

Purple Finch nesting at Toledo, Ohio.—On June 19, 1955, Mayfield watched a female Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) carrying nesting material into a cluster of twigs near the top of a blue spruce in Ottawa Park, Toledo, Ohio. On July 7, McCormick erected an extension ladder with guy wires at this point, and at about 7:00 a.m. found a nest containing two eggs and three young that appeared to have been hatched the same morning.

The nest was supported in a horizontal fork 31 feet from the ground, 8 feet south of the center of the tree, and 1½ feet from the tip of the bough. A third branch from the same fork lay closely over the nest, concealing it except for a small opening directed almost horizontally outward. The nest was built of small twigs and lined with grasses. A rosy-plumaged male sang frequently from the nest tree during the building activities and on several occasions chased a brown-plumaged male that sang nearby. At least two males had been singing in this area when they were noticed by Mayfield several days earlier.

There are several interesting circumstances about this nest: (1) We believe it to be the first nesting of the Purple Finch in northwestern Ohio, the few other nesting records for the state coming from the northeastern portion, where there are remnants of original pine and hemlock. (2) The birds nested among planted spruce in an area where there are no original conifers. The only nesting locations reported for Michigan south of the conifer belt have also been among planted evergreens at Ann Arbor and Bloomfield Hills. (3) The nest was completely invisible from below and was not discovered until McCormick parted the branches above it. (4) The birds seemed little disturbed by human activity nearby. The nest tree was located in one of the busiest portions of the Park, at the edge of a baseball diamond used every day and less than 50 feet from a main road through the Park. The female dodged between passing cars as she carried nesting material.—HAROLD F. MAYFIELD, 2557 Portsmouth Ave., and JOHN M. McCORMICK, 1827 Richards Road, Toledo, Ohio, December 28, 1955.

Winter foods of Evening and Pine Grosbeaks in West Virginia.—During the past few winters Evening and Pine Grosbeaks have been recorded in unprecedented numbers in West Virginia. Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) were abundant and wide-spread during the winters of 1952–53, 1954–55, and 1955–56. Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*), rarely recorded in any previous years, were common in mountainous sections during 1954–55, and have returned in some numbers in 1955–56. These visitations have afforded many opportunities for observing food habits of the two species in a region which has been thought of as south of their customary winter ranges.

During all their visits Evening Grosbeaks have, in snowy times in particular, habitually fed on cinders and other gritty material scattered on public highways to prevent car-skidding. They have shown special preference for cinders which have been treated with some salt. On December 22, 1954, five flocks numbering over 200 birds were seen in a ten-mile stretch of state route 32, in Tucker County, West Virginia. Since the birds were slow in flying from approaching cars, many of them were killed, and Wayne Bailey, C. O. Handley and others had the chance to examine numbers of specimens.

From the specimens whose digestive tracts were examined, and through field observations, it became evident that Evening Grosbeaks were eating a much wider variety of foods than might have been expected from their recorded feeding habits northward. The year 1954 saw a remarkably heavy crop of beechnuts (*Fagus grandifolia*) in this region, and birds examined by Bailey and Handley had their crops stuffed with these

nuts. Near Morgantown, the home of Richard F. Sowers has a large beech tree on the lawn. Evening Grosbeaks in flocks up to 50 birds searched the grass for these nuts, remaining until May 12, 1955.

On a number of occasions in 1952, Marion L. Hundley and the writer watched Evening Grosbeaks cutting through the hulls of and feeding on the nuts of scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*). The birds used their bills to slice open acorns which had fallen to the ground. We examined a number of the partially-eaten nuts.

Another much-eaten food was the winged seeds of tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Since this tree does not grow very far northward, the birds are obviously adapting their eating habits to new foodstuffs when they move south. Other winged seeds, particularly those of box elder (*Acer negundo*) and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) were, as might be expected, commonly eaten. Buds of trees, especially of large-toothed aspen (*Populus grandidentata*), birches (*Betula* sp.), and maples (*Acer* sp.) were frequently fed upon.

Not until the winter of 1954-55 did observers in West Virginia have many opportunities to observe food habits of Pine Grosbeaks. In November of that year, however, the birds were widely distributed and locally common in mountainous areas. They remained until February, affording bird students many chances to make field observations.

The birds fed on frozen fruits (particularly apples), seeds of maple and white ash, and on some portion of the twigs of conifers, especially pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*). In addition they made extensive use of other plant foods, some of which would not be available northward. These included seeds of tulip poplar, wild grapes (*Vitis* sp.), black haw and wild raisin (*Viburnum prunifolium* and *V. cassinoides*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), and greenbrier (*Smilax* sp.). Bailey, James Beach, and others found the birds feeding on fruits of staghorn sumach (*Rhus hirta*).

Local observers are hoping that the wider range of acceptable foodstuffs southward may influence future winter movements of these two bird species.—MAURICE BROOKS, *Division of Forestry, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia, January 10, 1956.*

A Lincoln Sparrow on the east coast of Florida.—In the course of trapping small mammals at Ormond Beach, Volusia County, Florida, December 26-28, 1954, I caught by fortunate accident a specimen of the Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*). The bird, a male, was dead but in good condition when found about 8:00 a.m. on the 27th; it was made into a study skin (R.A.N. 1501) and has been deposited in the collection of the Biology Department at the University of Georgia. The vegetation of the trapping site, which was in a residential area, included grasses, sere composites, a clump of yellow jessamine, camphor trees, and a patch of scrub palmetto. There was no water or marshy vegetation close by; the nearest salt marsh was a quarter mile away, the ocean a half mile away.

As compiled by Sprunt (1954. "Florida Bird Life," pp. 491, 492), previous records of the Lincoln Sparrow in Florida are as follows: Orlando, January 23, 1911, one seen (H. W. Ballantine); Lake Iamonia, March 26, 1919, one seen (L. Griscom); Whitney Plantation, Leon County, March 13, 1925, one collected (H. L. Stoddard); and near Pensacola, December 28, 1952 (and again some days later), one seen (F. M. Weston). As reported by Stevenson (1955. *Audubon Field Notes*, 9(1):22), one of these sparrows was collected by H. L. Stoddard on Alligator Point, Franklin County, October 15, 1954, the first autumnal record for the state. Still more recently, Mr. Stoddard (written communication) established another fall record when he picked up a bird, too much