

its presence was first noted early in October, and the last one reported as seen here was upon May 18.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Evening Grosbeak at Lakewood, N. J.—I am able to add a small item to the record of the Evening Grosbeak in New Jersey.¹ At Lakewood, on the morning of March 21, 1917, near the corner of Forest Avenue and Second Street, I found a flock of about a dozen birds some of which were on the ground, feeding, others resting in bushes and small deciduous trees. They were gone before I could make sure whether any males were amongst them.

These are the only Evening Grosbeaks I have ever seen at Lakewood, where I have passed several weeks or several months during most of the winter seasons for twenty years.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

Evening Grosbeaks at Hatley, Stanstead County, Quebec.—Since my previous note on the winter birds (*Auk*, Vol. XXXIV, 1917, No. 2, p. 217) Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) I am pleased to say have paid us a visit on their way home to the far northwest, being first noticed on March 10, when a pair were seen feeding on the seeds of the locust or false acacia tree. Five days later a flock of seven (out of which I obtained a fine male) visited my garden, feeding on the seeds of some crab apples still remaining on one of the trees, and on the twenty-first five more were observed in the same tree, of which no less than four were males in fine plumage. In addition to these fourteen examples Mr. W. E. Greer of Hatley Centre, informs me that he has seen a similar number, five on March 11, feeding on the seeds of some crab apples in his orchard, and nine on the seventeenth in a neighbor's orchard, which only alighted however for a minute (as there were no apples on the trees) and then continued their journey in a northerly direction. A noticeable feature this year both with regard to this species and the Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator leucura*) the last of which were seen on April 14, has been the large number of full plumaged males, so different from previous years, when nearly all the flocks were composed of either females or immature males. My example of *H. vespertina vespertina* was given to the Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa, and I believe I am correct in stating that so far as the present material (which is somewhat scanty) there goes, it seems to indicate that there is no such thing in Canada as the Western race.—H. MOUSLEY, *Hatley, Que.*

English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Feeding on the Larva of the Elm Tree Beetle.—Here in West Haven we have a great many elm trees, which, if not sprayed, are badly infested with the elm tree beetle, the larvæ of which eat holes in the leaves causing them to turn yellow and

¹ See *Auk*, XXXIV, pp. 210-212, and p. 218.

fall to the ground. In July and August the larvæ having matured descend to the trunk of the tree where they crawl under the loose bark and form pupæ. For the last three years I have noticed English Sparrows working on the trunks of badly infested trees, but this year they were especially active, I having observed from one to four working on the trunk of a tree at a time. They would creep around the tree in Nuthatch fashion up as high as the first limbs for the descending larvæ. I stopped to watch a pair of sparrows working on a tree to be sure that they were feeding on the larvæ, I was only five feet away so I could positively see that they were taking the larvæ and as they flew away with their beaks full they evidently were feeding young. As I have never observed them taking the pupæ or imagoes so I could not say whether or not they take them, although I have seen them working on the ground at the bottom of the tree amongst the pupæ which became dislodged and fell to the ground. I believe the English Sparrow is becoming more insectivorous each year, as I have on several occasions observed them catching small moths on the wing, also breaking May beetles by pounding them on the sidewalk. Still, I believe the English Sparrow is decreasing in West Haven owing to the fact that the Starling, which is abundant at all times and occupies all available cavities, has forced the Sparrow to resort to the backs of blinds, where the nests are thrown out as soon as discovered. So, under the prevailing conditions I do not think that two pairs out of ten successfully rear a brood in a season. But nevertheless, let us hope that the English Sparrow will continue to be insectivorous, especially in July and August when the larvæ of the Elm tree beetle are at their height.—NELSON E. WILMOT, 24 New Street, West Haven, Conn.

The Slate-colored Junco in Colorado.—Dr. A. K. Fisher collected a specimen of the Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) from a mixed flock in the suburbs of Denver, January 21, 1917. As this form is comparatively rare in Colorado, it seems desirable to record its occurrence in Denver, where hitherto I am inclined to believe it has not been detected. The specimen is in the collection of the Biological Survey at Washington.—W. H. BERGTOLD, Denver, Colo.

Nesting of the Chiapas Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca cærulea chiapensis*).—Ridgway in his 'Birds of North and Middle America' gives this species as occurring on the "Plateau of western Chiapas." His data being derived from two specimens, one of which, from the State of Oaxaca, not being typical. Both of these specimens are females, the male being, to date, not described.

On May 26th, of the present year while on a collecting trip near the city of Tehuantepec with two youthful companions, I chanced upon the nest of this subspecies. Until this time I was not aware that it occurred in this locality and its discovery was therefore a surprise. Both during the fall and spring migrations the western form of the Blue Grosbeak is very