

D. R. Orcutt. At the time of collection it was still molting feathers of the auricular area and a few juvenal feathers remained on the neck. This circumstance and the early September date point to the bird's having been raised locally in the preceding summer. Kitchin in his distributional check-list of the birds of Mount Rainier National Park (Murrelet, 20: 27-37, 1939) lists no Pine Grosbeak. The bird collected by Orcutt is typical of the race *montana*. Its bill is much too deep and curved for *californica* and is not stubby or strongly decurved at the tip as in *alascensis*. The back is somewhat lighter-colored than in *montana* from central-interior British Columbia but it matches closely the backs of seasonally comparable *montana* from Wyoming. The bird is thus much lighter-colored than *flammula* or *carlottae*, which breed to the north along the coast. There seems no reason from present evidence to question the inclusion of the Cascade Mountains south to Mount Rainier in the breeding range of *montana*.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California*.

Red Crossbill in North Carolina in summer.—In view of the recent observations of Stupka (Auk, 55: 675, 1938) which have established the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra* subsp.?) as a breeding bird in the mountains of Tennessee, and the interesting discussion by Griscom (Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 41: no. 5, 1937) of the status of this species in the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina, the following observation seemed worthy of note. On June 21, 1938, just below the summit of Mt. Mitchell, Mitchell Co., North Carolina, my wife and I observed a group of approximately fifteen Red Crossbills, of which at least four were adult males. These birds, which were accompanied by nearly as many Pine Siskins (*Spinus p. pinus*), were watched for half an hour with the aid of binoculars as they fed from the cones of large firs (probably *Abies fraseri*). From the data cited in Griscom's monograph, this species has apparently not been recorded from North Carolina in summer since Rhoads heard them on Roan Mountain in late June, 1895. In addition to Stupka's sight observations of breeding Red Crossbills near Gatlinburg, Tennessee, five specimens of the Red Crossbill which cannot be referred to any described subspecies have been collected recently in the mountains of Tennessee (August 1932 and October 1933). These observations reopen the long-standing question as to the possible presence of a breeding subspecies in the southern Alleghenies. This situation is complicated by the fact that the northern subspecies (*Loxia curvirostra neogaea* Griscom) may remain in the mountains for some time after a southward flight. Careful studies and collections of summer Red Crossbills in this area are necessary before a satisfactory subspecies can be erected. The writer is in accord with Griscom's desire that this interesting problem receive the attention of workers in the southern States.—HAMPTON L. CARSON, JR., *Dept. of Zoology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Penna.*

Rock Sparrow at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico.—Vernon Bailey in his book 'Animal Life of the Carlsbad Cavern,' 1928, lists the Rock Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps eremoeca*) as being here in April. This is out of the range accorded this species in the latest A.O.U. 'Check-list' and no one has observed it since, until October 1939. During October and November 1939, I captured and banded five of these birds and collected one for study. Four repeats were taken during November and one return on February 2, 1940. Several of the birds were seen more or less continuously during December, January, February, and March. The specimen collected was sent to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, where the above identification was made. An effort will be made to

determine whether these birds breed here this coming summer.—HAROLD J. BRODRICK, *Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico*.

White-crowned Sparrow at Pensacola, Florida.—On October 16, 1938, an immature White-crowned Sparrow was watched for some time at Kupfrian's Park, an old race-course on the outskirts of Pensacola, and finally was collected. The specimen was presented to the U. S. Biological Survey, where it was subspecifically identified and referred to the eastern form, *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*. As far as I can find out, this is the only specimen of this species ever taken in Florida.

The history of the species in Florida is brief. Howell ('Florida Bird Life,' p. 469, 1932) lists only three sight records. Since that time, two other sight records have come to hand: a single bird in high plumage was present in the garden of Mrs. Andrew L. Whigham, at Century (forty miles north of Pensacola), from April 23 to 25, 1936, where it was seen by several observers (*Bird-lore*, 38: 308, 1936); and an immature bird was glimpsed by Miss Cordelia Arnold at Altamonte Springs Hotel, in Seminole County, on February 11, 1939 (*Florida Naturalist*, 12: 100, 106, 1939).—FRANCIS M. WESTON, 2006 E. Jordan St., Pensacola, Florida.

Birds eating tent caterpillars.—On May 20, 1935, I twice observed the Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens virens*, feeding upon American tent caterpillars, *Malacosoma americana*, about ten miles north of Indiana, Indiana County, Pennsylvania. During each observation, the individual warblers descended from hemlock growth at the woodland's edge to a grove of young wild black-cherry trees, *Prunus serotina*, where they tore open the nests and devoured the small larvae in some quantities. The larvae at this time were about three-quarters of an inch in length. On the morning of April 23, 1938, I again observed at close range the destruction of these caterpillars, this time by a Black-capped Chickadee, *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*, in a brush-grown field in Broome County, near Nanticoke, New York. When first seen, the chickadee was busily engaged in visiting a number of the newly started nests of the American tent caterpillar located in a nearby wild-apple tree, *Malus pumila*. Using an eight-power binocular at twenty feet, I observed the chickadee closely while it visited three caterpillar nests in succession. It would first tear open the web, then pick up the small worms (on this date about three-eighths of an inch long and a sixteenth of an inch in diameter) and devour them rapidly. After visits to three nests during my presence, it apparently had its fill and flew off. On examining these nests a conservative estimate showed that 75% of the contents of each had been eaten. Estimating an average of 70 to 100 worms in each (rough count in an untouched caterpillar nest) the chickadee must have consumed at least 170 tent caterpillars at one meal. The chickadee was apparently feeding before my approach, so that it had possibly eaten many more. Tent caterpillars are so tiny at this time of year that they are attractive prey for warblers and chickadees before noticeable destruction of foliage has begun. This suggests that these birds are especially important checks on tent caterpillars at a time that presages their more destructive development.—J. KENNETH TERRES, *Soil Conservation Service, Ithaca, New York*.

Notes from Virginia.—The birds noted below have been considered rare in this section of Virginia. The Black Rail, Pine Warbler and Dr. Smyth's Long-eared Owl are in the collection of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute.