

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.

A third individual of the same species visited the station October 11, 1930. I took it from a trap at 9 A. M., banded and released it. It reappeared at 5 that afternoon, and twice the following day, after which it disappeared.

On November 3 still another individual came into the traps and was banded and released.

The occurrence of these later birds might be interpreted as indicating that, instead of being a rare accidental, the species has always been a sporadic visitor to New England in the post-nuptial season, but has hitherto remained unnoticed because of its very close resemblance to the Chipping Sparrow, with which it frequently associates.—O. L. AUSTIN, JR., *Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham, Cape Cod, Mass.*

The Dickcissel in Virginia.—On May 27, 1927, Mrs. Freer and myself heard a song coming from a dead chestnut tree in the midst of an alfalfa field, just outside the city limits of Lynchburg, which was unmistakably that of a Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). We followed up the song, and presently had a good view of the singer, a male, through our prism binoculars. This is my only record of its occurrence near Lynchburg.

On June 16, 1927, while driving through the Valley of Virginia, we saw and heard another male Dickcissel along the road-side near Newmarket, Va.

I have been very familiar with the Dickcissel in central western Ohio, where it is a common summer resident. I learn from Dr. H. C. Oberholser that there are only four records for the Dickcissel from Virginia, most of which date back twenty or thirty years.—RUSKIN S. FREER, *Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va.*

A Seventeenth Century Representation of the Cardinal.—Among the many paintings by early Dutch artists exhibited in the Ryks-Museum in Amsterdam that include animals of various kinds, there is one of interest to American ornithologists in that it depicts a pair of Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*). This canvas (catalogued as number 1223) is by M. d'Hondecoeter who lived from 1636 to 1695 so that the painting in question was made in the latter part of the Seventeenth Century.

As the Cardinals are shown grouped with a gray Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*), a Love-bird (*Conurus madagascariensis*), a Cockatoo, a *Palaeornis*, and some Lories, it would appear that the painting was made from captive birds in Holland, indicating the early capture of living birds in America for transport to Europe. No colored plate from which the Cardinals might have been copied is known to me that was available at the period mentioned, nor does it seem probable that the representation was made from specimens preserved in some way.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Abnormal Plumage of the Scarlet Tanager.—Early this summer a male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*) was brought to me in a very