

DOES A MOTHER BIRD RECOGNIZE HER OWN EGGS?

by Harold B. Wood, M.D.

Some birds, such as bluebirds and swallows, do not resent their eggs being handled. While a sandbank was accessible for a seven year study, I banded 137 adult and 91 nestling Bank Swallows, with 19 adults repeating on my 42 occasional visits. Only two adults and two nestlings were recorded as returns.

The final year, I transferred 5 eggs from one nest to another hole which contained 5 other eggs. This hole was marked by a stick thrust into the sand nearby. Repeated visits there showed the number of eggs gradually decrease to only 5. But I neglected to mark one of the clutches by a brush and ink, so I never learned if the one female knew her own eggs, nor did I determine by repeatedly catching all adults which entered the nest if both mothers attended the eggs or young. Before another opportunity came for another, corrected investigation, a stean shovel came and removed the entire sand hill, the only sandbank within many miles.-- 3016 N. Second St., Harrisburg, Pa.

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A REQUEST FOR COOPERATION IN THE EVENING GROSBEAK SURVEY

by B. M. and M. S. Shaub

(The following request was received from EBBA member, Benjamin M. Shaub, and wife, in a mimeographed letter dated November 16, 1955. Your Editor would urge that banders who can contribute to this worthwhile project do so. For five years, the Shaubs have published the results of their monumental work in the EVENING GROSBEAK SURVEY NEWS, but this year, it will not be possible to publish the results in this medium. However, the tabulation and analysis of Evening Grosbeak distribution will continue, and the results thereof will be published in scientific journals as the occasion may demand. If you have anything of value concerning this species, please send it to the Shaubs.--Editor)

Although publication of the EVENING GROSBEAK SURVEY NEWS will not be continued this year, the Evening Grosbeak survey will be carried on as formerly and the results published in occasional papers in one of the scientific journals. We feel that the desire of a number of the more active collaborators in the survey to have the study of the Evening Grosbeak continued on a research basis justifies further study of this species.

During the five years of the publication of the EVENING GROSBEAK SURVEY NEWS, a great deal of information has been tabulated, and, during these years, the Evening Grosbeak has made its greatest southern penetration of the Appalachian and Piedmont regions. Actually, only a start has been made in the attempt to explain the behavior and distribution of this species. Consequently, we shall appreciate receiving anything of interest that you may observe concerning the life history, behavior, and distribution of the Evening Grosbeak.

Monthly reports, sent in regularly, will be very much appreciated, and day to day observations, of course, will be of the greatest value.

The survey will be most concerned with the following information:

1. Arrival date in the Fall.
2. Flock sizes: sex ratio variations from day to day and month to month during the Winter and Spring.
3. Color band and wing markings noted, as well as any band numbers seen on any E.G.'s.
4. Plumage notes, especially irregularities
5. Behavior of all sorts.
6. Native foods taken from trees and shrubs; what food attracts Grosbeaks at feeders?
7. Last day seen in Spring.
8. Indications of nesting or courting, dancing, gathering of nesting materials, nest-building, etc.
9. Any observations of Summer behavior.

It is regretted that time will not permit the sending of communications to observers during the Winter season, but all data received will be carefully processed and certainly will be of great help in our study of the Evening Grosbeak.--159 Elm St., Northampton, Massachusetts