

6. Various people have reported Red Crossbills to me at feeding stations in various suburbs south and west of Boston since the middle of March. They were able to be sure of the species only. Mrs. Dane of Lexington, however, had three birds on her window feeding-shelf with Purple Finches and was struck by their small size in comparison and their stubby bills. She really does know the Eastern Crossbill, and there is a good probability that her birds were Sitka Crossbills, as she suspected at the time.

7. On March 31, so Professor S. A. Eliot, Jr., advises me, a flock of crossbills appeared in the larches in Childs Park, Northampton. The extreme tameness of these birds permitted very close studies, and on at least one occasion White-winged Crossbills were present for direct comparison. Professor Eliot was convinced that they were Sitka Crossbills. He took eight of us there on April 20; we were within twenty-five feet of these twenty birds, and I am positive every one was a Sitka Crossbill. A few minutes later we were taken to a lawn on the main street of Northampton. Here, feeding on the ground under a hemlock tree, fifteen feet only from a sidewalk with Sunday crowds passing to and fro, were ten White-winged Crossbills and fifteen Red Crossbills. The majority of these were as small as, or even smaller than the White-wings, with stumper bills. It is just possible that three birds were a little bigger, but certainly the difference was not sufficient to make sure of two different subspecies, as in the case of the odd bird at Lynn. I might add that six out of the eight visitors from eastern Massachusetts had had recent experience with the birds where collected specimens had positively proved identity. No matter how desirable, it was of course out of the question to shoot a specimen at either place. I can do no more than give my opinion and the evidence back of it, but I think Professor Eliot is to be complimented on his diagnosis of these birds.

8. I have heard of flocks of Red Crossbills at two places on Long Island, New York, and Mr. Charles P. Preston just writes me of eleven Red Crossbills on April 12 at Westmoreland State Park, forty miles east of Fredericksburg, Virginia. It is to be hoped that specimens can be collected.

9. The evidence is that a very few Eastern Crossbills are present, and the assumption that all birds seen are the Alaskan race is unfortunately not justified.

10. For the benefit of readers in the eastern States, whose reference books do not mention the Sitka Crossbill, the following points may prove useful under the most exceptionally favorable circumstances. As many observers are aware, the White-winged Crossbill is a smaller bird than the Eastern Red Crossbill, with a smaller and slenderer bill, and these differences are obvious in life when the two species are together at close range. The Sitka Crossbill, as regards extreme or typical specimens, is just as small as a small White-winged Crossbill; the bill is equally slender, but not so long, giving a stumpy effect.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

Early records of the Clay-colored Sparrow in Michigan.—Except for A. B. Covert's unsupported statement in 1881 (*Hist. of Washtenaw County*, p. 181) that the Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) is "a very rare migrant" in Washtenaw County, the first Michigan record which we find in the literature is in Amos W. Butler's 'Birds of Indiana' (1898: 960). Butler said, "Mr. L. Whitney Watkins took several specimens from about forty seen at Manchester, Mich., September 3, 1894." A few years ago William G. Fargo presented the Watkins collection to the University of Michigan and we are therefore able to check these original specimens.

They still bear Watkins's original label with the words "Clay-colored Sparrow" in his handwriting, but as we suspected, they prove to be Chipping Sparrows (*S. passerina*). There are two such specimens taken September 3, one September 4, and two September 9, 1894. In addition there are four similar specimens taken in 1895 (October 3 to 14) and also mis-labeled "Clay-colored Sparrow." We must therefore discard entirely this early report based on Watkins's mis-identified specimens. Unfortunately this erroneous record has already been quoted in the literature at least twice: by R. Ridgway (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 50, pt. 1: 325, 1901) and by W. W. Cooke (Bird-lore, 11: 260, 1909).

We then pass to 1901 for our first authentic Michigan record. On May 2 of that year P. A. Taverner shot a male at Port Huron (Auk, 22: 89, 1905). Taverner recorded the specimen as being "in the collection of J. H. Fleming of Toronto" and W. B. Barrows later repeated this statement ('Michigan Bird Life,' 1912: 510). However, as I now learn from Mr. Taverner, Fleming later returned the specimen to Bradshaw Swales in Michigan. It came to the University of Michigan with the Swales collection in 1913 and is now no. 43500 in the Museum of Zoology collection.

The second Michigan record specimen is the male collected by W. A. Maclean of the University of Michigan expedition at Washington Harbor, Isle Royale, on August 25, 1904. Several others were seen there during the following days (Rept. Michigan Geol. Surv. for 1905, 1906: 125).

The third Michigan specimen is a male collected by N. A. Wood for the University of Michigan at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County, on May 22, 1914 (Sixteenth Rept. Michigan Acad. Sci., 1914: 68).

There seem to be no other records until 1924 when Joseph Kittredge, Jr. (Auk, 42: 144, 1925) made the interesting discovery that the Clay-colored Sparrow was apparently breeding at a number of points in both the Lower and the Upper Peninsulas. Two years later he published additional records for Menominee County (Auk, 44: 259, 1927). Following this lead, others began to find the species at many localities and we now have records for at least sixteen counties in the Lower and eleven in the Upper Peninsula. In many of these places the Clay-colored Sparrow is fairly common. Since the habitat in which the species is usually found in Michigan represents only one stage in the ecological succession which follows lumbering and burning of those regions, it seems reasonable to conclude that the Clay-colored Sparrow was not merely overlooked but was at least rare and has now actually become much more common and widespread in Michigan than it formerly was or probably *will* be after a few more years have passed.—
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'Anting' by the Cardinal.—An instance of 'anting' by the Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) recently was brought to my attention and in view of the fact that this habit apparently has been seldom observed among fringilline birds the details are here reported.

On the afternoon of September 16, 1940, Mrs. T. B. Kurata observed three Cardinals, a male, female and juvenile, behaving in a peculiar manner at her feeding station in the High Park district of Toronto. She first noticed that they were picking up minute objects which were wiped through the body feathers,—under the wing, about the thighs and at the base of the tail. Closer inspection revealed that these objects were small, winged, 'red' ants, hosts of which were emerging from the ground. The birds seemed somewhat excited and persisted at this occupation for ap-