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

sufficient wing power to mobilize with the old birds in mass evolutions, and before the summer molt.

The Crows seem to preserve the family group until late summer, when they begin to mobilize at a common roost. Several of these roosts, varying in number of birds from five hundred to several thousand, we have had under observation in both fall and spring. A short time before the sun sets they mobilize enmasse for an evening vesper, though the music is not edifying to "uncultured" ears. At day break they begin to leave the roost for their feeding grounds in the surrounding country. They never move in a mass, but in neighborhood (?) groups of from twenty-five to one hundred.

We visited one Crow roost near our farm home on several moonlight nights. With a large wolf skin robe thrown over our head for a disguise, we could traverse the thicket without much disturbance to the birds. Many never awakened, but kept their heads tucked under the scapulars. There was no crowding, but each bird seemed to have a perch to himself. Numbers were so near the ground we could reach them, and it was amusing to see the awakened ones craning their necks in trying to see what manner of beast was trespassing on their private domains.

The juvenile Robins of a neighborhood usually have a common roost in some convenient thicket or sedgy tract, but we have never found them mobilizing in central Ohio in much greater numbers than the local population. Later in the fall we find large divisions of migrants moving in a mass, but their stay is short and there is not much time to note their movements. They winter in small numbers in sheltered places, and we have one record of a winter roost where thousands of birds spent the winter of 1911-12. We give two quotations from our notes of that time. "January 9, 1912. About an hour before sunset they (the Robins) commenced to come in from the hills west of the valley in companies of one to two hundred and continued until almost dark. They were flying low down and seemed bewildered by the biting wind that was blowing a stiff breeze from the W. NW." The temperature was below zero. "January 10, 1912. Took a trip this afternoon about two miles back in the hills and found them feeding on wild grapes, dogwood and gum drupes. This evening twelve flocks passed over to the east, each flock containing from sixty-five to two hundred birds."

This roost was twelve miles east of our home, in Harrison County. These groups continued to come almost daily to our neighborhood until March, and on the warm days of March seemed to be selecting mates, as there was much trouble among the males as they worked the fields and woods in search of food. In the spring migration we have a better opportunity to study their movements because their stay is much lengthened. They sometimes come in large mass divisions but these soon break up into smaller units—neighborhood groups(?)—to work the woods and fields. They do not have a common roost. The small units usually spend the night on the ground, in grassy meadows and pasture fields, and to some extent they roost in the fields in the fall. The local birds are nesting before these groups all leave us. Sometimes we find them in late April. Are they waiting for summer up in the Hudsonian Zone where these groups belong? Would it be "too curious" to think of this vast mobilized army of migrants, as its divisions near the front, having its group units spread out to

some particular section, with which they are familiar because at one time they were nestlings there?—CHARLES R. WALLACE, *Delaware, Ohio.*

The Red-headed Woodpecker Occasionally Wintering in Alabama.—The Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) is a summer resident in the vicinity of Auburn, Alabama, but also every winter a few of these birds are to be found with us. Their habit of retiring to the heavily timbered swamps explains why this species is not so often noticed during the winter months. The easily distinguished, whining "*charr*," uttered while on the wing, during migration, on the so-called "moonlight nights of September," has been noted by the southern observer since the days of the early settlers. This is the only note to be heard as the bird passes over at an altitude of about one hundred yards. At about two minute intervals the note is repeated.

The "late hatches" of the breeding season usually constitute the few that remain with us during the winter. But, before the bulk of the species has returned in April, the winter moult has already taken away the grayish feathers from the head of the young and they are dressed like the mature birds. This winter there was one pair of old birds and one young one left on the college campus at Auburn. During the early fall they were busily storing away the insect-infested fruit of the oaks and pecans, which offered an abundant supply. In winter, when food becomes scarce, the redhead returns for the insect larvae that have been kept in this manner. The pecan weevil, which causes a great deal of damage to the southern pecan crop, is largely controlled by this and its closely related species, the "Speckled Red-head" or Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*).

It is in winter that the Red-headed Woodpecker is most quarrelsome, uttering its "clattering" series of notes, which resemble the noise of so many strokes of a mowing machine knife while cutting. On warm clear days in February the well known whining "*charr*" is again heard, along with its numerous other notes which are characteristic of the breeding season, and its habit of "drumming" with its bill on hard surfaces of trees and roofs of buildings. The Red-headed Woodpecker, like the Red-bellied Woodpecker, always builds its nest in dead wood, using no nesting material other than the chips obtained from the making of the nest.

The redhead is very fond of insects. It delights in catching cicadas and grasshoppers, along with many other kinds of insects. Orchards are often attacked by these birds, which is one of its bad habits. But this can be overcome by supplying them with mulberry fruit (*Morus nigra, Morus rubra* or *Morus albo*), as the redhead prefers this fruit to any other. One or two trees will be sufficient to attract them from over an area of one square mile. Not only will mulberry trees attract the redhead, but they will tend to greatly increase the bird population in general in the immediate vicinity, as these trees ripen their fruit over the entire breeding season (May 1 to August 10).—T. R. ADKINS, *Auburn, Ala.*