

in the orchard of our farm in Jefferson County, Colorado, located a mile and a half south of the little town of Broomfield. I hurried to the spot whence the cries came and found that I was not mistaken in the notes with which I was familiar in my boyhood days in Illinois, for, there in a high cottonwood tree in the midst of the orchard were two Blue Jays. They were wild and restless and flew off at once in a southwesterly direction, passing near enough, however, for positive identification. The following day my son saw one in the same tree and it flew in the same direction.

Blue Jays have previously been observed around Wray, in the eastern part of our State but it is my impression that this is an extreme western record.—A. H. FELGER, *Denver, Colo.*

Note on the Bronzed Grackle in Maine.—Mention should be made, I think, of the increase in the numbers of the Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula œneus*) in and about Portland, Maine, since it was recorded,¹ many years ago, as "rare,—even in the migration uncommon." It is nowadays one of the common species of this part of southwestern Maine, and during the migration periods sometimes occurs in large flocks. On April 13, 1915, I saw at least six hundred birds together in the town of South Portland. The possibility suggests itself that more than one geographical race may be represented in such an increase. Recent specimens in evidence are lacking.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

A Bird new to the North American Fauna.—The Bureau of Fisheries has transferred to the collection of the U. S. National Museum a fine adult male Pine Grosbeak taken on the tundra of St. George Island, Pribilofs, Alaska, Oct., 1915. This specimen proves to be *Pinicola enucleator kamtschathensis* (*Corythus enucleator kamtschathensis* (sic) Dybowski, Bull. Soc. Zool. France, 8, 1883, 367; founded on Taczanowski, t. c., 7, 1882, 394), and measures as follows: wing, 112; tail, 92; culmen, 14.5; depth of bill at base, 11.5; width of bill at base, 9.5; tarsus, 21.5; middle toe, 15 mm. These measurements are almost exactly duplicated by a specimen taken by Mr. A. H. Clark at Petropaulski, Kamchatka, June 17, 1906 (Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, 38, 1910, 64).—J. H. RILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

The Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) in Southern New Jersey and Pennsylvania.—On January 29, 1917, at about noon in the midst of a cold rain I was walking along a road which passed by a little clearing near a saw-mill at New Lisbon, New Jersey. I heard a series of loud chirpings, something like the chirping of English Sparrows only more resonant. On looking up I saw a small yellow locust tree by the side of the road almost filled by a flock of Evening Grosbeaks. The birds kept motionless for some time and I had an opportunity to count them three times in succession and found that the flock consisted of seventy-four.

¹ Proc. Portland Society Nat. Hist., Dec. 4, 1882, p. 16.

Some six of them were males. I had never seen the bird before, but it was, of course, easy to identify it by the thick white beak and by the bright gold, ivory white and velvety black of the males. A male Evening Grosbeak in full plumage with its black head, golden forehead, thick white beak, black and white wings, golden back and breast and forked black tail impresses me as the most spectacular bird that I have ever seen. Probably this was owing to the winter background of cold rain, brown fields and leafless trees. New Lisbon is in the center of the pine-barren region. This flock seemed to be feeding on the locust tree as one of the birds had a pod in its mouth. On subsequent occasions I would frequently find them in locust trees and there were always on the ground pieces of freshly opened pods. The favorite food during the times that I observed them appeared to be the pits of the common Wild Cherry (*Prunus serotina*). They fed in a circle in the clearing about one hundred yards in diameter and were frequently found on the ground under the various Wild Cherry trees in this tract. The ground under these trees was covered with cherry-stones neatly split in half, while the droppings of the birds showed that they had fed there for a considerable space of time. The birds were restless, but not particularly wild. They would feed together in the trees for a time and then fly all together to the ground and then back again to the trees. I was able to approach several times within about thirty feet of the flock. On inquiry the miller reported that he had never seen or heard of these birds before although he had lived in that part of the country all his life. They had a clear trilling note besides the chirp above mentioned. At times they would all join in a chirring chorus. They reminded me very much of a flock of overgrown Goldfinches with their forked tails and the gold and black and white of their plumage, just as a flock of Pine Grosbeaks makes one think of a flock of overgrown Purple Finches. I am under the impression that I heard the call-note of this bird the night before in a swamp near my camp though at the time I thought that it was the chirp of some wintering Robins.

