

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

the lining of the nest. I approached as close as possible without disturbing it in order to take photographs. In about five minutes, it became wary and started to crawl away.

I caught the snake and forced it to regurgitate four recently hatched Goldfinches plus a small quantity of thistle down. All the birds were dead. Remaining in the nest were one dead nestling (the intestine protruding from the ruptured abdominal wall) and a crushed egg with a dead embryo. I was unable to determine whether the young were dead when the snake ate them. I heard cries of distress from adult Goldfinches while I was near the nest, but could not be sure that any of these birds were the actual owners.—CHARLES C. CARPENTER, *Department of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.*

VIRGINIA CAVENDISH



Virginia Cavendish, renowned landscape architect and garden specialist, active ornithologist and ardent conservationist, and, above all, a much loved citizen of her native Huntington and West Virginia, died January 18, 1951, just after an operation. A member of our Club since 1946, she became a Life Member very recently. At the time of her death she was secretary of the Huntington Galleries project, active in the National Council of Garden Clubs, and a pillar of the Huntington Bird Study Club. A memorial area on the grounds of the Huntington Galleries is being created as a tribute to her. In a letter written just before her death she said: "I don't suppose anyone ever had so much fun as I have had through the years—or left as few ripples as he passed." Birds were an important part of the 'fun' in Miss Cavendish's life. As for the 'ripples', let time and her many friends be the judge.