Richmondena cardinalis. Cardinal. A pair of these uncommon Colorado visitors was observed in a wild plum thicket along Black Wolf Creek one mile north of Beecher Island, Yuma County, on March 25, 1950. Unfortunately, it was impossible to check the area later in the season to see whether the pair nested.

Pipilo maculatus. Spotted Towhee. On January 10, 1951, a bird of this species was noted in a thicket of a cottonwood creek bottom at the entrance of Spring Canyon, five miles southwest of Ft. Collins. On February 17, 1951, a towhee, perhaps the same individual, was seen in a bush on a nearby hillside. Presence of the species in winter, although not rare, is worthy of note. Spotted Towhees are known to nest in this same area in the spring.—RICHARD G. BEIDLEMAN, *Zoology Department, Colorado A. and M. College, Fort Collins, Colorado, February 20, 1951.*

Sitka Crossbill in Kansas.—The exceptionally severe storms which lashed the Pacific Northwest during late October, 1950, might be expected to have caused some irregular wanderings of birds. The first of the several storms moved inland from the Pacific Ocean on October 26, striking British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and northern California with gale-force winds. On October 27, a pronounced cold front moved inland over Oregon and Washington; this cold front then swept eastward across the continent, reaching eastern Kansas about 7:30 a.m. on November 1.

Late in the afternoon of November 1, Manuel J. Vélez found an adult male Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) on the University of Kansas campus, in Lawrence, Douglas County. Although the bird was still alive, it was emaciated and too weak to fly. Olin L. Webb saw three or four other crossbills, evidently of the same species, feeding in conifers near the same spot just before dusk on November 1. The captured bird died before dawn, November 2, and was brought to me for preparation as a skin. I found no sign of injury or organic disorder. The bird simply appeared to have died from starvation and exhaustion. Its gizzard contained a few tiny seeds and several bits of grit.

I have identified the specimen (no. 29846 Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist.) as *Loxia curvirostra sitkensis* Grinnell (= *minor* in Griscom, cited below), the breeding Red Crossbill of the "humid coastal strip of the northwestern Pacific coast district from southern Alaska south . . . . to the coastal ranges of Washington and northwestern Oregon" (Griscom, Proc. Boston Nat. Hist., 41, 1937:121). Although the plumage of the specimen is only slightly worn, its wing measures 79.4 mm., which is a smaller wing measurement for an adult male than any recorded by Griscom (*loc. cit.*) for this "smallest of New World crossbills." Other measurements are: tail, 46.0 mm.; tarsus, 15.6; culmen, 15.0; bill depth, 8.7. In color of the body plumage, the specimen is primarily red (Dragon's-blood Red on crown and back, Coral Red on under parts, except abdomen, which is Coral Pink), with many greenish-yellow feathers interspersed. It was not molting. The testes were not enlarged.

There is, of course, no proof that the crossbills recorded here actually moved out of their normal breeding range as a direct result of the storms mentioned above. However, the severity of those storms, the unseasonably warm weather over much of the United States preceding the storms, the breeding range of the subspecies represented by the specimen captured, and the emaciated condition of the specimen all seem to indicate that the storms were probably responsible for this flight.

This is the earliest fall record (by eight days) for any crossbill in Kansas, and the second time that the subspecies *sitkensis* has been taken in this state. The previous record is of three males and three females collected on January 25, 1920, at Lawrence.—HARRISON B. TORDOFF, *University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas, November 8, 1950.*

Caprimulgus ridgwayi in Michoacán, México.—One of the most interesting birds Roger Hurd and I encountered during our brief sojourn along the Rio de la Alberca, near Chupio, about 12 kilometers south of Tacámbaro, Michoacán, in the early spring of 1949, was the Collared Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus ridgwayi*). We noted the species daily from March 5 to 9, finding it invariably in dry gorge bottoms. Although we made a point of listening for it at night, we never heard it. On two occasions we flushed two birds at once, but none of the four specimens collected (one male and three females) was in breeding condition.

