

**Purple Finch nesting at Toledo, Ohio.**—On June 19, 1955, Mayfield watched a female Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) carrying nesting material into a cluster of twigs near the top of a blue spruce in Ottawa Park, Toledo, Ohio. On July 7, McCormick erected an extension ladder with guy wires at this point, and at about 7:00 a.m. found a nest containing two eggs and three young that appeared to have been hatched the same morning.

The nest was supported in a horizontal fork 31 feet from the ground, 8 feet south of the center of the tree, and 1½ feet from the tip of the bough. A third branch from the same fork lay closely over the nest, concealing it except for a small opening directed almost horizontally outward. The nest was built of small twigs and lined with grasses. A rosy-plumaged male sang frequently from the nest tree during the building activities and on several occasions chased a brown-plumaged male that sang nearby. At least two males had been singing in this area when they were noticed by Mayfield several days earlier.

There are several interesting circumstances about this nest: (1) We believe it to be the first nesting of the Purple Finch in northwestern Ohio, the few other nesting records for the state coming from the northeastern portion, where there are remnants of original pine and hemlock. (2) The birds nested among planted spruce in an area where there are no original conifers. The only nesting locations reported for Michigan south of the conifer belt have also been among planted evergreens at Ann Arbor and Bloomfield Hills. (3) The nest was completely invisible from below and was not discovered until McCormick parted the branches above it. (4) The birds seemed little disturbed by human activity nearby. The nest tree was located in one of the busiest portions of the Park, at the edge of a baseball diamond used every day and less than 50 feet from a main road through the Park. The female dodged between passing cars as she carried nesting material.—HAROLD F. MAYFIELD, 2557 Portsmouth Ave., and JOHN M. McCORMICK, 1827 Richards Road, Toledo, Ohio, December 28, 1955.

**Winter foods of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks in West Virginia.**—During the past few winters Evening and Pine Grosbeaks have been recorded in unprecedented numbers in West Virginia. Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) were abundant and wide-spread during the winters of 1952–53, 1954–55, and 1955–56. Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*), rarely recorded in any previous years, were common in mountainous sections during 1954–55, and have returned in some numbers in 1955–56. These visitations have afforded many opportunities for observing food habits of the two species in a region which has been thought of as south of their customary winter ranges.

During all their visits Evening Grosbeaks have, in snowy times in particular, habitually fed on cinders and other gritty material scattered on public highways to prevent car-skidding. They have shown special preference for cinders which have been treated with some salt. On December 22, 1954, five flocks numbering over 200 birds were seen in a ten-mile stretch of state route 32, in Tucker County, West Virginia. Since the birds were slow in flying from approaching cars, many of them were killed, and Wayne Bailey, C. O. Handley and others had the chance to examine numbers of specimens.

From the specimens whose digestive tracts were examined, and through field observations, it became evident that Evening Grosbeaks were eating a much wider variety of foods than might have been expected from their recorded feeding habits northward. The year 1954 saw a remarkably heavy crop of beechnuts (*Fagus grandifolia*) in this region, and birds examined by Bailey and Handley had their crops stuffed with these