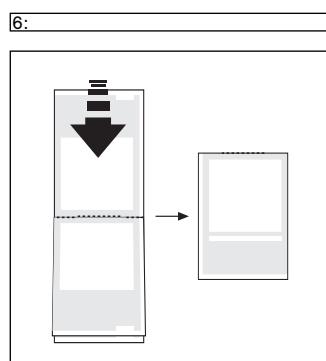
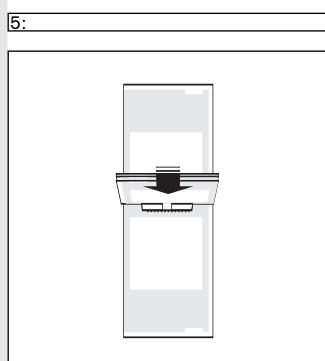
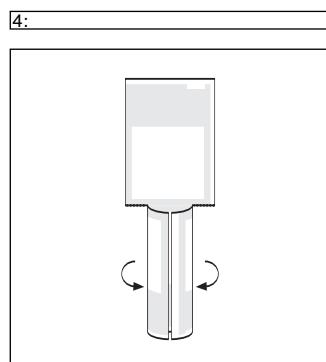
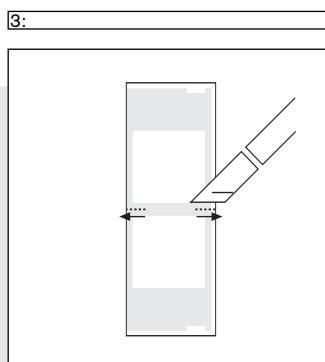
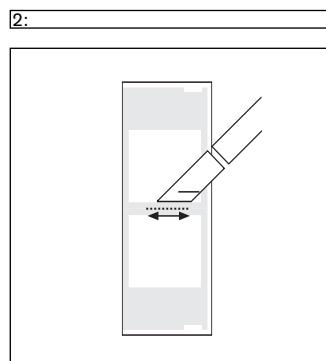
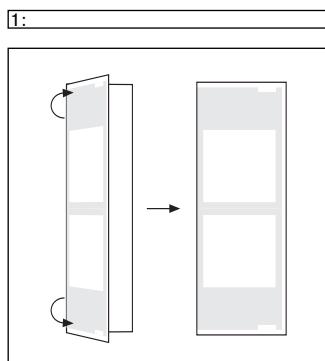


Construction

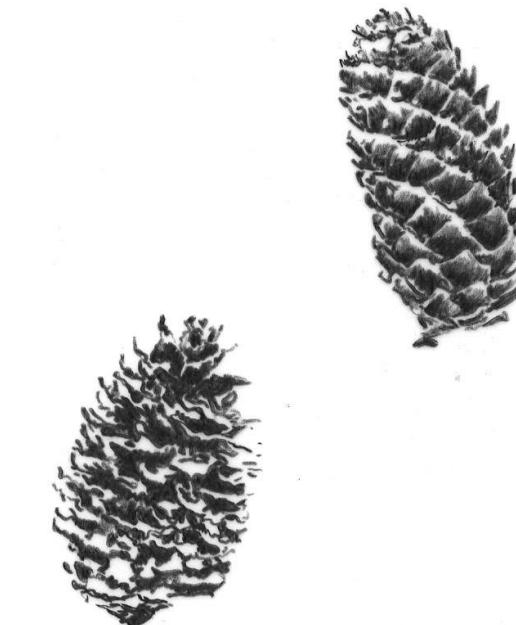


- 1: First, fold each A4 sheet in half along the vertical axis.
- 2: Using a craft knife or scalpel, cut a horizontal slot along the centre dotted line of the first A4 sheet. (pages 1/2/13/14)
- 3: Then cut along the dotted lines on all the other sheets. Make sure to cut to the very edges of the paper.
- 4: Stack the folded sheets in ascending order with the even numbers at the top. Curl the bottom half of the second A4 page (pages 3/4/23/24).
- 5: Thread the curled page through the centre slot of the first A4 page. Repeat this process with the third (pages 5/6/21/22), fourth (pages 7/8/19/20), fifth (pages 9/10/17/18), and sixth A4 sheet (pages 11/12/15/16) with the even pages in ascending order.
- 6: When all the pages have been threaded through, check the pagination. Finally, fold the booklets in half along the horizontal axis.

There are murmurs of more than neighbourly nesting in the forests of Abernethy, Rothiemurchus or Deeside. Co-habitation has consequences for science. Diagnostic difficulties. Tracing strings and sequences to disclose genetic truths. A century of specialised enquiry and still taxonomy puzzles.



Perhaps the target has always been shifting.
Hybridbird.
Identities, we are told, are not designated, but emergent, always in flux.
A perverse biodiversity.
Conservation undone by the object of its affections.
Outstripped by the thing itself.
Unseated as species icon
and crowned as feathered courier for radical species ideas.



