Territory. Its habits are described as resembling those of its congener, *H. ludovicianus*; it is also said to have a song, of which many writers speak in high praise, of similar quality. The eggs of this species are of a bluish-green ground, blotched and splashed with markings of a rusty brown, more numerous at the larger end. The nest consists of a few sticks and weeds loosely put together and lined with grass and roots. The most southern record we have of *H. melanocephalus* is Oaxaca. Our specimen from there is a male of the typical form.

Of the synonyms of this species *Fringilla xanthomaschalis*, Wagler, is simply a substitute for Swainson's older title. *F. ephoca*, Lichtenstein, was proposed apparently in ignorance of the bird being already described. *Pitylus guttatus*, Lesson, is in the same category and is based on a male in Abeille's collection.

**CARDINALIS.**


The bright-red plumage of the males of the species of this genus renders it easily recognized, in addition to which the form of the wings, tail, &c. all points to its complete isolation, except from the next genus, which has peculiarities of its own. *Cardinalis* contains two well-defined species, *C. virginianus* and *C. phoeniceus*, the latter coming from Venezuela, and not found within our borders. *C. virginianus*, again, has been subdivided into several races, two of which we, somewhat reluctantly, here admit under separate headings, at least until their status is more definitely fixed. Of these races one seems to be the true *C. virginianus* of the Eastern States, visiting Eastern Mexico in its winter migration. In Western Mexico we find two forms, one apparently the same as that found in Lower California and other parts of the western territory. This has been called by Prof. Baird *C. igneus*. Whether the birds found at Mazatlan belong to this race is not absolutely certain; and there seems to be a still further divergence in the bird of the Tres Marias Islands, especially in the development of its bill. At Acapulco and its immediate neighbourhood another race is found, distinguishable with much more certainty by its pure red back and long stiff crest. This was long ago described by Lesson as *C. carneus*.

*C. phoeniceus* of Venezuela, though similarly coloured to *C. virginianus*, can at once be distinguished by its bill being dark slate-colour instead of red, and by the restriction of the black of the throat. This bird was described as coming from countries south of the Bay of Honduras, but it has no place in our fauna.

The bill in *Cardinalis virginianus* is large, the culmen but slightly curved, and the commissure sinuated. The mandible is about the same height as the maxilla, but broader. The tarsi are moderately long, longer than the middle toe, which with the rest of the toes is short; the claws are slender and curved. The wing is rounded, the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth quills being the longest, the first being about equal to the