

Summer Record of White-winged Crossbill in Columbia County — About 2:00 PM on the afternoon of July 12, 1958, I heard an unfamiliar note coming from a spruce tree in the yard of my home in Red Rock. The property is located at about 850 feet elevation in a narrow valley. When I was able to spot the bird, I easily recognized it as a White-winged Crossbill, although I had never seen the species before. I was able to view the bird as closely as twelve feet, and all characteristics

(including the white wing bars and crossed bills) were noted. The bird was a male.

I went into the house to phone some other birders in the area who might wish to see this rarity, but none was able to come over that afternoon. When I returned to the yard, I saw three male White-wings in the same spruce tree, which was heavily laden with cones. The birds remained at least twenty minutes.

Dr. Ed Reilly of the New York State Museum came over on July 13 to see whether he could spot the birds. He remained some time, and just as if it seemed he would have to leave empty-handed, one White-winged Crossbill appeared. The bird was also seen by Mrs. Anna Carter of Old Chatham. On July 15 I saw one White-winged Crossbill in a neighbor's yard, but I did not record the species thereafter.

Although both species of Crossbill nest in the higher Adirondacks (and the Red Crossbill perhaps elsewhere in the state) and both occur irregularly as winter visitants, I am not aware of any previous summer record for the White-winged Crossbill in this area. I wonder whether these birds were just wanderers or possible nesters somewhere in the region. — Myra Smilow, Red Rock