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INVASION OF THE CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*) IN UKRAINE IN 1996/1997

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Big invasion of the Crossbill was observed in Ukraine in winter season 1996/1997. These birds occurred in many regions of the country. In some places the Crossbills were recorded for the first time. First birds arrived at the end of September and in October. Majority of observations were in December and January. Crossbills were met mainly in small flocks of 30-50 individuals. They actively moved lingering over only in places with plentiful food supply. There was good crop of the Spruce Fir in Ukraine this year. Last Crossbills were observed from March till May. In some places they were delayed till summer. Separate attempts of breeding were recorded. In Khmelnytsky region building of nest by a pair was noted in January 1997. A pair with territorial behaviour and nest building was watched in Sumy region by V. P. Belik on 7 March 1997. In Kaniv Nature Reserve (Cherkasy region) two singing males were found by S. A. Loparev on 8 June 1997.