

White-winged Crossbill eating teasel seeds.—Two White-winged Crossbills (*Loxia leucoptera*) were seen feeding on the seeds of teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*) growing among some young Scotch pines at Vineland Station, Ontario, on December 27, 1954. The inflorescence of this plant is an elongate head densely covered with erect, slender-tipped bracts about three-quarters of an inch long, among which the small achenes are set; it bears a rather vague resemblance to a conifer cone. As the birds perching on the heads were watched at the shortest focal limit of 8× binoculars, they quickly removed the achenes with the tips of their bills, split them with rapid movements that could not be followed, and discarded the husks.

The only other bird seen by the writer to remove the seeds from teasel heads is the American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*).—WM. L. PUTMAN, *Vineland Station, Ontario, Canada, March 7, 1955.*

Wasteful feeding by White-winged Crossbills.—On July 8, 1955, Guy Marshall reported that some birds were dropping cones from spruce trees on the campus of the University of Minnesota Forestry and Biological Station. Upon investigation, it was discovered that an adult male and three presumably immature White-winged Crossbills (*Loxia leucoptera*), were feeding on the cones of White Spruce (*Picea glauca*). The method of feeding was peculiarly wasteful in that the cones were clipped off from the cluster, held on a branch by one foot, and then a few scales were torn off and the cone was dropped. Marshall and Robinson timed the procedure for 30 minutes. Fifty-nine cones were clipped off and dropped during the half hour at a rate of 20, 20, and 19 per 10-minute period. After the birds moved on, the cones under the trees where these birds were feeding were collected and given to Hofslund for examination. A total of 619 cones weighing approximately 1230 grams was collected. Few of these had more than four or five scales torn off of them.—P. B. HOFSLUND, WILLIAM H. MARSHALL, AND GERALD ROBINSON, *University of Minnesota Biological Station, Lake Itasca, Minnesota, March 16, 1955.*