

perhaps worth while to record the fact, since but one record¹ of their appearance there seems to have been made. Eight or ten birds formed the flock, which I watched at close range for an hour or so, at the corner of the Lake Drive and Forest Avenue, whilst they were feeding in trees and on the ground. About half of them were males.

The writer was at Lakewood, except for an absence of five weeks, from September 18, 1918, to March 22, 1919, and did not see Grosbeaks on any other occasion.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona v. vespertina*) in Ohio in May.—

There were few if any reports of the Evening Grosbeak west of the Alleghenies for the winter of 1918–19, so it somewhat surprised me when on May 18 Mr. Glenn Vesey told me there was a male bird down in the Grackle roost, a thick growth of various haws and wild apples on the flats of Grand River. Knowing that he would not be liable to make a mistake, I looked through the growth late that afternoon but without result. However, upon visiting the place next morning the bird was there and, as reported, was a male in the best of adult plumage. The ground in places was strewn with the fallen haw apples of the fall before, and it was upon these that the bird was feeding. He was still there on the afternoon of May 20, but the next day I failed to find him.—E. A. DOOLITTLE, *Painesville, Ohio.*

Henslow's Sparrow in New York and Virginia.—One of the best recent bird discoveries in the Ithaca region was the location of a breeding colony of Henslow's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowi*) on a sedgy hill side just south of Wilseyville (10 miles south of Ithaca), N. Y. On May 14, 1916, Mr. Ludlow Griscom found three male birds on this rather high hill. The spot has a northern exposure and the birds were fond of sitting on the sedgy stools or in the tops of pine seedlings. They were very rail-like and elusive. On June 1 of the same year Mr. Griscom showed several of us the site, Dr. A. A. Allen being of the party. At that time we found five males, a few females, and a nest with one egg and three young. The nest is very difficult to find. On June 8 the same five males were in evidence. The following year, on July 5, 1917, Messrs. Allen and G. A. Bailey found another nest with four eggs. In 1916 (July 2), after the discovery of it at Ithaca, the author found one Henslow's Sparrow at Emerson, N. Y., at the northern end of Cayuga Lake. In 1918 another colony was found on the game farm of the university. This year (1919), on May 11, Mr. S. E. R. Simpson found it near Varna (three or four miles northeast of Ithaca, N. Y.).

The year following my introduction to this species, on May 30, 1917, Mr. Francis Harper showed me the Alexandria Va. colony and I determined to watch for the species southward. I heard it in two or three localities southward to Elmont, Va., where I made a definite journal record

¹ Auk, XXXIV, p. 477.

(May 31, 1917). On May 30, 1917, from Alexandria to Fredericksburg we did not record it. This species was heard south of Petersburg for a short distance, and from this vicinity (1918, Camp Lee) Mr. Harper wrote me that he and Mr. Holt recorded it as well. The above notes would indicate a much wider range in Virginia than that given by the author of 'The Birds of Virginia, 1913' (p. 224).—A. H. WRIGHT, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

The Dickcissel in Virginia.—On May 31, 1917, in the outskirts of Richmond, Va., Dr. H. H. Knight and I discovered a fine singing male beside the road in what looked to be a real estate development tract. We were following the main auto route from Washington into Richmond. I was attracted to it by first seeing it — my first live Dickcissel; while Dr. Knight recognized the sound as a reminder of his home country (Missouri). This record is published because the author chanced to see a note a few months ago (Wilson Bulletin) by an ornithologist of Virginia to the effect that he had not seen the Dickcissel in Virginia for twenty years.—A. H. WRIGHT, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

***Piranga erythromelas* versus *Piranga olivacea*.**—Since the discovery that *Fringilla rubra* Linnaeus (Syst. Nat., ed. 10, I, 1758, p. 181) is the Summer Tanager instead of the Scarlet Tanager, the latter has passed under the name *Piranga erythromelas* (Vieillot). There seems, however, to be an earlier name for the Scarlet Tanager in *Tanagra olivacea* Gmelin (Syst. Nat., I, ii, 1789, p. 889). This is based on "l'Olivet" of Buffon (Hist. Nat. Ois. [original edition], IV, 1778, p. 269); the "Olive Tanager" of Pennant (Arctic Zool., II, 1785, p. 369, No. 238); and the "Olive Tanager" of Latham (Gen. Synop. Birds, II, pt. 1, 1783, p. 218, No. 4); and the habitat given as "Cayenna et Noveboraco." The diagnosis given by Gmelin is as follows: "*T. olivacea, gula et pectore flavis, abdomine albo, remigibus rectricibusque fuscis margine albis.*" This diagnosis is almost a literal translation, though somewhat abridged, of the descriptions given by Pennant and Latham, both of which latter are essentially the same. In fact, Latham refers to Pennant's then unpublished 'Arctic Zoology,' and Pennant in this work cites Latham's account. A comparison of the diagnosis given by Gmelin and the descriptions of Latham and Pennant with a peculiar transition plumage of the Scarlet Tanager, and their descriptions of their female Olive Tanager with the female Scarlet Tanager, leaves no doubt at all of their entire agreement.

This peculiar transition plumage above mentioned seems to be little known, probably because of its brief duration and consequent rarity in collections. It is a stage, alike in both sexes, between the juvenal and the first autumn plumages, in which the juvenal feathering of the entire upper parts is retained, but on the anterior lower surface the streaked condition of the juvenal stage has been replaced by olive yellow; while the abdomen has lost so much of its yellowish tinge that at superficial glance it looks white.

The descriptions given by both Pennant and Latham were based on speci-



Wright, Albert Hazen. 1919. "Henslow's Sparrow in New York and Virginia." *The Auk* 36, 574–575. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4073375>.

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