And, for some, just as suddenly, a return exodus.
seed piracy! or, nature's vagabonds!
kept. Refugee found. Exile taken. No shrill cries of fruiting trees ends with shared space. Company eruptions. A trans-national search for abundant formation. Amassing, to produce occasional take flight, arriving on the wind in irregular crop failure is the tipping point for migrants to

CROSS-BILLS SHARED WORK IN BIOGEOGRAPHY

by Hayden Lorimer and Kate Foster

Loxia curvirostra, crossbill.

from the search for a bird:



Twisted words,
ruffled feathers,
slim peckings,



What truths might a crossed bill tell?

Flocklore has it that the body of a dead crossbill never decays.
A desire to retain something of its liveliness.
A search for ways to present the fullness of the bird.

words too can lose sure footing.

Step aside, disorientation holds you in its sway.
An apprenticeship in crossbill hunting plucks
landscape out from the picturesque.

In one fell swoop.

The long reach of the mountain panorama
bi-focused into a black-capped close-up.
Across undulating ground, attentions tilted upward
by forty-five degrees. Neck craned to scan the
pinewood canopy. The simplest task becomes a
sudden strain. When in search of something, how
do we learn to look?

All tangled up in the just-out-of-sight. Each
possible line of flight, each shift in the light,
carries a private burden of expectation.

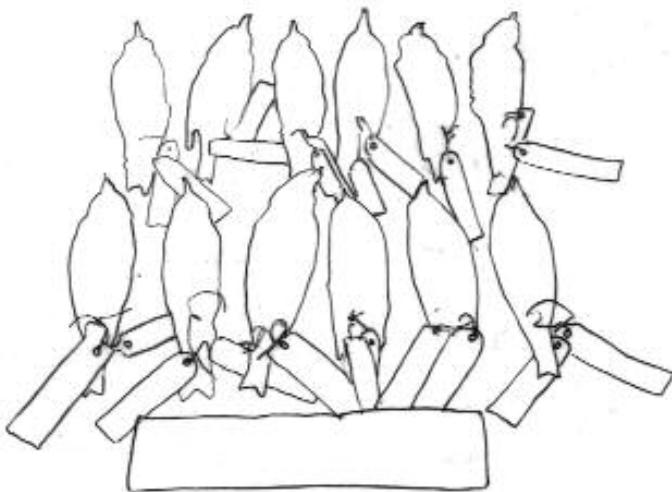
FIELD TIPS TO TRAIN A GIMLET EYE

Scottish crossbills:

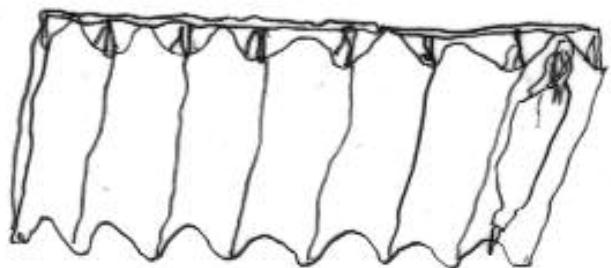
- are particular in their choice of habitat
- seek out tree crowns for a nesting site
- favour “stressed” trees and north-east facing branches
- prefer a grainy mosaic of pines, larches and spruce
- are fastidious eaters seeking out the choicest cones
- frequent ground haunts such as drinking pools



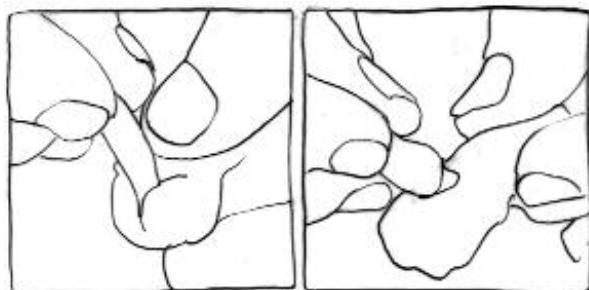
Stretches and nimble fingered cut-ups.
Hushed gatherings of men, eager to deal in eggs
and trade in skins.
Having had their day – still hold fascination.
Field and workshop that – though long since
there are other ways of working. Arts and crafts of
clutches and nimble fingered cut-ups.



Curators keep skins in all shapes and sizes.
And lay them to rest.



A kind of hording.
Elusive birdlife caught fast in grey points and lines.



Graphing the crossbill by its bio- and its geo-
offers more than consolations of technique.
in pale shading that takes only phenomena and
pencil work does less damage. A careful exercise
encompasses captive.



Slit things open.
Snipping. Trimming.
Empty insides out.
Skinning. Slicing.
Draw stuff together.
Moulding. Stitching.



Number 10 in a series of 50:



Collecting at several steps remove.
A 'stiffener' as they were known in the trade.
A card once tucked neatly inside a pack of fags.

Presumably anxious fingers pulled first for the
white-tip-most-likely, lit up and dragged deep.
Rather than looking to see what British Bird was
roosting beneath the craving. Or perhaps, the card
mattered more than this, for an avid city birder,
pacing pavements and scanning corner-shop
shelves in search of the rarest of species.

