

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*).—A male was observed on January 25 and 26, 1924, feeding on weed seeds, on the banks of Bloody Run near Giard Station, Iowa.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*).—On January 19, 22 and 27, and on February 10 and 11, these birds came to my yard in flocks of seven to twenty-six birds and were seen to feed upon the frozen apples that still hung in the trees. I was at times able to approach within ten feet of the birds and they were all of the above species.

Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*).—On January 21, 1926, I observed a single bird of this species, in brush piles in a hollow that is being cleared. As I am familiar with the Winter Wren as a fall migrant, when they are common in this same place, collecting was unnecessary.—OSCAR P. ALLERT, *McGregor, Iowa*.

The Harris's Sparrow in Lake County, Indiana.—The Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) is a very rare bird in Indiana, with only one or two records of its having been heretofore observed in this state. On May 17, 1926, I caught a male in a Lyon pull drop trap, along with four White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*). I took it into the house, where we made positive identification, placed band No. 189152 on it, and released it to go on its way, destination unknown.

Butler's Birds of Indiana (1897) has no record of the Harris's Sparrow having been observed in Indiana, but in his hypothetical list, on page 1162, he states it might possibly be found, on account of having been reported in neighboring states. At page 1178 he states that John O. Dunn shot one in some bushes along the road east of Riverdale, Ill., on October 6, 1894. In the general notes in the *Auk*, XXV, p. 82, (1908) it is stated that one was taken by Mr. Wyman on October 13, 1907, at Beach, Lake County, Ill., and that one was observed by Mr. Ruthven Deane in Lincoln Park, Chicago, Ill., on May 11, 1904. Mr. H. L. Stoddard observed two at Miller; three were observed by Mr. Lyon at Waukegan, Ill., and six by Mr. J. P. Lewis at Chicago, Ill. See the *Auk*, XL, p. 412.—CLARENCE BRETSCH, 690 *Broadway, Gary, Ind.*

Peculiar Behavior of a Kingbird at an Orchard Oriole's Nest.—Mrs. H. W. Glossbrenner, Mrs. A. P. Thomas and myself were making observations at the nest of an Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) in Brown County, Indiana, on June 20, 1926, when we noticed a Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) in an adjoining tree. Both the male and female Oriole having fed the young in the nest, which was placed in the topmost branches of a tall oak tree, had gone in search of food. In their absence the Kingbird flew directly to a dead branch two feet from the nest, then perched on the side of the nest, and, with wings extended and spread and tail spread to its fullest, made several dips with its head into the nest. It was so well surrounded with leaves that it was not possible to see what the Kingbird did. The Kingbird then flew to a perch three feet away as the female Orchard Oriole came back. She made a dart at the Kingbird, which did not leave, then went to the nest, continuing to scold a little. The male Orchard Oriole then came, struck at the Kingbird, sat on a perch six inches from the Kingbird and between it and the nest for several seconds, then went to the nest. Both Orioles left in a few seconds and the Kingbird repeated its per-

formance at the nest as before. When the Orioles again returned the Kingbird took its position three feet away. While an Oriole was near the nest and the Kingbird still on the perch three feet away, one of the fledglings, a bird perhaps five days old, dropped to the ground beneath the nest. It lived about twenty minutes. It did not appear to have been pecked. It showed no blood or bruises either from the fall or from an attack. The Kingbird left in less than a minute after the bird fell. The Orioles resumed feeding the remainder of the brood. We saw only one Kingbird about and could find no nest of a Kingbird in any neighboring tree.—SAMUEL ELLIOTT PERKINS, III, *Indianapolis, Ind.*

An Appreciation of the Scarlet Tanager.—One morning in the latter part of May I started for a walk in the woods to locate, if possible, some of the late migrants which, though past due here, had not yet been seen. I had scarcely entered the outskirts of the forest when I noticed a twinkling of scarlet among the pale green foliage of an oak tree. Closer investigation showed that it was a Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*). He was at work industriously collecting his breakfast. I observed him carefully, with the aid of field glasses. He examined the leaves and catkins about him very closely, discovering and devouring many slugs, green worms and small caterpillars. After proceeding thus with his meal for about fifteen minutes, he evidently decided to have something different for dessert, so he dropped down onto a wire fence beneath the trees to get a better view, and, watching after the manner of a flycatcher, he darted forth into the air a number of times, each time snapping up some delicacy and then returning to the fence. A few times also he dropped to the ground, like a Bluebird, picking up some luckless bug or worm on each trip.

When his meal was finished, he flew back up into the tree, calling several times "*chip-errrr*," with much emphasis. Next he entertained me with a concert of remarkably beautiful song. His song resembles that of the more common Rose-breasted Grosbeak very much, but is not quite so hasty, and, while the Scarlet Tanager is a brother to the Rose-breasted Grosbeak in song, he is a Scotch brother, for he has a quaint burr in his throat.

Any person who could thus observe this most gorgeously arrayed of all our many beautiful summer residents, without feelings of admiration and delight, would certainly have to have a head of clay and a heart of stone.—E. D. NAUMAN, *Sigourney, Iowa.*

Bird Roosts in East Central Ohio.—Near our home in Tuscarawas County are several breeding colonies of Red-winged Blackbirds and Bronzed Grackles. When the young are able to leave the nest the Red-wings have a common roost in a sedgy marsh, while the grackles have a roost in a thicket near the river. In the fall, after the summer dispersion, they seem to coalesce more readily. This coalescence is yet more noticeable in the spring migration, when several thousand birds of the different species have a common roost in some tangled thicket, and sometimes spend two or three weeks of the early spring there. They mobilize at the roost in the evening, and if the weather is fine, will spend some time in mass evolutions. In migration they move in large divisions, in mass formation. In the early morning, when they begin to move to their feeding grounds, they go in the smaller colony (?) groups. We have never noted them feeding in mass divisions except in mid-summer, when the young birds have gained