

Cassin's Sparrow in Cleveland County, Oklahoma.—On November 21, 1952, in the South Canadian River bottomlands just west of the town of Noble, Cleveland County, Oklahoma, I saw a small sparrow atop one of the small, shrubby trees lining the river bed. I collected the bird, which seemed reluctant to fly, finding it to be a Cassin's Sparrow (*Aimophila cassini*). It was an immature (the skull was incompletely ossified) female in extensive molt. I wish to describe the plumage in detail for little has been written about the molt of this species.

The flight feathers are molting symmetrically on both sides, and the major tracts of the body are studded with pin-feathers. The first three primaries and their coverts are old, worn, and brownish-gray edged with tan. They are noticeably different from the inner six primaries and their coverts, and the tertials, all of which are dark gray edged with light brownish gray. The fourth and ninth primaries (counting from the outside) are considerably shorter than the others. The tail is markedly graduated, the longest rectrices being the two innermost pairs. These four feathers are still sheathed at the base; the longest falls one millimeter short of the lowest tail measurement given by Ridgway (1901. *U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull.*, 50:253) for adult females of this species. The fourth pair of rectrices (counting from the outside) are about midway in length between the longest and the third pair. The latter are about one-half as long as the median four. The second pair of rectrices are about midway in length between the third pair and the outer-most pair which are as long as the upper tail coverts.

This bird was probably in a normal postjuvenile molt, for according to Phillips (1951. *Wilson Bull.*, 63:324) the species molts rather late. Swarth (1908. *Condor*, 10:114) states that an immature female taken by him in Arizona on October 26 was in the midst of a molt, covered with pin feathers, and that other Cassin's Sparrows which he observed during the first week in November were quite as ragged in appearance. It is interesting that this molting bird should be found in late November in central Oklahoma, for the species has previously been reported only from western Oklahoma (Cimarron, Jackson, and Harmon Counties), where it is reported to breed (Nice, 1931. *Publ. Univ. Okla., Biol. Surv.*, 3 (1):185).—JEAN W. GRABER, *University of Oklahoma, Norman, April 5, 1953.*

Red Crossbill in Oklahoma.—Criscom (1937. *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, 41:165) stated that there were no records of the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) for Oklahoma. Subsequently the species has been recorded a few times. During the extensive invasion of the plains and eastern states by this species in 1950-51, birds were seen in several north-central localities in Oklahoma (see *Audubon Field Notes*, 1951, 5:4, 27, 192, 214). Dr. F. M. Baumgartner has kindly informed me that, so far as he knows, no specimens were collected in Oklahoma during this invasion.

It therefore seems worthwhile to place on record my notes on this species in the Black Mesa country of Cimarron County, made during a four and a half day collecting trip (November 28 to December 2, 1952) in the vicinity of Kenton.

Though piñon-juniper is the dominant tree growth of the area, there are many fine western yellow pines (*Pinus ponderosa*) about six miles southeast of Kenton on the Regnier Ranch. I encountered crossbills only in the vicinity of these pines. On December 1, I collected one of two males which were sitting quietly (not feeding) in a large pine. The following morning I saw and heard two crossbills flying over, and later in the morning, a single crossbill with a flock of House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*).