

must have been at least a dozen in the tree. They were seen every day in good numbers up to about the middle of March, and throughout the remaining part of the winter a small flock of ten or a dozen were constant residents of the immediate vicinity of the above mentioned cemetery. This flock was last seen on March 30. It is their first occurrence in this locality to my knowledge, and I find no one who ever remembers seeing the bird here before. Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*) were also observed in the county during December last.—N. HOLLISTER, *Delavan, Wisc.*

Zonotrichia albicollis and Mniotilta varia at Pasadena, Cal.—On Nov. 21, 1894, while collecting sparrows in a large blackberry patch just inside the western limits of Pasadena I shot an immature female White-throated Sparrow from a flock of *Z. coronata*, thus adding another record for this species from California.

Early in the morning of Oct. 8, 1895, I shot an immature female Black-and-white Warbler in the Arroyo Seco just west of Pasadena. The bird was at the time alone, and apparently as much at home in Southern California as she would have been east of the Rocky Mountains. So far as I can ascertain this is the second record of this species from California.—HORACE A. GAYLORD, *Pasadena, Cal.*

The Wintering of the Towhee at Longwood, Massachusetts.—I am glad to be able to report the following information in regard to the Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) noted December 25, 1895, at Longwood (see Auk, Vol. XIII, p. 178).

Mr. Henry Vose Greenough, who saw the Towhee with me on Christmas Day, reported to me having seen on March 23, 1896, a male Towhee about a brush pile, some one hundred and fifty yards from the spot where we had noted the one in December. On March 24 I went with him to this place and in a neighboring hemlock hedge we found Pipilo.

The brush pile is on the edge of an estate, only a few hundred feet from a stable, pig-sty and hen yard, where food and protection from the winter weather were easily accessible. When we started the Towhee on the 24th he flew straight for the hen yard and then being pursued, to another hemlock hedge leading us in a circuit back to the brush pile.

I believe there can be little doubt that this is our Christmas Towhee, which had wintered here, for the following reasons, viz.: Protection and food supply at hand; a male bird, as was the former one; in practically the same locality, and because it is exceedingly unlikely that a single bird would migrate northward fully a month in advance of its fellows.

We have not noted this bird during January and February, though we both have covered the neighboring ground almost daily, because the place is just on the edge of this little patch of woodland and the Towhee evidently never wandered far from his brush pile and the farm yard.

Since the 23d and 24th of March we have noted the Towhee on the following dates,— March 25, 28, April 2, 4, 7, 9 (singing), 10, 12, 13 and 16, when he disappeared.

The occurrence of this Towhee here makes a valid record of the wintering of this species in Massachusetts, and the female that was taken at Bedford, Mass., on January 2, 1896, and the specimen taken at Portland, Conn., would seem to show that this bird can stand the rigors of a New England winter, and that we may look for further records of the wintering of this species in the future.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

The Nonpariel at Longwood, Massachusetts.—On June 5, 1896, Henry V. Greenough brought me a male Painted Finch (*Passerina ciris*) which he had shot at about 8 A. M. The bird was in perfect plumage, its wings and tail showing apparently no cage wear and its feet in perfect condition.

I examined its stomach which contained white gravel, suggesting cage gravel (although the bird had been seen upon a gravel walk where I found the same kind of gravel), a white worm, a small amount of dark gravel and a few seeds (not canary seed), and the bird was also quite fat. Its testes were very much enlarged.

The bird uttered only a few notes on alighting and when started, like *chit-chit*. He was seen the day before, and although fairly tame at first, became quite wild from being watched.

The probability of course is strongly in favor of this being an escaped cage bird, but at the same time, the weather having been fair and warm for a week, this bird might have strayed from southern climes.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

Peculiar Traits of Some Scarlet Tanagers.—Scarlet Tanagers (*Piranga erythromelas*) are not common in this vicinity (Ridgewood, N. J.); for many years I saw only two or three during spring migrations. Within the last few years a few pairs have bred in this locality, generally on the outskirts of woods; so I was surprised to see a pair nesting in a Norway spruce, on a branch only about ten feet from the corner of my house, and about the same distance from the ground. In all my ornithological experience I never knew a pair of birds to live and nest so near my house with such secretiveness.

One of my family first saw the birds from an upper window that looked down on the nest. The nest building appeared to be all done by the female. The male bird was seen usually in the morning, apparently inspecting the work or noting its progress, but was seldom seen during the rest of the day. Both birds when approaching their nest alighted near the top of this high tree and descended through the branches to the nest, which was flat, very evenly built, like a cup of basket work, beautifully woven of material resembling the color of the bark of the