Our four specimens closely resemble Nelson's type of *"Antrostomus ridgwayi"* in both size and color. As a series they are quite uniform, none of them exhibiting paleness of crown at all comparable to that of Nelson's type of *"Antrostomus goldmani,"* which possibly is a variant of *ridgwayi*

(van Rossem, Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., 6, 1931:251). A specimen from the supposed range of *goldmani* in the collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (116,894), a male bird from Santa Isabel, Nayarit, resembles closely, especially in crown-color, the type of *ridgwayi*.

In an attempt to learn more about color variation in *Caprimulgus ridgwayi*, I assembled a total of 15 specimens—the two above-mentioned types from the U. S. National Museum; three specimens from Honduras (*C. r. troglodytes*), from the Museum of Comparative Zoology; two Oaxacan specimens from the Percy W. Shufeldt collection; one from each of the states of Sonora, Nayarit, Guerrero, and Chiapas, from the collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology; and my four Michoacán specimens. Of the 15, nine are males. The variation in tail-pattern among these males is great. In one Honduras specimen the thumb-mark on the inner web of the outermost rectrix measures 51 mm. in length. In my single Michoacán male, this spot measures only 43 mm. long. Females presumably do not have white thumb-marks on the tail, but a supposed female from Oaxaca, a specimen with only 8 rectrices, is boldly marked with white at either side of the tail.

Comparison of *C. ridgwayi* with various races of *C. vociferus* has revealed that the buffy collar, which is so noticeable on the back of the neck in *ridgwayi*, is not always wholly diagnostic of that species. The "female in the rufous phase from Pátzcuaro, Michoacán" mentioned by Griscom in his original description of *"Caprimulgus ridgwayi minor,"* has, I find on examining the label, been identified by the late A. J. van Rossem as *C. vociferus arizonae*. I have checked this species-identification carefully with other Michoacán examples of *C. vociferus* in hand, and I consider it correct. The specimen (MCZ 102992) does have a definite, indeed a rather noticeable, buffy collar on the back of the neck, a character which doubtless led Griscom to call it *ridgwayi*. The bird is not definitely barred on the flanks and belly as is *ridgwayi*, however; and the fact that the barring of the inner web of the outermost primary is confined largely to the edge indicates it to be *vociferus*. In all 15 *ridgwayi* at hand, both males and females, the outermost primary is boldly marked with bars which almost meet at the rachis.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 4, 1950.*

Lapland Longspur in Arizona.—On February 5, 1951, Mr. Samuel A. Wiener, a graduate student at the University of California, Los Angeles, picked up two dead birds in a snowbank at the junction of U. S. Highways 260 and 63 in Petrified Forest National Monument, Navajo County, Arizona. Apparently the birds had been struck and killed by an automobile; they were slightly crushed, and neither was emaciated. Both were prepared as study skins. One, an adult female which weighed 32.0 grams, is a Utah Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris utahensis*), kindly identified by Dr. W. H. Behle. I have identified the other after comparison with a series in the Dickey Collection as a Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus alascensis*). I was unable to sex this bird, but it appears to be an adult female and it weighed 22.3 grams. This specimen seems to represent the second known occurrence of the species in Arizona. Dr. Allan R. Phillips informs me that the only other record known to him is another unsexed example of the race *alascensis* which he collected at Meteor Crater, 36 miles east of Flagstaff, Coconino County, on November 15, 1947.—THOMAS R. HOWELL, *Department of Zoology, University of California, Los Angeles, California, March 29, 1951.*

Short-eared Owl Eaten by Horned Owl.—Although the Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) is known to capture and eat almost any kind of animal within limits imposed by its own size, there are but few records of capture of other large owls.

On May 23, 1950, I found a nest of a Horned Owl in Uintah County, 5 miles northeast of Roosevelt, Utah, which contained the following animal components: the synsacrum and legs of a freshly killed Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), the pelvis and legs of a young muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*) and an adult jack rabbit (*Lepus townsendi*), the fresh feathers of an adult female Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), an immature Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*), an adult Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), a domestic pigeon, and the dried feet of an American Coot (*Fulica americana*). This diet was furnished for three nestlings.—MERLIN L. KILLPACK, *Biological Department, Roosevelt Union High School, Roosevelt, Utah, February 5, 1951.*