

picking an occasional grape, and once I saw Black-throated Blue Warblers strip a large vine of Isabella grapes, but at no time has the damage from these species become serious. We have been forced to prepare each season for Cape Mays, however, and we have now learned how to have both birds and grapes.—MAURICE BROOKS, *French Creek, W. Va.*

**Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) on the coast of South Carolina.**—On the morning of November 8, 1932, my attention was attracted by a small bird, which proved to be a female or immature Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*). It was in some dense bushes in our yard at Mount Pleasant. Although extremely active and restless, it allowed me to approach within eight feet and study its color and markings. It remained in the yard all that day and also the next (November 9), but was gone on the 10th.

This is the first specimen of *pusilla* to be seen in lower South Carolina. There are three previous records for the upper part of the state which have been recorded in 'The Auk.'—E. VON S. DINGLE, *Huger, S. C.*

**English Sparrows Apparently Feeding on Larvae of Hornets.**—On November 5, 1931, I noticed in a maple tree a short distance from my garage, a large hornet's nest. Upon closer examination I found that the entrance at the bottom was torn out and that the hole extended up on one side, leaving an opening about two and one half by three inches. The next afternoon I was surprised to see that the hole was considerably larger and as I was working in the yard I kept the nest under observation. About thirty minutes later there were eight English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) all females, in the branches directly under the nest. By concealing myself around the corner of the garage I was within thirty feet of them and could see very clearly what they were doing.

A bird would fly up and enter the hole disappearing completely, a moment later another would follow. When both were inside the nest they would invariably start fighting, and would come tumbling out, whereupon another bird would immediately enter the hole, this performance continued for about an hour. I observed these birds at this nest every day, sometimes in the morning and sometimes in the afternoon, for ten days, at the end of which time they had torn off the lower two thirds of the nest leaving only a very ragged third still hanging to the branches. The birds were evidently feeding on something they found in the nest but just what it was I have been unable to determine.

The only solution which occurs to me is that there might have been a late brood of hornets, the larvae of which did not have time to develop before the cold weather set in, or that some other insects were making the hornet's nest their winter quarters.

I am very certain the birds found something to eat in this nest from the way they acted and also from the fact that another nest of the same hornet in an apple tree about five hundred feet farther back on my lot was not

touched, and upon cutting this nest down and examining it carefully I found all the cells to be entirely empty.—C. B. GARDNER, *Norwalk, Ohio*.

**A Troupial Collected at Columbus, Ohio.**—On December 1, 1932, the writer collected a mature male Troupial (*Icterus icterus*) in the Botanical Gardens of Ohio State University at Columbus, Ohio. The bird had been reported several times in the University district during the previous month, feeding on insect larvae on backyard shrubbery or coming to feeding stations in company with a female Bronzed Grackle. The Troupial was observed and sketched by Mr. Stanley Bromley for some time on November 20 as it fed upon webworms on Catalpa trees. The bird appeared again at the Botanical Gardens in company with the Grackle during the noon hour on both November 30 and December 1, feeding on pupae attached to shrubbery or flying to a building to remove pupa cases from between the bricks of the walls. Others who watched the bird, noted that it sometimes fed upon berries and dried fruits.

The bird, when skinned, was found to be in good condition and very fat. The plumage, was in such good condition, that it would appear that the bird had not been caged since the last molt.

Troupials are rather commonly imported and exhibited or kept as caged birds but newspaper publicity and inquiry at all local pet stores and zoos have failed to discover information as to any birds known to have been caged in central Ohio. There is at the present time no *bona fide* record of the natural occurrence of the species anywhere in the United States. This collection then, probably does not represent a natural occurrence, but a record of an escaped caged bird which has been able to live for some time in a region far from its native habitat.—LAWRENCE E. HICKS, *Department of Botany, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio*.

**An Abnormally Colored Western Evening Grosbeak.**—On January 1, 1933, an adult female Western Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina brooksi*) showing marked abnormal coloration was collected by the writer on the campus of the State College of Washington at Pullman, Washington. The specimen is now deposited in the collection of the Charles R. Conner Museum of this institution. The bird was seen from a distance several days earlier flying with a number of normally colored grosbeaks. Its lighter coloration made it very conspicuous among the normal individuals, but it was not white enough to be a pure albino.

In appearance, the specimen differs from typical Western Evening Grosbeaks in these respects: the bill, nape, back and tips of the breast feathers, which in normal females are yellow-brown, are lemon-yellow in this bird. The wings and tail are very light gray, through which the normal white wing bars and tips of the inner webs of the tail may be seen; whereas typically colored birds have dull black wings and tails. The head and throat are slightly darker gray than the rest of the body. The eye color was normal.