

Alabama Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster*. Two male specimens of this form were collected, one on December 28, 1929; the other February 20, 1937.

Mississippi Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia beata*. A small series of three males were secured on January 16, February 27, and March 3, 1937. This subspecies has never before been recorded from Mississippi.—M. GORDON VAIDEN, *Rosedale, Bolivar County, Mississippi*.

"Territorial Song" and Non-territorial Behavior of Goldfinches in Ohio.—

My notes on *Spinus tristis tristis* in Columbus, Ohio, are fragmentary, yet they possess two points of interest, one concerning a form of song which I have not found described elsewhere, the other concerning their method of nesting which was more colonial than territorial.

A short, unmusical song, lasting from one to 2.3 seconds, usually about 2 seconds, and given 5 to 7 times a minute, was noted from mid-April to mid-May from 1929 to 1933. These songs showed considerable variety, but the first portion was usually harsh, while the second had a slight suggestion of typical Goldfinch quality.

Goldfinches were present in large numbers in our garden at this season, attracted by the abundance of dandelion seeds; they chased one another and sang these short songs as well as the prolonged, musical, ecstatic songs lasting 6 to 8 seconds with a pause of only a second between songs. Although this short song suggested a typical "territorial" song in its form and rate of delivery, yet it flourished two months before nesting began. Only once did I record it in summer; on August 3, 1930, I noted a male singing a short song across the ditch from a nest.

Goldfinches were noted in pairs April 24, 1931, and May 27, 1933, but on May 14, 1930, some were in pairs, while others were not. Strangely enough, on May 30, 1930, I saw a pair starting to build, the male with a strand in his beak, his mate weaving material into position in the crotch of a small elder. No further work was done on this nest, and it was not until July 15 that I found a nest which was being worked on in earnest. The first egg was laid July 22.

That summer I located a dozen nests, but we left before any of the young were fledged; in the fall I found 6 more. Ten were in Canada thistles and 3 in tiny trees, the height of the nests ranging from 3 to 5.5 feet above the ground, averaging 3.5 feet. Five were in medium sized trees, placed from 8 to 12 feet from the ground. The number of eggs in 7 complete sets was 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 5, 6. Incubation in one case lasted 12 days. Two-thirds of the nests were judged, from the excreta around the rims, to have raised young, a proportion that agrees well with Dr. Walkinshaw's results.

The 18 nests probably represented 15 pairs; of these 12 had nested in groups—4 pairs in about an acre, 3 in about two acres and 5 in about two acres. This grouping was not dependent on the availability of nesting sites, for thistles abounded everywhere. It seemed to be a sociable tendency as reported by Dr. L. H. Walkinshaw (*Life History Studies of the Eastern Goldfinch. Jack-Pine Warbler*, 16, 1938: 3-11, 14-15; 17, 1939: 3-12), and differing markedly from the territorial behavior found by Margaret Drum.—MARGARET M. NICE, 5708 Kenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.