

wall was thin. This opening was nearly a millimeter across and was evidently of old standing, as the corneous hardened gizzard lining extended through to the outer surface, completely sheathing the walls of the opening. There was a slight depression on the outer surface of the stomach, evidently made by the projecting leg. This depression was lined with a thickened, skin-like deposit. The stomach lining had been shed recently as part of the old inner surface still adhered at one side near the wound.

The stomach was full, containing berries, Pentatomid remains, tibia of a locustid, etc."—ARTHUR H. HOWELL, *Washington, D.C.*

**An Attempt to Breed the Pine Grosbeak in Captivity.**—The last week in January, 1917, I heard of a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks or "Canada Robins" as they are called locally, in a grove of red cedars about a mile and a half from my home. The morning of January 28 with bright sunshine and thermometer hovering around zero, I took a bamboo fish pole about eight feet long with a short stout piece of string and slip knot that would hold open three or four inches and went fishing for them. I found a flock of at least twenty-five Pine Grosbeaks *all* in the gray plumage and about the same number of Evening Grosbeaks, the first ever noted here. It was a beautiful sight to see half a dozen of each kind feeding on cedar berries from the same branch. The Pine Grosbeaks were very tame, as is usual when in this latitude, but I could only approach within about thirty feet of the Evening Grosbeaks when they would go off in a startled whirl like a bunch of English Sparrows.

I soon secured three of the Pine Grosbeaks, one of which was much darker than the other two and I judged it to be a female. Returning home I put them in a cage 24 x 18 x 12 inches which I placed in the living room. The birds quickly became contented and in a few days would take hemp seed from my hand or mouth. The second week in February the two brighter colored birds began to sing a low sweet warbling song and at other times kept up a pleasing conversation.

Wishing to keep a pair, male and female, I sent one of the singing birds to the Bronx Zoo where it died in a week or two and was dissected and found to be a male. About the middle of June my singer dropped dead from the perch one morning, and dissection proved it a female. The remaining bird appeared lonesome and for about a week often made the whistling call. The cage was then hung outside the kitchen window over which a grapevine was growing, with a wide board over the top to keep off the rain and within a few days the bird began singing with even more vigor and vim than the others had shown. The first week in July I noticed her hopping about the cage with bits of grass in her beak trying to fasten them somewhere so I placed a wire bowl in an upper corner and put in nesting material—shredded bark, sticks, grass and a few feathers, with which she at once began to fill the bowl and within a week had formed a very good nest. In this on July 9 she deposited an egg and by July 15 she had completed the clutch of four perfectly typical eggs. Being infertile I had to add them to my collection.

During the nesting period the bird would eat from one to three moderate sized angleworms a day. It did not bolt them down after the manner of the robin but bit off small pieces and chewed them before swallowing. Cattle bone was also in demand. This feeding continued for perhaps three weeks and again during the moult in September and October. At other times the bird would take no animal food although insects and worms of various kinds were offered. Its staple food was canary millet, rape, oats and a little sunflower seed with plenty of fruit and succulent grass, lettuce, cabbage and apple cores. The past winter the cage has hung outside with a hood of transparent celluloid to cover the upper two thirds for shelter and wind break. I hoped that the Pine Grosbeaks would visit us again and that my lady bird by calling might help me to obtain a mate for her. None visited this part of Connecticut the past winter, however, and I think but very few came below latitude 45°. I still have hopes of breeding them in captivity as they very soon become tame and contented with cage life. My bird did not mind the cold of the zero week during which she had an extra allowance of hemp and sunflower seed and a bit of suet. She began singing February 1 and at present writing, March 24, 1918, is singing much of her time, using her whistling call notes when Robins or Starlings fly near. Her song is identical with that of the male and rather reminds one of the song of their pigmy representative the Purple Finch but lacks the ringing quality.

If I obtain a male to mate with my bird another year and should succeed in breeding them, there are several experiments to be made. One is to see if birds raised here and given their liberty would remain throughout the year and another in regard to color changes in the male.—GEO. M. MARCKRES, *Sharon, Conn.*

**The Systematic Position of *Calyptophilus*.**—One of the most peculiar of the many aberrant Antillean forms is the monotypic genus *Calyptophilus* of Haiti. This form was originally described by Cory in 1883 as *Phœnicophilus frugivorus*, and the following year the describer proposed for it the generic name by which it has since been known.

Selater (Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., XI, 1886), considered the two genera *Phœnicophilus* and *Calyptophilus* to form a subfamily of the Tangaridæ confined to the island of Haiti. At the same time he remarked, "I have some doubts whether the Phœnicophilinæ ought to be included at all in the Tanagrine series."

Notwithstanding its peculiarities *Calyptophilus* was allowed to remain in the Tangaridæ until 1902 when Ridgway (Bds. N. and M. Amer., III, p. 1), after enumerating several genera that he considered out of place in the Tangaridæ added, "Another genus must also be removed. This is *Calyptophilus* Cory, usually placed next to *Phœnicophilus*; but being a 'ten-primaried' bird, it obviously does not belong here. *Calyptophilus* is of very doubtful position, but probably is a member of the Mimidæ." Accordingly in Part IV (1907) of the same work we find *Calyptophilus* as a