

interior of the State," but as he gives no authority for this statement, it is probable that he merely assumed this fact. In the Supplement issued recently by the Charleston Museum no further comment appears concerning the range of the breeding Grackles in South Carolina.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, *Biological Survey, Asheville, North Carolina.*

Dickcissel in Lancaster County, Pa.—On June 8, 1933, we found breeding in Warwick Township, northern Lancaster County, the bird which the older of us has been seeking for forty-five years. There he was perched on a telephone wire persistently singing "dick dickcissel" and clearly showing his diagnostic colors. As late as the second week in July we could always find him on or near this perch, and twice we saw the female. This pair of Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*) were breeding one mile north of the town of Lititz. It is the first local record for at least fifty years.—HERBERT H. BECK AND BARTON SHARP, *Lancaster, Pa.*

Sleeping Posture of House Finches on the Nest at Night.—House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) hatched five broods in the tall *Pyrocantha* bushes growing against the front of my house in Benicia, Calif., this spring. The last nest constructed was directly in front of the bed-room window, from which we could watch proceedings almost as well, or possibly even better than if the family were reared in the room. The female did all of the sitting on the eggs and the four eggs hatched without event. Subsequently both male and female fed the young.

I was interested, though, especially in looking in on them at night. Aided by a flashlight, the beams directed out through the window, I found that the female invariably slept with her head under one wing. Although this is what might be expected, I had never before had the opportunity of looking into a bird's nest so conveniently situated to allow night investigation without fear of disturbing the sitting bird. The female had become so accustomed to motion and noise in the room that considerable rather vigorous tapping on window failed to arouse her.

The mother did not brood her young on the final nine nights the young were in the nest. During this period it was interesting to note that the fledglings, on the last six nights prior to their departure, also tucked their heads under their wings. Prior to that time, quite evidently, the little fellows had insufficient feathers to "tuck" under.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California.*

The Alabama Towhee, An Addition to the Louisiana List.—I wish to record herewith the taking of an adult male Alabama Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster*) at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, East Baton Rouge Parish, on July 5, 1933. As far as it can be ascertained, this is the first record of the occurrence of this subspecies in the state. It was through the courtesy of Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, of the United States Biological Survey, that the identity of this specimen was verified.

The occurrence of this form, rather than the typical Red-eyed Towhee

(*P. e. erythrophthalmus*), has been suspected for some time by the writer, due to certain data that have become evident through field observations in various parts of the state. It was noted that Towhees do not remain to breed in the north central part of the state near Monroe, although they are known to occur quite commonly in certain sections of Arkansas during the breeding season (Baerg, *Birds of Arkansas*, 1931). Further evidence of the absence of the species in northern Louisiana during the summer was offered by J. S. Campbell, of Bienville Parish. He had been unsuccessful in locating the birds in the northwestern part of the state, and both he and the writer could not find them in the northeastern section near Tallulah and Oak Grove, in Madison and West Carroll Parishes respectively.

At about the same time, the writer was surprised to find the Towhee a common breeding species at Baton Rouge. A nest was located there on June 28, 1932. Furthermore, the species was found not uncommon south of the Mississippi state line near Clinton and Jackson. Stanley C. Arthur's 'Birds of Louisiana,' published anonymously in 1931 by the Louisiana Department of Conservation (Bulletin No. 20, p. 569), also lists the bird as a common breeder in the region around Jackson and Clinton. This interruption in the breeding ranges of the birds occurring in Arkansas and those found in southeastern Louisiana immediately lead to the supposition that the range of the Alabama Towhee extended through Mississippi and into the Florida Parishes of this state. Such has been shown by the identification of an adult, singing male collected at Baton Rouge. Possibly this form does not occur very far west of the Mississippi River. Bailey and Wright, during several summers' work along the southern coast, were unable to find Towhees later than May 18 (Wilson Bulletin, XLIII, 1931, pp. 212-213).

The absence of an overlapping in the breeding ranges of two subspecies as closely related as the Red-eyed and Alabama Towhees is indeed interesting.

Furthermore, the fact that Audubon specifically stated in regard to the Towhee, "None of them breed in Louisiana, nor indeed in the state of Mississippi" (*Birds of America*, III, 1859, p. 168), leads one to believe that the Alabama form has extended into Louisiana since the time of Audubon. Since his home at St. Francisville is now in the center of a region where the species is abundant as a breeder, it is difficult to believe that he could have completely overlooked it.—GEORGE H. LOWERY, JR., *Department of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.*

Insects in the Winter Food of Tree Sparrows.—The stomachs of 549 Tree Sparrows (*Spizella a. arborea*) have been examined by the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, 328 of which were taken in the winter months, as follows: December, 103; January, 116; and February, 109. Of these, 14 stomachs (December, 6; January, 3; February, 5) contained insects and spiders, in percentages varying from 1 to 90 of the total content. Insects and spiders, in the form of eggs, larvae, pupae