

## EFFECT OF SPRAYED PESTICIDE ON EVENING GROSBEAK NESTING AREA

By G. Hapgood Parks

Those of our readers who were present at the paper session of last April's EBBA meeting at East Stroudsburg will recall our attempt to describe a trip we had made into the Quebec bush to investigate the shooting of Evening Grosbeaks in the vicinity of the Patapedia and Kedgwick rivers.

Our experience was introduced briefly in EBBA News, 26(1): 8-9. Then we reported it more fully in Bird-Banding, 34(1): 22-30, with a sequel in 34(2): 73-86.

In retrospect, let it suffice to say we found that the region which we visited was supporting a heavy population of nesting Evening Grosbeaks. The shooting of banded members of the species seems not to have disturbed their urge to nest there. The population was so dense that in 11 days (June 15 to 25, 1962), using only two traps (3-celled Potters), we banded 500 Evening Grosbeaks and captured 16 foreign retraps.

We left the area with the satisfying knowledge that the shooting of Evening Grosbeaks had been curbed very markedly. But we brought with us the alarming awareness of a very different, and much more serious, hazard to this species' welfare, for the final day of our 1962 visit had brought spray-planes overhead to spew their loads of pesticide upon the trees where these birds were then in the process of nesting.



It was to examine the effect of this spraying that we returned again this spring to the same region. We planned our trip so as to reach 39-mile Camp as close as possible to the anniversary of our 1962 arrival. We carried with us the same two traps we had then used. We set them in the same manner and at the same location and baited them in the same way. In fact, we tried deliberately to duplicate as exactly as possible all of the features of our 1962 study in order that our banding results would reveal any change in the status of the flocks of Evening Grosbeaks which had sought out this area to nest each spring for at least several consecutive years.

We believe that the following table will tell very forcefully the story of the effect of sprayed pesticide upon this Evening Grosbeak nesting site. In the table we compare our 1962 techniques and results (before the spraying occurred) with our 1963 techniques and results (one year after the spraying took place).

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<u>Techniques</u>			<u>1962</u>		<u>1963</u>	
Length of study			11 days		11 days	
Dates of study			June 15-25		June 15-25	
Traps employed			Two 3-cell Potter		Two 3-cell Potter	
Trap placement			On elevated table near wood-pile		On <u>same</u> elevated table near wood-pile	
Bait			Sunflower seeds		Sunflower seeds	

Results

Evening Grosbeaks banded	500	5
Foreign retraps	16	0
Returns	--	0
Repeats	<u>231</u>	<u>0</u>
Total birds handled	747	5

Any further comment seems to be superfluous, so let us gain what solace we can from the fact that Evening Grosbeaks are no longer being shot for their bands in the Patapedia River - Kedgwick River region of Quebec.

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## THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Elting Arnold, of Chevy Chase, Md. sends us a clipping from the Congressional Record (Vol. 109 - October 10, 1963, No. 162, pages 18197 and 18198) in which is printed information on bird banding which had been sent by the Bird Banding Office to a member of Congress. The Bird Banding Office had sent the information because the Congressman had reported the band of a dove which broke its neck flying into a picture window. (The dove's number was reported as 763-97968.)