

lemon colored or whitish iris extending from the then thick edge at the pupil entirely to the black sclera under the edge of the lids and orbit. This investigation of numerous Purple Grackles examined under a microscope definitely explains numerous contentions which have been debated at some length in 'The Auk.' All trapped birds with white irides were fully grown and with complete adult plumage. One male Grackle, A 361356, with coarse brown dots on the white iris was full size but had immature plumage—lesser wing coverts purple, median brown and the greater with tips purple iridescent. Measurements show the smaller birds to have more pigment and the larger birds a greater degree of whiteness. In banding at my residence there have been three per cent trap returns of Grackles banded as adults but no returns of birds banded when having a brown iris.—HAROLD B. WOOD, M.D., *Harrisburg, Pa.*

The Summer Tanager Nesting Near Washington, D. C.—During the course of our work on the early stages of the Gold-banded Skipper (*Rhabdoites cellus*) we visited once a week from May to the middle of July the woods just north of the unpaved section of the Conduit road about half a mile beyond the point where the paved road turns abruptly north up the hill to reach Great Falls (Md.) by a circuitous route.

In this general region we noted three pairs of Summer Tanagers (*Piranga rubra rubra*) constantly present and undoubtedly breeding.

The birds were not at all shy, and kept down in the lower branches of the trees in contrast to the Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*) which, though more numerous and constantly heard singing, was seldom seen.

Another interesting bird nesting in this region in fair numbers is the Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*).—AUSTIN H. AND LEILA F. CLARK, *U. S. National Museum.*

Eastern Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona v. vespertina*) at Williamstown, Mass.—The Evening Grosbeak was recorded for the first time in Williamstown, Mass., on March 19, 1916. Since then it has been a very occasional winter visitor till this year. During the extreme cold spell in the last week of December, 1933, a few appeared and were attracted to a feeding station at the home of John Treadway. The flock soon grew in numbers till forty were counted at one time. They came every day to feed on sunflower seeds and raw peanuts. By early February some also appeared at other feeding stations being seen chiefly in the early mornings. They continued to make daily visits in large numbers till the end of April, when the size of the flocks gradually diminished and they made their final visit May 24. As spring weather came on they uttered their call-notes with louder voice, were rather pugnacious among themselves and showed some courtship actions. They also made soft notes and trills that seemed like attempts at song. The yellow of the males became brighter and they were less conspicuous in leafy trees. In 'Birds of Massachusetts' Forbush gave May 20 as the last date of their appearance in this