It is, of course, essential to see that the slack is evenly distributed along the entire length of the net before commencing operations. The method we have employed in doing our conversions involves stretching a net tightly between two points at such a height that it is convenient to work with the top string. The cord - in our case the standard (i.e. not the heavy) shelf cord - was wound on a netting needle. Once the end of the cord has been tied securely to a loop, it is a simple job to secure this line to the main shelf string at intervals of about 7 inches, thus ensuring that no mesh can slide more than an inch or two.

Done in this way, there will be about 6 or 7 free-sliding meshes between knots. The illustration may make the details plain. So far as we can see at present, a net tethered at the top only is equally as effective as a net tethered at the top and bottom, but further experience is required.

(Editor's note: We intend to adapt some of our nets as explained in the foregoing article. We hope that other EBBA members will also test this net tethering idea and let us know the results. If it works, it will certainly be a boon to all banders who use nets. We shall hope to publish some findings in the next issue.)

SHALL WE STOP BANDING EVENING GROSBEAKS IN ORDER TO SAVE THEIR LIVES?

By G. Hapgood Parks

Many banders of Evening Grosbeaks have learned that some of their birds have been shot (or "killed", or "found dead") in one or another of the Canadian Provinces. Many of these shootings have taken place in the western part of Quebec's Gaspé. Mrs. Parks and I visited this region last spring and it was our good fortune, while we were there, to come into possession of an interesting accumulation of data regarding the local situation.

The story is far too complicated to discuss here, but we are able to report that, bad as it still is, the condition in that region is showing definite improvement. This improvement is indicated by the number of bands recovered and reported annually by the inhabitants of that vicinity. Our data reveal the following numbers of bands reported during each of the past four years:

1959	1960	1961	1962
88+*	104+*	64	27

*The maximum known number in an uncertain total is indicated for 1959 and 1960.

The 1961 decline should be credited to the efforts of certain Canadian ornithologists, to direct intervention by Canadian Wildlife Service authorities, and to letters written by several United States banders. We hope that the further decline in 1962 may reflect, in part, the additional effect of our own presence in the area last June. Anyhow, of the 27 bands reported as having been removed from dead Evening Grosbeaks during 1962, fourteen were taken from the legs of some of the 500 we banded there during our brief stay. All 27 of the bands came from birds recovered in a remote area we were unable to visit.

The question might be asked: can this killing be completely curbed? We doubt it. Just so long as bands are placed on the tarsi of Evening Grosbeaks some of the birds are bound to be shot in order to obtain the bands they are wearing. Such is the inquisitiveness of the human inhabitants of this species' primitive nesting locale. Since the banded birds are the ones that are being killed it might be logical to find the "ounce of prevention" in a decision to stop banding the birds altogether. Every band we place on an Evening Grosbeak makes that bird a potential target for a .22 caliber slug.

Education can help, of course, but the difficulty of carrying the educational process to the source of the trouble is great. Last spring we discovered an intense interest in the banding procedure among those persons to whom we were able to demonstrate it. An even more virile interest was registered by those who saw "foreign retraps" released to fly away with their bands still intact after the desired information from these bands had been recorded. To disseminate this understanding until it has reached everyone, however, is almost impossible.

But to leave this species unbanded will not protect it against the serious menace which results from the promiscuous air-spraying of its nesting areas with insecticides. This threat was brought forcefully to our attention at dawn on June 28 when we shared with the birds the shower of oil-borne DDT released from the spray-planes of a forestry company. It seems that here is an even greater field where more education is needed, for, in this instance, the mere absence of a band from the bird's leg can in no way serve to save that bird's life.

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