I saw and studied this particular flock on January 29, again on February 11, February 12, February 17 and February 22. On February 11 and 12 the flock had been reduced to about forty birds with only three males. On February 17 there were not more than twenty birds there and not more than one or two males. On the afternoon of February 17 a friend of mine reported that he had found a detached pair. On February 22 there had been a light fall of snow and the birds were not found at all in the usual place. Two flew overhead in the early afternoon and in the middle of the afternoon four females were found in the top of a pitch-pine tree. The miller told me that every morning this flock would come into his dooryard at dawn and even feed on crumbs put out on the porch by the children. He said that the full flock at that time was nearly a hundred and that even so late as February 21 there had been seventy or eighty of them in his yard. His figures, of course, were only estimated. A flock of 65 was seen by Dr. E. P. Darlington, at Browns-Mills-in-the-Pines, a little farther east, on January 10, 1917, and they had been seen a number of times by Miss Rachel Weston near the Browns-Mills Inn. This is doubtless the

same flock which I studied at New Lisbon. So far as I can find the other records of Evening Grosbeaks in this vicinity are as follows:

December 5, 1916, at Cinnaminson, N. J., Charles Evans.

December 24, at Smithville, N. J., N. D. W. Pumyea.

December 26, at Westville, N. J., Julian K. Potter, and on December 31, on Mill Creek at Ardmore, Pa., one male was seen by W. J. Serrill. Doctor Stone also advises me that a flock was reported at Hammonton, N. J., on February 22, 1917, by Mr. Geo. W. Bassett, who says they have been present most of the winter feeding mainly on the seeds of the box elder. A single bird was also seen at Lumberton, N. J., March 14, 1917, by Mr. B. F. Clayberger.—SAMUEL SCOVILLE, JR., *Philadelphia*, Pa.

First Recorded Nesting of Bachman's Sparrow in Pennsylvania.—

During the summer of 1913 the writer had the good fortune to see the Bachman's Sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis bachmani*) as a summer resident in southwestern Pennsylvania. At that time the birds were noted at several places in southern Greene Co., close to the Mason and Dixon line.

A close watch was made for the birds during successive seasons but none were seen until the spring of 1916. On May 12, while I was instructing a field class in bird-life, we encountered a pair of Bachman's Sparrows. My attention was first called to them by the continual singing of the male. The female was soon located and the pair carefully watched. The female soon gathered nesting material and flew to a cluster of weeds just inside the border of an open grove of large white oak trees. I made a search and soon found an almost completed nest.

Upon returning to the nest in about one week I found the bird at home protecting her five white eggs. The birds were carefully examined after collecting and proved to be *Peucaea aestivalis bachmani*. The skins of this pair of birds are now in Waynesburg College collection. The set of 5 eggs and nest are in the collection of Mr. James Carter, Waynesburg, Pa. — S. S. DICKEY, *Waynesburg*, Pa.

Bohemian Waxwings at Seattle, Wash.— During the present winter, 1916-1917, this region has had some remarkable invasions of certain species of birds, the most noticeable perhaps being the Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*). As nearly as can be ascertained this species made its first appearance about December 10 in flocks of considerable size, but on the 26th or 27th the great body of the birds arrived numbering thousands of individuals, which thereafter for some considerable period could be observed almost every day within a comparatively restricted area some six miles in length along the eastern boundary of the city, adjacent to Lake Washington. This was accounted for by the fact that within this particular section was an abundant food supply in the form of the berries of the Madrona tree (*Arbutus menziesii*) which had fruited with unusual abundance the past season and of which the Waxwings appeared very fond, it not being uncommon at times to count in one of the larger trees upwards of five hundred of the birds.