

whereon the Grosbeak later built. He (I assume it was a male) filled both compartments with preliminary nesting material, but, apparently not securing a mate, lingered until he was found feeding the Grosbeak family.

The explanation seems plain, *i. e.*, that his family instincts made him care for other young when he had none of his own, and this seems all the more plausible when it is further remarked that on July 25, as I went to destroy the nest of a pair of English Sparrows which had appropriated a Bluebird house, I discovered my Wren feeding this family of young Sparrows. The place is 200 feet from the Grosbeaks' nest. I have great regard for the Wren, and would do almost anything for it, but I could not encourage it in such misguided philanthropy. The Sparrows' nest was destroyed, and I waited at a little distance to watch developments. The Wren came with food four or five times. It put its head into the hole of the nest box but would not enter when it found the box empty. The Sparrows came into the surrounding trees but would not approach the nest box while I remained in sight. I shall await this Wren's adoption of another family with keen interest.—VICTOR G. HILLS, 2678 Hudson St., Denver, Colo.

Behavior of Black-capped Chickadees during the Winter of 1923-1924.—Two groups of Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) trapped at Highland Park, Rochester, N. Y., were remarkable from the fact they repeated for three months, only at the station where they were banded although the distance between the two stations was only 835 feet. The environments of the stations were, however, entirely different, one being near deciduous trees and shrubs and the other in the evergreens.

Sub-stations A and E, only a few feet apart, can be treated as one; these were drop traps operated in the yard near my residence in Highland Park with deciduous shrubbery and trees nearby and only one small group of evergreens anywhere near. It was visited by five Chickadees as follows:

No. 38686, banded Dec. 30, 1923, repeated Jan. 27 and Mar. 2, 1924.

No. 38687, banded Dec. 30, 1923, repeated Jan. 1 and 16, Feb. 25 and Mar. 26, 1924.

No. 38688, banded Jan. 1, 1924, did not repeat.

No. 38689, banded Jan. 6, 1924, repeated Jan. 10.

No. 38690, banded Jan. 15, 1924, repeated Feb. 13 and 24.

Sub-station J. Window shelf trap at the Herbarium of the Department of Parks in Highland Park, in the edge of the Pinetum, with the surrounding trees and shrubs evergreen with the exception of a few deciduous trees to the east. This is 835 feet north over the brow of the hill from the other trapping station. This station was placed in operation the middle of January and was visited by the birds before that as a feeding shelf. Sunflower seed and bread crumbs were the bait that attracted the Chickadees, and I was surprised to observe their liking for the latter.

Eight birds were banded here as follows:

No. 32151, banded Jan. 21, 1924, repeated Jan. 30.

No. 32152, banded Jan. 21, 1924, repeated Jan. 24 and 30, also Feb. 1, 2, 4, 8 and 12.

No. 32153, banded Jan. 21, 1924, repeated Jan. 26 and 30, Feb. 7 and Mar. 19.

No. 32154, banded Jan. 22, 1924, repeated Feb. 12.

No. 32155, banded Jan. 23, 1924, repeated Feb. 7 and 11.

It will be noted that three of these were banded on the same day and the others on the two succeeding days and possibly belong to one family group of five.

Three were banded at J. later but did not repeat, viz.:—32156 on Jan. 28, 32157 on Feb. 4 and 32158 on Feb. 26, 1924.—R. E. HORSEY, *Highland Park, Reservoir Ave., Rochester, N. Y.*

Common Names of the Robin.—In his interesting paper entitled "The Pennsylvania German Names of Birds," which appears in 'The Auk' for April, 1924, pp. 288-295, Prof. Herbert H. Beck states (p. 295): "Omshel is probably the only other commonly used name for *P. migratorius* besides the more general one based on the Puritanic identification of the bird with the English Robin."

According to the census of 1921 there are in Canada more than 2,450,000 persons of French origin, of whom 1,889,000 are in the Province of Quebec. Nearly all of these people speak the French language. English and French are jointly the official languages of Canada, and in the Province of Quebec, French is the preferred language, in which, for example, the majority of speeches and bills in the Provincial Parliament originally appear. French is the language of much the greater part of the educational system of the Province of Quebec, including some leading universities; consequently many of the people of that province know no other tongue.

These French-speaking people live within the range of *P. migratorius* and are familiar with that species. They commonly designate it by the name of "Merle," which would therefore appear to be in both more general and more standard use than the name Omshel.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, *Ottawa, Canada.*

Some Notes from Michigan. *Otocoris alpestris*.—HORNED LARK.—Two adult males of this species were collected at Waterloo in Jackson County, one on November 3, 1923 and the other on November 18, 1923. The latter has been identified by Dr. Alexander Wetmore.

Vermivora pinus. BLUE-WINGED WARBLER.—A male was collected at Ann Arbor in Washtenaw County on May 17, 1923. A second male was seen on the 20th and was observed for several minutes in a patch of hazelbrush. The bird was singing and may have remained to breed. A male was collected at Waterloo on May 18, 1924.

Vermivora celata. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER.—The Orange-crowned Warbler was quite abundant at Ann Arbor during the spring of 1924.