. The next evidence of their presence that came to my notice was on the 20th of November, when I met with them in large numbers. Between Mount Sinai Harbor and Long Island is a long strip of beach and low sand ridges; on the harbor side these are covered with a scattering growth of bushes and dwarfed red cedars. The hills on the eastern side of the harbor are covered with a thick growth of red cedars, and it was in this vicinity that most of the birds were noticed. There was a strong northwest wind blowing at the time and the birds were flying very low, many of them just clearing the tops of the trees and bushes. Most of the birds were noticed between 9 A. M. and 12 M. During this time thousands of Pine Finches, Goldfinches and White-winged Crossbills were passing westward, occasionally in mixed flocks, but each species appearing to keep in groups by themselves. Between the hours men-

tioned there was an almost continuous succession of flocks containing from three or four to as many as one hundred and fifty or two hundred birds in a flock. Their notes, quite unlike those of their red cousins, remind one more of the twittering notes which the Pine Finch utters when feeding. Two or three flocks of Red Crossbills were also noted.

November 21, I again visited the same locality and several hundred 'White-wings' were seen, but very few compared to the numbers seen on the previous day, and all were flying very high. On both days they appeared to be very restless, and when called down would alight in the tops of the cedars. After picking for a moment or two as if in search of food and finding none they would at once resume their journey westward across the harbor. Sixteen specimens were examined and all were in good flesh; their stomachs contained only a little sand and traces of vegetable matter. All of those seen appeared to be adults except one female taken, whose skull indicated immaturity. The red males appeared to be the more numerous.

November 22 again found me in the same locality, but only a single 'White-wing' was seen, this was in company with a flock of Goldfinches. On several occasions from this time on until the 20th of February, when I left Millers Place, single birds or a small flock would be seen, but I think very few spent the winter on the island.

The Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*) were also more numerous than usual during the past winter, and I think a few remained and bred on the island. May 6, two small flocks were noticed among the pitch pines south of Millers Place, one flock of six containing five red males and one female. The following day I procured a female in worn plumage, whose ovaries indicated that they had recently been in an active state. — ARTHUR H. HELME, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

The Lark Finch and Baird's Bunting on Long Island, N. Y. — An adult male Lark Finch, *Chondestes grammacus* was taken at Millers Place, Long Island, Nov. 27, 1899. It was first noticed feeding in a clump of rag-weeds in company with a small mixed flock of Song, Fox and Tree Sparrows.

At Montauk Point, L. I., Nov. 13, 1899, I secured a small Sparrow that proves to be *Ammodramus bairdi*. The sex I was unable to determine, as it was too badly injured by shot. Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., who has examined the specimen, writes me that it is "chiefly in juvenal plumage passing to first winter." So far as I am aware this is the first instance of its occurrence that has been reported from the Atlantic coast. — ARTHUR H. HELME, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Bachman's Sparrow in Virginia. — In May, 1897, I took a pair of Bachman's Sparrows (*Peuceea aestivalis bachmanii*) on Blackwater Creek, Campbell County, Va., together with their nest and eggs. This was the