

were the first that she had seen in 10 years of residence in the Dominican Republic. The birds were seen again on January 17.

The occurrence of the species is not unexpected since it has been observed on at least two occasions as far east as Puerto Rico (personal communication James Bond).—Ira Joel Abramson, 12550 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami, Florida, 33161, William J. Weiss, Jr., 602 Mountain Road, Kinnelon, New Jersey 07405, Annabelle Dod, Apartado 1053, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.



TRANS-ATLANTIC VOYAGE OF WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS (*Loxia leucoptera*).—A non-ornithologist friend of mine described some birds he had seen and photographed aboard ship during a trans-Atlantic ocean voyage. The two birds, one in adult and the other in juvenile plumage, were first noted on the morning of October 14, 1971 shortly after ship passed south of Newfoundland, and last noted on October 19, 1971 when the ship docked at Cobh, Ireland.

The photographs were examined by Dr. Harrison B. Tordoff of the University of Minnesota, who felt that the juvenile had typical White-winged Crossbill plumage, with sharper streaking, broad white wingbars, white on tertials and slim bill, which are diagnostic of the species. Although white wing bars were not conspicuous in the male, other features including the pink body plumage, slim bill, black wings, tails and scapular area and white spotting on tertials were diagnostic.

Such an observation arouses speculation regarding the origin and distribution of some trans-oceanic accidentals and also of disjunct populations, such as the White-winged Crossbills of Hispaniola. While the latter could not have been carried by ship, floating objects in favorable currents may have played a role in the spread of

some species for which this mechanism has never been suspected.—Ira Joel Abramson, 12550 Biscayne Boulevard, North Miami, Florida 33161.

That birds hitchhike on ships at sea is well-known. An instance was that of a juvenile Northern Oriole banded in a recent August on Nantucket Island, Mass., which turned up that October on a ship bound from Montreal to Lisbon, Portugal, as the ship was moving down the Saint Lawrence River. A passenger captured and fed the oriole aboard ship, and upon arrival in Portugal, carried it by car to the outskirts of the city, where it was released in good condition. Perhaps fortunately, no Portuguese birder has yet claimed a new species for the European list.—Ed.

Communications

To The Editor:

In *Am. Birds* 28:73(1974) Frances Williams reports for the Southern Great Plains Region that:

“This fall observers in the high rainfall area of Nacogdoches discovered their sewage ponds and added a new bird to the state list! A ♀ *Long-tailed Jaeger* was collected Sept. 5. There had been a previous sight record in the state but this was the first specimen.”

I would like to point out that the previous Texas record was definitely more than a sight record, although it is true that the bird was not collected. I photographed an immature Long-tailed Jaeger at Gilchrist, Texas, on Nov. 28, 1971. Several color pictures, with the bird both sitting and in flight, were obtained and show all of the essential field marks. Many experienced birders were present at that time, and many others have examined the photographs.

One of these photographs, reproduced from the color slide and captioned “first authenticated state record,” appeared in *Am. Birds* 26:25, (1971). I believe this documentation to be sufficient to establish a state record without the necessity of collecting the specimen.

The Nacogdoches bird may be “. . .the first specimen,” but it is not “. . .a new bird to the state list!”

—John L. Tveten, Baytown, Texas.