

84 degrees, and the day on which it was shot, was warm. At any rate the indisputable evidence is a female in fine plumage.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston, Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

The Cardinal in Colorado.—Through the kindness of Mrs. R. J. Kerruish of Littleton, Colorado, I am able to place on record an indubitable breeding occurrence of the Cardinal (*Cardinalis c. cardinalis*) in Colorado. There are, so far as I know, but four previous records for the State, the first by Anthony who reported one taken on December 5, 1883 "below Denver," the second by Nash who stated that one was seen near Pueblo, November 28, 1895, and a third by Lowe, who reported (Auk, 1917, p. 455) that he has in his collection a specimen which was taken in Beulah, Colorado; he was unable to decide whether this bird was an escape or a wild bird, and did not give the date of capture.

There is abundant information relating to the present record: Mrs. Kerruish wrote me under date of May 14, 1926, that "This is the third season that they [the Cardinals] have nested here [Littleton, Colo.]. The first time I saw them was June 26, 1924, when I saw both male and female and the nesting place; last year I heard the song many times, but could not locate the nesting place. This year the male returned near the first of March, the first time I saw him was March 2; I am told the female is here now but I haven't as yet seen her."

The extreme rarity of the species in Colorado impelled me to drive out to Littleton, ten miles south of Denver, early on the morning of May 31, to see these birds. However, I arrived too late as the male had visited its favorite bird bath shortly after daybreak that morning. On June 6, determined not to miss the bird again, Miss Prue Bostwick and I reached the premises of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Ficklin in Littleton before daybreak, and to our delight the male appeared at 4:30, shortly after the return of daylight. The bird was a full plumed, brilliantly colored individual, bubbling over with song. We had a close view of the bird, and ample opportunity to study the black marking at the base of its bill, a marking of sufficient depth to justify one in classifying the bird as of subspecies *cardinalis*. I understood through roundabout information that a Cardinal was seen, by others, all the past winter in the neighborhood of Littleton; how trustworthy this report is I cannot say.

Mrs. Kerruish's detection of the nest in 1924 adds another bird to the breeders of Colorado.—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

Nonpareil Breeding in Cardinal's Nest.—In a small Japanese privet tree in my garden in Charleston a pair of Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis*) built a nest this past April (1926) about ten feet above the ground. In due time three nestlings were brought into the world. Before they were fully fledged, a Florida Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aglaeus*) devoured them, and the parent Cardinals deserted the nest.

This was in early May. On June 24, I was told that a "small greenish bird" had been seen to enter the deserted Cardinals' nest. Investigation revealed the fact that this bird was a female Nonpareil or Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) and that in the nest were three tiny, nearly naked Nonpareil nestlings.

Examination of the nest showed that in adapting it for their use the Nonpareils had not altered the appearance of the exterior. They had, however, made the opening smaller, by weaving around it grass and fine palmetto fibers, and had thus given it a more compactly constructed rim. In thus building up the rim, they had made the depression or cup decidedly deeper. They had also put into the nest a beautifully woven lining of fibres much more skillfully contrived than the rather loose lining of a typical Cardinal nest.

Two of the Nonpareil nestlings came to grief in some unknown way before they were fully fledged. The third left the nest on July 6.

The Nonpareil breeds abundantly in this region and is a familiar summer bird in my garden in Charleston but I have never before found it making use of the nest of another species of bird.—HERBERT RAVENEL SASS, *Charleston, S. C.*

The Dickcissel in Colorado.—Cooke in his 'Birds of Colorado' characterized this species (*Spiza americana*) as a rare summer resident, a very correct definition of its status in 1897, for there had then been but three published records, so far as I can learn, of the occurrence of the Dickcissel in Colorado. He enumerated the following locations in Colorado, as places where the Dickcissel had been detected, Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, Canyon City, Beulah and Fort Lyons. Cooke listed the species as breeding on the plains of Colorado, but I know of no record giving definite particulars concerning its nesting.

In the past seventeen years there seems to have been a change in the abundance of the species in this State. By 1909, Cooke was able to say in his last supplement to the 'Birds of Colorado' that it was "not rare," showing that the species was becoming more frequent, a condition which has prevailed up to date. It is very plain from many reports sent in to me during the past ten years from various parts of the state that the Dickcissel is growing more common yearly, especially in some districts, as the Arkansas Valley. In view of this summer's experience the species may be said to be almost common and there must have been a very extensive wave of these birds into Colorado this season. Mrs. John Weldon tells me that it has been "thick" in the vicinity of her home, about eight miles west of Loveland, and that two pairs nested in her neighborhood. This is the first definite breeding record for Colorado so far as I know. Mrs. Weldon also saw Dickcissels near Boulder this summer, and reports that she has noted the species in her vicinity practically every summer since 1905.

Miss Prue Bostwick saw a single Dickcissel at Parker on June 8, 1926.