

1969-100

ACCEPTED

Dec. 20, 1969

White-winged Crossbill: Kingery and party saw flocks of these birds, unidentified, in Turkey Creek at various points 7:30, 7:35, and 7:40; flocks were numbering 40, 18 & 22, and 18 & 22 respectively to the times. Then at 8:30 a.m. in the hills west of ~~They~~ first observations about a mile, two flocks of 18 & 22 dropped into the Colorado Blue Spruce and Douglasfir, 100 yards across the gully from us. While I struggled (literally) to get them into the view of my telescope (25x Bushnell) the other three persons in the party, none experienced, said, "They're red birds with white wing bars." I finally got a bird in the scope, silhouetted against the sky, and saw the crossed bill. Then I found some birds not silhouetted and noted both a male and a female: male with rosy color and white wing bar, female yellowish, with brown streaks, and white wing bar. As we tried to let others see the birds in the scope, the birds suddenly flew off, in those same 18 & 22-sized flocks.

At about 12:45 p.m. Julian and party of 3 saw White-winged Crossbills at Tinytown, two miles from the early-morning observation and 2 1/2 miles from the second observation by Kingery & party. They counted the birds as over 30 in number, but not as many as 40. The ratio was 3 males to two females. The birds were flying from spruce to spruce. They first saw the birds 60 yards away in a Colorado Blue Spruce, then moved to within 30-20 yards. They noted crossed bills, different color from Red Crossbills, and the other field marks. They watched the birds for 15 minutes (until the occupant of the house in whose yard the birds were feeding came out to find out what those people with binoculars were doing peering into her trees--she slammed the door and the birds suddenly departed.)

zzSince these birds were so mobile, we have reported them as the same birds.