

secured over five hundred specimens, and the following year over three hundred and fifty. Since that time they have averaged from ten to forty during the winter season.

I am very much indebted to those who have kindly communicated their observations and should be glad to receive further records from any who may have observed this species within the past few months.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

**American Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) in Rhode Island—**

I am indebted to Messrs. Angell and Cash, taxidermists, Providence, R. I., for information regarding the capture of a male Hawk Owl at West Greenwich, R. I., Nov. 16, 1906. The stomach was empty. I think that this may be given as the first authentic record for this species in the State. The only previous citation would seem rather a doubtful record (Birds of Rhode Island, Howe and Sturtevant, 1899, p. 63) as follows: "The only record is of one taken by Mr. W. A. Aldrich (exact locality not known)."—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*

**Identity of *Tyrannula mexicana* Kaup.**—In his recent paper on the genus *Myiarchus* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XVII, pp. 21–50, 1904), E. W. Nelson expressed the belief that Kaup's name *Tyrannula mexicana* was based upon the species usually known as *Myiarchus cinerascens*. No changes in current usage were made by him, however, these being deferred until such time as Kaup's type might be examined. While in Germany a few months ago, I therefore took the opportunity to visit the Darmstadt Museum (Grossherzogl. Hessisches Museum) and compare this type with recently collected specimens. Dr. G. von Koch of the Darmstadt Museum readily found it for me and kindly extended the courtesies of the museum, for which I am very grateful. The specimen has been on exhibition and its color is considerably altered. The outer tail feathers, so important for comparison, are faded to such an extent that their markings cannot be determined except by very careful examination. In ordinary light, no markings are evident, but by transmitted light the relations of the light and dark areas are reasonably plain, and it may be seen that the dusky on the inner web is confined chiefly to the distal third of the feather and that it broadens across the tip as is characteristic of *cinerascens*. The outer web of the feather also shows a wedge-shaped dusky area. The second and third feathers underlying the outer tail feather are scarcely faded and their markings unchanged. Although not so broadly dusky at the tip as in some specimens, they agree with those of '*cinerascens*' and differ decidedly from '*mexicanus*.' Direct comparisons were made with specimens from the Biological Survey collection selected for the purpose by Mr. Nelson (No. 144872 from Cuernavaca, Morelos, representing '*cinerascens*' and No. 144861 from Minatitlan, Vera Cruz, representing '*mexicanus*'). After making these comparisons, I am convinced that Kaup's type represents the species usually called *cinerascens* and not the

species to which the name *mexicanus* has been generally applied. Thus, it appears that Nelson's suspicions were well grounded and the changes of names suggested by him are necessary. The name *mexicanus* becomes a synonym of *cinerascens* and *cooperi* becomes available for the species recently known as *mexicanus*.—WILFRED H. OSGOOD, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**White-winged Crossbill at Raleigh N. C.**—On February 23 a small flock, roughly estimated to contain about thirty individuals, was observed in Pullen Park, about two miles west of town. The birds seemed quite tame and were working about in the tops of the red cedars, apparently feeding on the cedar berries. Three specimens were collected, two of which, adult male and female, were secured by me in the flesh for our museum. So far as I know, this is the first recorded occurrence of the White-winged Crossbill in North Carolina. My assistant was out again all day yesterday, February 25, in quest of more specimens, but none were seen.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Curator, N. C. State Museum.*

**Loxia curvirostra minor in Florida.**—So far as I have been able to ascertain, no record of the occurrence of the American Crossbill in Florida existed prior to December last when Mr. W. W. Worthington collected several specimens on Amelia Island, Nassau County, a few miles below Fernandina. He writes me: "Red Crossbills were common in the pine barrens where I met you that day in the carriage. The first one was taken Dec. 4, 1906. They were common all through December, some flocks seen having at least 50 individuals. Small scattering flocks were seen and were still there on Jan. 16, 1907, when the last were taken."

I am obliged to Mr. Worthington for permission to publish this record.—R. W. WILLIAMS, JR., *Tallahassee, Florida.*

**The Vesper Sparrow on Long Island, N. Y., in Winter.**—On February 12 I observed two or three Vesper Sparrows (*Poæcetes gramineus*) at Bellmore, Long Island. It was very difficult to make out the white in the tail against a background of snow, and I had to follow them about and get them against a dark background to make out this mark satisfactorily. Two birds seen February 10, some where between Babylon and Massapequa, which I was unable to identify, I now believe to have been this species.—JOHN TREADWELL NICHOLS, *New York City.*

**Malformed Bill of Rose-breasted Grosbeak.**—On September 4, 1904, a boy brought to me an adult female Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*), the bill of which presented a curious malformation. Careful examination shows that the condition was not caused by injury, as there is no trace whatever of a fracture, and the upper mandible has grown strongly downwards. The eye cavity—which in the normal state is