

Since the 23d and 24th of March we have noted the Towhee on the following dates,— March 25, 28, April 2, 4, 7, 9 (singing), 10, 12, 13 and 16, when he disappeared.

The occurrence of this Towhee here makes a valid record of the wintering of this species in Massachusetts, and the female that was taken at Bedford, Mass., on January 2, 1896, and the specimen taken at Portland, Conn., would seem to show that this bird can stand the rigors of a New England winter, and that we may look for further records of the wintering of this species in the future.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

The Nonpareil at Longwood, Massachusetts.—On June 5, 1896, Henry V. Greenough brought me a male Painted Finch (*Passerina ciris*) which he had shot at about 8 A. M. The bird was in perfect plumage, its wings and tail showing apparently no cage wear and its feet in perfect condition.

I examined its stomach which contained white gravel, suggesting cage gravel (although the bird had been seen upon a gravel walk where I found the same kind of gravel), a white worm, a small amount of dark gravel and a few seeds (not canary seed), and the bird was also quite fat. Its testes were very much enlarged.

The bird uttered only a few notes on alighting and when started, like *chit-chit*. He was seen the day before, and although fairly tame at first, became quite wild from being watched.

The probability of course is strongly in favor of this being an escaped cage bird, but at the same time, the weather having been fair and warm for a week, this bird might have strayed from southern climes.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

Peculiar Traits of Some Scarlet Tanagers.—Scarlet Tanagers (*Piranga erythromelas*) are not common in this vicinity (Ridgewood, N. J.); for many years I saw only two or three during spring migrations. Within the last few years a few pairs have bred in this locality, generally on the outskirts of woods; so I was surprised to see a pair nesting in a Norway spruce, on a branch only about ten feet from the corner of my house, and about the same distance from the ground. In all my ornithological experience I never knew a pair of birds to live and nest so near my house with such secretiveness.

One of my family first saw the birds from an upper window that looked down on the nest. The nest building appeared to be all done by the female. The male bird was seen usually in the morning, apparently inspecting the work or noting its progress, but was seldom seen during the rest of the day. Both birds when approaching their nest alighted near the top of this high tree and descended through the branches to the nest, which was flat, very evenly built, like a cup of basket work, beautifully woven of material resembling the color of the bark of the