

through his fourth hundred pounds of Sunflower seeds for the season!

VISITATION FROM RARE HOUSE FINCHES THRILLS AREA ORNITHOLOGISTS

Mrs. Willis Geis, 66 Hendrie Ave., Riverside, Conn. sent us the following interesting item which appeared in their local newspaper: (Since this was written Mrs. Geis has reported 10 at her feeder on Hendrie Ave. She banded one.)

Bird watchers in eastern Greenwich these days are very much excited by the presence of a strictly western bird in their midst. The House Finch, a bird common from California to central Texas was discovered by Mrs. Lawrence C. Chamberlain at her feeder on Old King's Highway, OG, shortly after Christmas. The flock has grown from six to twenty and seven others have been banded by Mrs. Edward Easton at her home on Riverside Ave.

Ornithologists from many surrounding communities have come to see them. The House Finches have been most obliging about appearing for their regular meals, sunflower seed preferred.

The story behind the bird's sudden appearance is given by Roger Tory Peterson in "Birds Over America." He writes that in 1940 dealers had brought the birds in large quantities to New York, calling them "Hollywood Finches," and when the law got after them for caging wild birds, those left in their stores were released. Peterson wondered if any would establish themselves in the east. A few were seen on Long Island five years later. One was reported in Bedford and one in Armonk but the present flock seems to be the largest known.

Curator Paul Griswold Howes at the Bruce Museum has a male House Finch in his new collection of Arizona Desert Birds. Once seen it is easy to distinguish from its nearest eastern cousin, the Purple Finch. Richard H. Pough in the Audubon Bird Guide gives this identification: "The male color is generally a brighter and purer red than that of the Purple Finch but is more restricted in area. The best character is the heavy brown streaking of the lower under part.

In the female and young the less streaked, gray-brown back and less contrasting head pattern are generally diagnostic."

Keep your eyes open and you may discover you have a House Finch in your feeder top!

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Mr. Patrick K. Garland, Demarest, N. J. reports banding the following for the year 1951 (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31) mostly weekends. Operating 10 of his 15 traps 1,105 birds were banded, representing 37 species, with 74 returns and 3 recoveries. Also trapped were the following: 270 English Sparrows, 15 Chipmonks, 3 Grey Squirrels, 2 Cats and 1 Rabbit. (Cats and Sparrows were destroyed, the others liberated elsewhere.)

Fox Sparrow	34	White-crowned Sparrow	3
Slate-colored Junco	275	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
White-throated Sparrow	222	Wood Thrush	2
Song Sparrow	6	Cardinal	4
Tufted Titmouse	6	House Wren	1
Black-capped Chickadee	23	Sparrow Hawk	2
Bluebird	1	Sora	1
Downy Woodpecker	10	Maryland Yellow-throat	1
Red-winged Blackbird	98	Black and White Warbler	3
Cowbird	61	Redstart	3
Chipping Sparrow	8	Ovenbird	3
Starling	101	Black-poll Warbler	2
Brown Thrasher	26	Nashville	1
Catbird	10	Magnolia Warbler	2
Blue Jay	99	Black-throated Gr. Warbler	2
Towhee (Red-eye)	47	Myrtle Warbler	24
Mourning Dove	13	Hermit Thrush	3
Robin	1	Pine Siskin	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	4		