

On the morning of April 19, 1958, a male Evening Grosbeak displayed before a female. He threw his head back, and his breast almost touched the tray; his wings were spread downward and outward and they vibrated; he moved toward the female and almost touched her. This display continued for about 15 seconds. The bills of these Grosbeaks were distinctly green, which has been described as being "similar to that of the skin of a maturing apple just before the sun has tinted it with the first faint blush of ripeness." (See "Evening Grosbeaks Choose Their Lipstick Well," by G. Hapgood Parks, Audubon Magazine, March-April, 1948, page 110.) In this article, Mr. Parks (one of the top banders of Evening Grosbeaks) after referring to the "uniform bone color" of the bill in winter, says that by late March all the bills were green. He concludes that the color of their bills matches the fresh young leaves. He visualizes the female on her nest in this protective coloring.

After they became established, the Evening Grosbeaks on the trays - together with the Purple Finches (430 banded) and Goldfinches (300 banded) - put on quite a display for everyone who came to see them. Mr. Ralph Lawrence and Mr. Donald Sutherland, both nature photographers of Washington, D.C., each spent several hours taking colored movies of these birds. On most days the Evening Grosbeaks followed a predictable pattern: they came shortly after full daylight, with two hour-long periods of peak activity and display, beginning about 8:00 A.M. and 11:30 A.M. Most of them left by 1:00 P.M. A few scattered birds were usually seen and heard briefly during the afternoon - one as late as 5:40 P.M., Daylight Time. Decreasing activity was noticeable after May 7. The last two birds - one male and one female - were seen briefly several times on May 14.

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BLACK DUCK - MALLARD HYBRIDS
Information Wanted by Paul A. Johnsgard

"As part of a PhD dissertation I am interested in determining the frequency of hybridization between the Black Duck and the Mallard in various parts of the United States, and have found that the best source of such information is that provided by banding records of persons who band large numbers of both species. Frequently these persons record hybrids separately from the parental forms, or at least have noted their relative frequency among the banded birds.

"Anyone who has such information please contact me. All that I need to know is the total number of Black Ducks, Mallards and their hybrids (with the sex ratio of the latter if possible) banded over a particular time period. This information would be of very great assistance to me. Thank you very much."

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