

30, 31, 30, 31 and 29; at 5.11, 28; 5.13, 29; 5.14, 26; 5.19, 29; 5.22, 27. On June 5 from 5.13 to 5.16 he sang 34, 30 and 33 times a minute, between 5.19 and 5.20 30 and 30. At 5.29 he sang 19 notes and at 5.31 only 14; at 5.33 after 5 notes there was a great outburst of *pee whee-pees* which signalized the end of the song. The next day I recorded only two minutes—30 phrases at 5.10, 31 at 5.15.

Ten recorded minutes with this last bird yielded 18 irregularities. All these individuals at times sang two high notes or two low notes together; these were the only irregularities noted with the last bird, but the Snail Brook Flycatcher twice sang three low notes in succession, and the other two indulged in three high notes occasionally. No recorded minute with any of these birds showed a perfect alternation of high and low notes.

The length of these songs surprised me, one lasting 28 minutes and two others more than 35. The typical rate appears to be from 28 to 30 notes a minute, but all four of these birds sang slowly near the end, a change not due to pauses, but merely to a more deliberate rate. A Crested Flycatcher in Arkansas on June 11, 1927 after 8 minutes of the usual song proceeded with great irregularity, using mostly low notes at long intervals for at least 8 more minutes; but the five Oklahoma birds of this species on whose songs I have made some observations sang both phrases with fair regularity to a definite end and after that indulged in no more song notes.—MARGARET M. NICE, *Amherst, Massachusetts.*

**Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) in Western Montana.**—On June 9, 1928, three Bobolinks were identified by Dr. Dana J. Leffingwell, in the Frenchtown Valley about twelve miles northwest of Missoula, Montana. They were observed at close range in a wet alfalfa meadow, apparently feeding. The flight song and the sharp, metallic call note were heard.

A lone bird had been observed the preceding spring in May by Mrs. Samuel Maclay, in the Bitter Root Valley, twelve miles south of Missoula.—MRS. DANA J. LEFFINGWELL, *Pullman, Washington.*

**Behaviour of Rusty Blackbird.**—About noon, November 6, 1930, in company with my friend Mr. J. Frank Duncan I was walking through a tract of partly wooded pasture land belonging to his estate. A flock of fifty or more Rusty Blackbirds (*Euphagus carolinus*) were feeding on the ground farther up the hill in the direction in which we were walking. Suddenly there was a great commotion among the Blackbirds and instantly one of them darted directly toward us, closely pursued by a Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*). Mr. Duncan and I were side by side and with a space of about two feet between us. In an incredibly short time the Blackbird darted between us screaming at the top of his voice, while the Hawk, who evidently did not see us until within ten feet, frantically checked himself, noticeably fanning our faces, and when within two feet of us swerved to one side and made haste into the woods. When the

Hawk began to check his speed he was within a foot of the Blackbird, and with both feet stretched forward to grasp it. At his closest he was within two feet of our faces for a split second and if we had not been so startled either of us might have caught him in our hands.

The question that arises in my mind is, did the Blackbird deliberately fly toward us, thinking that the Hawk would not knowingly approach us? Without question he saved his life by darting between us. Did his instinct tell him that safety lay in our direction, or was it mere accident that he chose that course instead of any other point of the compass? Is such action common with birds pursued by predators?—JOHN B. LEWIS, *Amelia, Va.*

**Late Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator leucura*).**—On March 14, 1930 three birds were seen feeding on the buds of spruce (*Picea canadensis*) and tamarack (*Larix americana*) at Cranbrook, Michigan. Two were collected, a male and a female, both in immature plumage.—W. BRYANT TYRRELL, *Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.*

**The Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Chesapeake Beach, Md.**—During a number of years of field work in the Washington region, it has been often remarked that certain marshy meadows bordering Fishing Creek above the station at Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, where a little line of railroad comes down to Chesapeake Bay, seemed suitable for the Sharp-tailed Sparrow. For various reasons this area was not explored carefully until June 30, 1929 when a colony of the birds was located immediately, and individuals have been seen regularly on subsequent visits, both during the summer of 1929 and 1930. Several specimens have been collected, leaving no doubt as to identity. The colony has consisted of between ten and twenty pairs, the exact number being difficult to ascertain because of the movement of the birds over the area concerned, individuals flying ahead as one walks through the grass. The marshes in question are saline in character being affected by tide-water coming through the channel of Fishing Creek from Chesapeake Bay distant about half a mile away. In an air-line this area is a little less than thirty-five miles from the central part of Washington and is the nearest point to the city at which the Sharp-tailed Sparrow is known to breed.—A. WETMORE AND F. C. LINCOLN, *Washington, D. C.*

**Clay-colored Sparrow on Cape Cod.**—On September 20, 1930, two Clay-colored Sparrows (*Spizella pallida*) both adult males in autumn plumage, were taken in the banding traps at this station. The first one appeared at 10 A.M., alone in a government-style Sparrow trap set in an open asparagus field and baited with golden millet, while the second bird, accompanied by two Chipping Sparrows, entered the same trap at 2 P.M. Inasmuch as they comprise the first records of this species for New England, I made skins of both birds and deposited them in the collections of the Boston Society of Natural History.