

birds, which seemed about ready to leave. They were fed at ten minute intervals by both parents, but during our two hours of observation the parents never arrived at the nest at the same time. On July 15 observers reported that the young had left.

Early in November Mr. Dater cut down the nest. It agrees in general appearance and structure with nests described by Chapman (1907. "The Warblers of North America," p. 174), except that there is a great deal of soft, pulpy white paper (perhaps weathered paper napkins left by picnickers) in the base and wall. This paper, which entirely surrounds some of the supporting twigs, is visible even inside the cup. The walls and lining are very thin.

The Cerulean Warbler has been regarded as a rare migrant in New Jersey. The nearest nesting area has been Dutchess County, New York, on the other side of the Hudson River farther north (Cruikshank, 1942. "Birds Around New York City," p. 392). In 1947 a female built a nest near Lyons, New Jersey, but the eggs never hatched (Nichols, 1947. *Audubon Field Notes*, 1: 172).—ELEANOR E. (MRS. J. Y. JR.) DATER, 259 Grove St., Ramsey, New Jersey.

English Sparrows eating locust leaf-miners.—For the past several seasons there has been a severe outbreak of the locust leaf-miner (*Chalepus dorsalis* Thunberg) on black locust in the central Appalachian region. Adult beetles appear about the first of June, depositing their eggs within the tissues of the locust leaves. Larvae feed on the tissues between the two outer surfaces, causing blotch mines in the leaves. Often practically every leaf on a tree is affected and the whole tree turns brown. Pupae form within the curled-up edges of the leaf epidermis in late July or early August.

My attention has frequently been called to large numbers of English Sparrows, *Passer domesticus* (Linnaeus), feeding in trees infested with these locust leaf-miners. During the summer of 1950 I repeatedly watched, through binoculars, these birds searching the locust leaves and feeding on adult beetles, larvae, and pupae. The birds systematically searched around the curled-up edges of the browned leaf epidermis. Flocks of thirty to fifty birds regularly fed in this manner in a locust tree near my home at Morgantown, West Virginia. On July 5, I saw one English Sparrow eat eleven larvae in a period of a little more than three minutes.

The leaf-miner outbreak has been an extensive one, and I do not mean to suggest that English Sparrows have been an important factor in the control of the pest. It is of interest, however, to see this much-maligned bird doing useful work in destroying shade-tree insects.—MAURICE BROOKS, *Division of Forestry, West Virginia University, Morgantown.*

An aberrantly colored Summer Tanager.—On May 17, 1950, while studying the bird population of a tract of 60-year-old loblolly and shortleaf pine (*Pinus taeda* and *P. echinata*) about one mile south of Athens, Clarke County, Georgia, I observed an adult male Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) in company with a slightly smaller red and yellow bird which at first I believed to be a young male. Realizing that young birds were not even out of the nest at that early date, I tried to recall whether I had ever before seen a red and yellow subadult male of that sort in the spring. While watching the two birds I noticed that the adult male was *courting* the other. I collected the red and yellow bird. Dissection revealed it to be an adult female with several well-developed ova, the largest about 10 mm. in diameter. No malignancy or abnormality was perceptible in the ovary or any other internal organ.

In color the specimen resembles an adult male, especially above. Nowhere, except possibly on the tail, is the red quite as bright as that of an average adult male, but the patches of dull olive-green are not noticeable, the general effect being of a red bird. Actually, the whole scapular tract on the right side is olive green while that on the left is largely red. In both wings some lesser coverts, middle coverts, greater coverts and remiges are definitely red, others definitely olive green. In both wings the four outermost primaries and all the primary coverts

and alula feathers are green-edged or brown-edged (i.e., not red). The under parts throughout are a mixture of dull red and buffy yellow, the effect being rather blotchy, the red being brightest in the middle of the lower throat, on the chest, and in the middle of the belly. Most of the rectrices are missing, but the five remaining ones, all on the right side, are uniformly dull red. According to Ridgway (1902. "The Birds of North and Middle America," Part 2, p. 80) "adult females not unfrequently show touches of red, sometimes a considerable amount of this color, but such females may be distinguished from immature males by the duller color of the red."

In size the specimen resembles a normal adult female. The wing measures 90.5 mm., the tail 69, the exposed culmen 18, the tarsus 19.5.—DAVID W. JOHNSTON, *Department of Biology, University of Georgia, Athens.*

The Cardinal in winter in North Dakota.—During the winter of 1949–50 at least two male Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*) were seen repeatedly near Bismarck, Burleigh County, North Dakota. This is of particular interest since to the best of my knowledge only in recent years has this species been reported anywhere in North Dakota west of the Red River Valley. The Red River is about 200 miles east of Bismarck.

On January 1, 1950, Mr. D. B. Vogtman and I observed one Cardinal at a farm feed-lot in the bottoms of the Missouri River about four miles north of Bismarck. Mr. A. Pasquetti, the farmer on whose place we saw the bird, reported that he had seen it there almost daily since early in December.

On January 2 and 3 a male Cardinal was seen at a point about two miles north of the feed-lot occupied by the first bird. However, not until January 7th was the existence of two birds definitely established. Mr. Pasquetti saw the first Cardinal almost daily through January, February, and March, and I saw it on an average of twice a week during this period. An adequate food supply was available at the feed-lot where millet was being fed to livestock and grain to poultry. Trees and brush in the bottomland and adjacent coulee provided sufficient cover. The bird appeared to be in good condition. We last saw it in the evening before a severe blizzard near the end of March. It may have perished during the storm. Despite a search of known roosting spots just after the storm and later, when the snow had melted, we found no sign of the bird.

Weather during this entire period was severe. The average temperature for January was -10.2°F . with a minimum of -44°F . Blizzard conditions prevailed on many days. There were 14 inches of snow on the ground at the end of January. February was somewhat milder with an average temperature of 7.9°F . March temperatures averaged about 22° —about 3° below normal. Nearly 30 inches of snow fell during the month and there were several severe blizzards.—ROBERT N. RANDALL, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Bismarck, North Dakota.*

Young Goldfinches eaten by garter snake.—In my three-year study of the ecology of Michigan garter snakes I have obtained hundreds of field food records, but of 230 such records for the Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis s. sirtalis*) only two showed evidence of predation upon birds.

On April 26, 1948, near Dixboro, Washtenaw County, Michigan, I forced a large female Common Garter Snake to regurgitate an adult Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). The snake may have found the sparrow dead, for I believe it would be difficult for this snake to catch a healthy adult bird of any sort.

On August 1, 1950, in the same area, I found a gravid female Common Garter Snake at the nest of a Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*). The nest, which was well hidden among leafage, was $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the ground on a horizontal branch in a 6-foot hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) bush in the center of a pasture.

At first I saw only part of the snake's body, but on closer examination, I noticed that its head was just above the cup of the nest. Protruding from its mouth was some thistle down from