There are thrills and temptations in the chase.
Beware, of a cult of inquiry all too ready to
transform research subjects into fugitives.
Name names: field method and quarry.

Shift the balance of the search. Seek out species
of passionate enthusiast and sorts of ornithological
expertise. The old and the new life-worlds of the
bird. Chronicle avifaunal assemblies.

Hear my sonogram.



Natural descriptions of origin can be traced in
shape and form.
A calliper science.
First conducted in small degrees
and the drop of a plumb line.
Bill depth and head size.
a typology of avian races.
Loxia, Ernst Hartert, 1904.
Biometric classifications allow for crossbill
distribution to be charted across the Northern
hemisphere. Species ranging from himalayensis
to balearica. A means to know curvirostra from
pyrrhopterus. A way to draw a fine line
between anglica and scotica.

21

9

Still the standard work of reference, Pine Crossbills, was penned by a paid-up member of the awkward squad.

A swashbuckler, schooled in the old ways.
Clad head to toe in field mystique. A poacher and
a gamekeeper. A lynchpin in secretive egging
circles. A militant outrider. And bird lover.

Chances given and blown. With the greatest
precision. Then swaddled. And sold for a song.

(Pine Crossbills p. 207)
Desmond Nethersole-Thompson

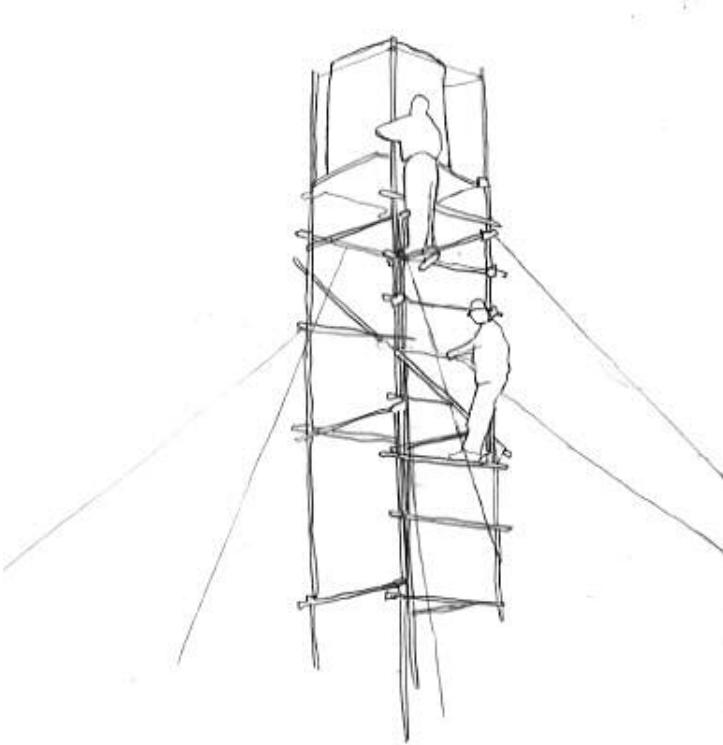
‡ dozing.
crown feathers.
Shuffles and works mandibles. Wind ruffles her
‡ twists round head to wind.
Showers of rain from north.
‡ became alert when hoodie called.
Sheep baaing.
Dug and ate parasites. Meadow pipit singing.

1947 Things seen from a pylon hide:

Long hours perched to document *Loxia Life*.
Keeper of chil vigils and nest diaries.
Or better still, DNT: exemplar "arser".
Or Markham.
That treasured eye for a bird. Like Hosking.
But only with patience in reserve.



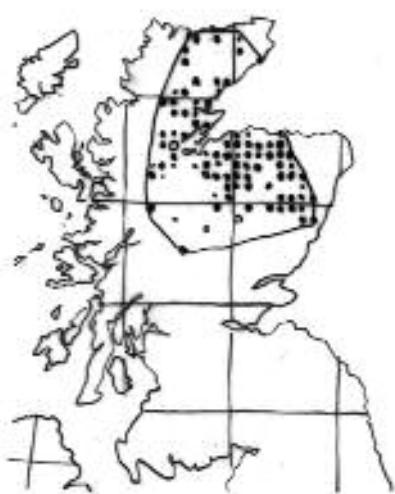
Global extent cleaved off to two sharp-edged
corners, among relic stands of ancient pines. A
ratiocinal for Red List status: scotica, the nation's
only endemic bird. Indigenous register.



and charismatic behaviour.

There are joys to be had observing private lives
From worlds inside, back out.

Well maintained borders are much
in vogue these days:
defining where one thing ends
and another begins.



From the East, they come flocking. Commons and
Parrots seeking residency. Crossbills leaving
behind landlocked Middle Europe, the boreal forests
of the Baltic, Fennoscandia, the wooded plains
west of the Urals. Continental cousins have only
fugly respect for island sovereignty.

**World distribution
Scottish crossbill**

