

blackbird has been found not uncommon in Georgia and has been noted with increasing frequency in Alabama, it is rather surprising that it has until now escaped observation in Florida. In southern Mississippi, where it is common throughout the winter and early-spring months, relatively little land is under cultivation, and apparently because of the scarcity of open fields and pastures the flocks observed were feeding to a large extent in the cut-over pine woods. There is a possibility that this is likewise the case in Florida and may explain why Brewer's Blackbird has until now been overlooked.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Gulfport, Mississippi*, and GEORGE H. LOWERY, JR., *Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*.

Brewer's Blackbird in Alabama.—In substantiation of the reports of Messrs. T. D. Burleigh and G. H. Lowery, Jr., on the Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) in Alabama, I give my record of the bird as observed near Orion, Alabama (about fifty miles south of Montgomery), on March 16, 1939. A number of males and females were observed (8-power binocular) under excellent light conditions at a distance of approximately 200 feet between 5.00 and 6.00 p.m. They were in company of a flock of about forty Cowbirds, and their Rusty Blackbird shape with the distinct purplish reflections of the heads of the males was easily seen. Several females observed were slate-colored and possessed the distinct brownish eyes of the females of the species. The birds were feeding in the cow pasture of a dairy and remained until shortly before dusk, when all departed apparently for a nearby lowland wooded area.—FREDERICK J. RUFF, *U. S. Forest Service, Atlanta, Georgia*.

Dickcissel at Bar Harbor, Maine.—Mrs. Maurice Sullivan captured a Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) at Bar Harbor, Maine, on November 20, 1939. This bird was observed in company with Tree Sparrows and after identification it was trapped. This constitutes the first record for Mount Desert Island, Maine, as far as can be determined. Two other records for Maine are recorded in 'The Auk.' The first is of a young male shot on Job's Island, Penobscot Bay, September 29, 1884. The second specimen was a young male taken at Westbrook, Maine, October 10, 1888, by Ralph H. Norton. The specimen taken at Bar Harbor is a young male. It has been mounted and added to the Museum of Acadia National Park.—MAURICE SULLIVAN, *Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor, Maine*.

European Goldfinch in New York.—On May 27, 1940, Mrs. G. H. Russell reported a bird which had "red plush" around its bill. The writer went with Mrs. Russell to investigate this bird and, arriving at the very place where she had first sighted it, on Cornell Heights, Ithaca, New York, found it at once and heard it singing. It was a European Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*, and a very gifted singer. Its song, which is unusually bright and clear, and very canary-like, was recorded the next day by Mr. Charles Brand, and is now in the files of the Albert R. Brand Bird-song Foundation collection. The bird has been very tame and has remained in approximately the same locality for nearly a week. Dr. Arthur A. Allen, Dr. P. P. Kellogg, and several student ornithologists from Cornell University have visited the place to see it.

It is unlikely that the bird is an escaped one, since it is in excellent condition; it is perfectly at home in the open; it knows where to find food; and it was seen associating with American Goldfinches. Then, the bird has survived through a week, more or less, of severe rainstorms which have lasted as long as two days and one night. A cagebird most likely could not endure such severe conditions.

E. H. Eaton, in 'Birds of New York' (New York State Museum Memoir, no. 12) reviews the yearly records of European Goldfinches in New York since their introduction into the State in 1878. The last records that he gives are in 1900 and 1901. Although Pearson's 'Birds of America' lists a bird from Ithaca seen in 1899, we find no records of this bird in the 'Cayuga Fauna,' which surely would have included it had it been known.—WILLIAM MONTAGNA, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Red Crossbill in the West Virginia Mountains.—During the summer of 1939, Dr. George M. Sutton and Maurice Brooks saw, and recorded (Wilson Bull., 52: 36, 1940) the presence of Red Crossbills in the Cheat Mountains of Randolph and Pocahontas Counties, West Virginia. Although one bird was shot, it could not be found, thus making subspecific determination impossible.

On the afternoon of June 15, 1940, the writers found a number of Red Crossbills on Gaudineer Knob of the Cheat range, and one bird, a young male, was secured. The birds were feeding on the new cones of spruce trees at elevations around 4400 feet.

The bird secured was not in full red plumage, the rump being bright vermilion red, and the breast with red streakings. The gonads were of intermediate size, and some evidence of molt was to be seen in the tail. Measurements were as follows: wing, 90 mm.; tail, 55; tarsus, 19; culmen, 17; depth of bill, 9. These dimensions all fall within the limits of Griscom's (Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 41: 77-210, 1937) recently described northeastern race of the species, *Loxia curvirostra neogaea*. The length of the wing (90 mm.) places our specimen outside the limits of the putative southern Alleghenian race of the Red Crossbill, since Griscom gives the wing limits for these birds as 81-87 mm. Our bird is therefore the first representative of *Loxia curvirostra neogaea* to be recorded from West Virginia. The only other Red Crossbills recorded from the State are two individuals, a male and a female, of *Loxia curvirostra minor* (Brehm), which were taken in Ritchie County on July 1, 1889.

Among the other Red Crossbills which we saw on Gaudineer Knob on June 15 were one or two brightly colored males, and one streaked juvenile bird which pursued a male as though it were begging food. Obviously, this is not sufficient evidence to indicate the local breeding of the birds, but the presence of crossbills in the Cheat Mountains during two successive years suggests the possibility that they *may* have bred locally.

Brooks and Sutton (in the paper cited above) suggest three possible explanations to account for the presence of the birds in the West Virginia mountains.

1. The birds may be vagrants from more northern points. However, their presence during two successive years, with no records known to the writers of notable southward movements of the birds in other sections, and with the evidence of streaked juveniles seen both years, tends to discredit this proposition.

2. The birds may be stragglers from the mountains of Tennessee. If this were true our birds should correspond in measurements with the Tennessee birds which Griscom suspects may represent an unnamed race. It has been pointed out above that our single specimen falls well within the size limits of *L. c. neogaea*, but outside the measurements (of the wing) given for the southern birds.

3. The birds may represent a more or less permanent resident population in the Cheat Mountains system. In this connection it might be well to state that Brooks observed Red Crossbills in the Cheat Mountains during the summer of