

(Frost), May 23, 1915, Poughkeepsie (Frost), September 24, 1916, Turkey Hollow (Clinton G. Abbott), May 18, 1924, Thompson Pond, Pine Plains (Walter Granger and Robert Cushman Murphy). On June 11, 1924, while preparing supper at the south end of Schaghticoke Mountain, near Webatuck, at a point along Ten-mile River where it is only a quarter of a mile from the Connecticut state line, we saw a male Prairie Warbler singing in a small tree only a few rods from camp. A careful search next day revealed its nest in process of construction in soft maple brush beside the main road, on a rather steep bank, the nest being about four feet above the top of the bank. Both birds were present. On June 22, Frost returned to the spot and found that the nest contained three eggs. On June 29 it contained two eggs and one young bird. Three or four days later Frost again visited the nest, to find that a rapidly-growing grape-vine had turned it over and without question the young brood had perished. The adults had disappeared.—MAUNSELL S. CROSBY, ALLEN FROST and KENNETH FLEWELLING, *Rhinebeck, N. Y.*

A House Wren Adopts a Family of Young Black-headed Grosbeaks.

—On June 26, 1924, a neighbor who had been enlisted to watch the birds notified me that a House Wren had a nest of young in his apple tree. Knowing that Wrens do not nest in the tree foliage I went to his place at once, and found a nest of the Black-headed Grosbeak containing three young apparently about three or four days old. The female Grosbeak was on the nest and a House Wren was bringing small caterpillars to her, which she took from the Wren's beak and fed to her young. At first it seemed to me as though the Wren was liable to be cited as a co-respondent, but soon the male Grosbeak came and relieved his mate on the nest, yet the Wren continued to come with food which the male Grosbeak likewise received and fed to his young. Thus the Wren's status was fixed as a "friend of the family." However it was noticeable that while the Wren lit on the nest close to the female Grosbeak it was somewhat shy of the male, standing farther away on the limb and stretching its neck to the full length to deliver the food. Both of the Grosbeaks sometimes themselves ate the Wren's offerings, in place of feeding them to their young. The Wren made more trips to the nest than both Grosbeaks combined, but did not carry so many caterpillars on a trip.

This whole performance seemed so odd and unusual to me that I feared my account might be doubted, and I therefore telephoned Dr. W. H. Bergtold who came and watched the exhibition with great surprise and interest. On July 3, the young birds were banded by Dr. Bergtold.

They refused to remain in the nest after being banded. That night was unusually cool for the season, yet the next morning I found two of the young birds perched on some loose brush, where they were being fed by the Wren and the female Grosbeak. To make this record complete it should perhaps be added that a Wren came on May 12, and took possession of a double bird house about thirty feet distant from the tree

whereon the Grosbeak later built. He (I assume it was a male) filled both compartments with preliminary nesting material, but, apparently not securing a mate, lingered until he was found feeding the Grosbeak family.

The explanation seems plain, *i. e.*, that his family instincts made him care for other young when he had none of his own, and this seems all the more plausible when it is further remarked that on July 25, as I went to destroy the nest of a pair of English Sparrows which had appropriated a Bluebird house, I discovered my Wren feeding this family of young Sparrows. The place is 200 feet from the Grosbeaks' nest. I have great regard for the Wren, and would do almost anything for it, but I could not encourage it in such misguided philanthropy. The Sparrows' nest was destroyed, and I waited at a little distance to watch developments. The Wren came with food four or five times. It put its head into the hole of the nest box but would not enter when it found the box empty. The Sparrows came into the surrounding trees but would not approach the nest box while I remained in sight. I shall await this Wren's adoption of another family with keen interest.—VICTOR G. HILLS, 2678 Hudson St., Denver, Colo.

Behavior of Black-capped Chickadees during the Winter of 1923-1924.—Two groups of Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) trapped at Highland Park, Rochester, N. Y., were remarkable from the fact they repeated for three months, only at the station where they were banded although the distance between the two stations was only 835 feet. The environments of the stations were, however, entirely different, one being near deciduous trees and shrubs and the other in the evergreens.

Sub-stations A and E, only a few feet apart, can be treated as one; these were drop traps operated in the yard near my residence in Highland Park with deciduous shrubbery and trees nearby and only one small group of evergreens anywhere near. It was visited by five Chickadees as follows:

No. 38686, banded Dec. 30, 1923, repeated Jan. 27 and Mar. 2, 1924.

No. 38687, banded Dec. 30, 1923, repeated Jan. 1 and 16, Feb. 25 and Mar. 26, 1924.

No. 38688, banded Jan. 1, 1924, did not repeat.

No. 38689, banded Jan. 6, 1924, repeated Jan. 10.

No. 38690, banded Jan. 15, 1924, repeated Feb. 13 and 24.

Sub-station J. Window shelf trap at the Herbarium of the Department of Parks in Highland Park, in the edge of the Pinetum, with the surrounding trees and shrubs evergreen with the exception of a few deciduous trees to the east. This is 835 feet north over the brow of the hill from the other trapping station. This station was placed in operation the middle of January and was visited by the birds before that as a feeding shelf. Sunflower seed and bread crumbs were the bait that attracted the Chickadees, and I was surprised to observe their liking for the latter.