

TABLE 1. Measurements of three specimens of the Red Crossbill collected near Raleigh, N.C., in 1967 (weigh in g, other measurements in mm).

Specimen	Weight	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Bill		
					Length	Depth	*Width
Adult male USNM 565199	36.1	93.5	57.0	16.3	17.9	10.2	U 8.2 L 10.9
Adult female USNM 565197	38.1	89.5	51.5	16.0	17.3	9.9	U 8.0 L 10.0
Juvenile female USNM 565198	36.1	87.0	51.0	15.2	12.8	8.5	U 7.7 L 7.3

*Measurements taken at base of bill. U = upper mandible, L = lower mandible.

been found in the state. Breeding in central Wake County probably represents an isolated case of breeding displacement rather than a range extension.

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Fledgling Red Crossbills at Newfound Gap

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On Monday, 14 June 1965, Beth Lacy, 3129 McClure Lane, Knoxville, Tennessee 37920, and I spent the day in the vicinity of Clingman's Dome, Indian Gap, and

Newfound Gap. It was early afternoon when we sat down on the stone wall at the Newfound Gap parking area (on the old road across the mountain) at the North Carolina end of the wall. We had been there only a few minutes when we saw a Red Crossbill alight on the bank (a road-cut) across the road from us. It collected food and flew into the evergreen tree almost over our heads. On a limb sat two fledgling birds, side by side. On another limb in the same tree, but at some distance, was another fledgling. All three fledglings were fed by the parents, and at no time while we watched, did the young ones fly. The mandibles of the young were not crossed. We reluctantly left the area after searching for the nest and observing the birds for about half an hour.

Red Crossbill Observations in Western North Carolina

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The Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) is an uncommon to rare erratic resident through much of the southern Appalachian mountains. The majority of records have come from the Great Smoky Mountains (Stupka, 1963), and observations from other locales are infrequent. The paucity of breeding evidence and the infrequency of large concentrations make the following records significant.

SHINING ROCK LEDGE (Haywood County, N.C.)

On 13 June 1970, I spent 2 hours watching a pair of Red Crossbills as they constructed a nest in a 30-foot red spruce (*Picea rubens*) at Shining Spring (elevation 5,740 feet) just S of Shining Rock Gap. During most of the period, the male perched near the top of the spruce and uttered various call notes and songs, while the female carried small twigs to the loosely formed nest, which was located 12 feet from the ground in the mid-canopy of the tree. Whenever I approached the nest, both birds quickly became agitated and gave alarm notes repeatedly. The nest was apparently still in the construction stage, and no eggs or young were found. After leaving the site, I saw flocks of 15 to 20 crossbills at Ivestor Gap (5,700 feet) and at Shining Rock (6,000 feet). Much to my regret, I was unable to return to this isolated locale at a later date to determine whether the breeding had continued.

Stupka (1963) and Johnston (1963) have reported evidence for breeding by the Red Crossbill in the southern Appalachians. Stupka's records were of adult birds feeding young with uncrossed mandibles, while Johnston's observations were of adults carrying nesting material. In neither instance, however, was a nest actually found. Although no eggs or young were present in the nest which I found under construction at Shining Rock, the record does give additional evidence that the Red Crossbill breeds in the southern Appalachian mountains.

BLACK MOUNTAINS (Buncombe and Yancey Counties, N.C.)

Outside the Great Smoky Mountains, Red Crossbills have been reported most frequently in the Black Mountains, although the species is rather erratic and published records are few (Simpson, 1972). During the autumn of 1969, however, large flocks were present at five widely separated locales through the range, where the birds were found in forests of red spruce and Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*). In most cases, the flocks were mixed, consisting of adult males, adult females, and heavily streaked juveniles.

The first records were on 7 September at Blackstock Knob (5,600 feet) along the Blue Ridge Parkway, where I saw a small flock of five birds. My subsequent records at this spot included 50 crossbills on 13 September, 10 on 18 October, and 25 on 28 November. At Mt. Hallback (6,200 feet) 12 crossbills were present on 18 October. At