

- PETERS, J. L. and L. GRISCOM. 1938. Geographical variation in the Savannah Sparrow. *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* 80: 445-478.
- SIMMONS, K. E. L. 1957. The taxonomic significance of the head-scratching methods of birds. *Ibis* 99: 178-181.
- Jack P. Hailman, 4401 Gladwyne Drive, Bethesda, Maryland.

**Cardinal Banded in Connecticut, Retrapped in Pennsylvania.**—On May 2, 1958, I trapped and released at 926 W. Beaver Ave., State College, Pennsylvania, an adult male Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*), 55-129171, which had been banded on December 13, 1957, by G. Hapgood Parks at 99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, Conn. Although this bird was not retrapped the evidence indicates that it remained in Hartford until March 14, 1958. Mr. Parks wrote that a banded male Cardinal, which retained the same behavior pattern throughout the period, remained at their feeding trays from the date of banding until March 14. Also, this is the only male Cardinal which they have ever seen at their station. The bird has not repeated in State College, but since there are other Cardinals present, it still could be in the area.—Dorothy L. Bordner, 926 W. Beaver Ave., State College, Penna.

*Ed. note:* this record is of outstanding interest, for several reasons:

- (1) the species is generally considered sedentary, with few recoveries of banded birds at any great distance from the point of banding. State College is about 270 air miles from Hartford, about WSW, so that this is one of the longest trips on record for the species;
- (2) the species has been extending its range vigorously. For example, in Connecticut, only two records were known down to 1913, and it did not breed until 1944. By the 1955 Christmas census, 105 individuals were recorded in the Westport area, and birds were reported in 8 towns in the Hartford area. It is believed that the speed of its increase comes at least in part from continued movement of birds into the newly-colonized areas, and the State College recovery suggests that some individuals may retreat southward under the impact of severe weather rather than dying from cold or lack of food. March, 1958 was marked in New England by five severe northeasterly snowstorms, and the apparent effect on the pioneering Cardinals can be measured by the number of places in eastern Massachusetts reporting one or more birds. As reported to the *Records of New England Birds*, by 10-day periods, January, 1958 had a maximum of 23, February 20, the first third of March 10, the middle third 7, and the last third only 2 (2 individuals).
- (3) the movement of this Cardinal is curiously reminiscent of the Evening Grosbeaks which were banded in numbers in Connecticut in December, 1955 and January, 1956, at various stations including Mr. Parks' and my own, several of which were retaken at State College, Penna., in early 1958, and others of which were reported from central New York State more-or-less north of State College.—E. Alexander Bergstrom.

**The Killing of an Adult Bird by a Blue Jay.**—There seems to be some question as to whether or not a Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) will kill an adult bird. Bent (Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows, and Titmice, pp. 40-44) quotes Professor F. E. L. Beal as stating: "The most striking point in the study of the food of the Blue Jay is the discrepancy between the testimony of field observers concerning the bird's nest-robbing proclivities and the results of stomach examinations . . .", and Mr. Manly Hardy as stating: "It is a great robber of birds' nests, taking both eggs and young. I also feel quite sure that in some cases it kills adult birds . . .".

On May 20, 1958 I saw a Blue Jay holding a brown Purple Finch with his feet on a branch of a lilac bush just outside my window. The Purple Finch was dangling from the branch and the Blue Jay was hitting it repeatedly on the head with his beak. I rapped sharply on the window and after a few seconds the Blue Jay dropped the finch and flew to a nearby tree. In a few minutes the jay returned to the finch which was lying on the ground beneath the lilac bush. I rapped again on the window and the jay again flew to the tree. I hurried out and picked up the finch which was dead. Its skull had been pierced a number of times and was covered with blood. The finch was one we had banded just two days earlier.—Mrs. James R. Downs, Glebe Farm, South Londonderry, Vermont.