

**Unusual Oriole at Oneida:** On August 26, 1968, Harmon Nodecker observed a strangely colored bird in his yard at Kenwood, Oneida, which at first looked like a molting Scarlet Tanager, although it was not the right shape. He succeeded in trapping the bird for banding and called me to assist in identifying it.

When examined in the hand the bird was evidently an oriole, presumably a Baltimore Oriole, as it had the proper size, bill shape and other morphological characteristics of an oriole. Its color, however, was most unusual, as may be seen from this detailed description:

Crown and mantle: reddish suffusion over entire head, caused by red feathers interspersed with those of dark greenish-brown; some red feathers scattered over most of the back, seen when bird was examined closely, but most apparent in upper tail coverts, this area being distinctly pinkish-red.

Under parts: throat pinkish; breast and belly dull yellow mingled with red, the red feathers increasing toward the center breast to make an irregularly defined band of red from throat to tail; under tail coverts of same reddish color.

Wing-bars: lower, white; upper, pinkish-buff.

Tail feathers: yellow underneath; dark greenish-gray above.

Bill: pointed, typical oriole shape; lower mandible light-colored, upper mandible dark.

Distress call in hand: typical oriole rattle.

It will be noted that in general the bird was pinkish-red in most of the areas where the male Baltimore Oriole is yellow or orange. Comparison with plumages of various western orioles did not produce any other possibility than an aberrant Baltimore Oriole.

Dorothy Ackley, Kenwood Sta., Oneida, N.Y.

**Black-headed Grosbeak at Watertown:** In December, 1968 I saw an excellent 8 mm. color movie film of birds made by the late Arthur W. Allen. I was surprised to see a sequence with an adult male Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), on a feeler shelf outside a window. Being familiar with this species in the western states I was sure of my identification, especially after reviewing the film at holds many times.

Originally, Dr. Allen thought the bird might be an immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak as it sang a couple times from the trees in his yard, but he was puzzled by the coloration. Two color prints made from the movie frames were submitted to John Bull at the American Museum of Natural History who confirmed my identification.

The date of this record is April 30, 1959 which is probably the most northern one for this accidental visitor to New York State.

David C. Gordon, 1347 Sherman St., Watertown, N.Y. 13601