

Safe Handling of Evening Grosbeaks.—The major flight of Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina* Cooper) to the northeastern United States in the early months of 1950 made more evident the need for special care in handling the birds at banding stations. There are a number of reports of serious injury to legs or wings from the heavy beaks of other birds, mostly when in too close quarters. Most of the discussion at recent banding meetings has centered on gathering cages, as often quite a number of grosbeaks would be captured at once and it proved difficult to keep them apart and quiet in the cages. One solution was a gathering cage with three or four cells in line, separated by moveable plastic partitions, used by Mr. Stephen C. Fordham, Jr., of Delmar, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Wellman of Lincoln, Mass., used a cage with several cells side by side, with a piece of inner tubing as the front, pierced by slits at each cell through which a bird could be thrust for safe keeping (but through which the bird could not escape). The use of cloths over the cages to keep the birds quiet until all are banded is particularly desirable for this species. It has also been suggested that large traps, such as the Mason type, may not be as desirable for Evening Grosbeak trapping as individual-cell types, despite their efficiency in taking large numbers. It may be possible to use a trap with eight or ten separate cells of the Potter type, so constructed and placed that the entire trap can be brought indoors for banding the birds taken. Consideration should be given to the proper use of bait to minimize the taking of other species at the same time as Evening Grosbeaks; for example, a mixed winter bird seed will often take many Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*) at the same time as Evening Grosbeaks, perhaps endangering the smaller birds, whereas use of sunflower seeds only will fail to attract the Tree Sparrows. These points need further consideration and testing in the next large Evening Grosbeak flight, to hold trap casualties to the absolute minimum.—E. A. Bergstrom.

CHANGES IN THE REVIEW SECTION

With this issue, *Bird-Banding* is initiating a modification of its policy in reviewing current literature. It has been increasingly difficult and expensive to approach a thorough coverage of all ornithological literature. As a consequence some books and papers of major importance have not received as much attention as they deserve. Henceforth, it is planned to publish fewer but more analytical and critical reviews, with some emphasis on important papers generally unavailable because of language or inaccessibility of the journal. The reviews will generally deal with reports of the activity of bird-banding stations and systems, good scientific papers on all aspects of migration, good scientific papers utilizing data obtained from banding, other papers on any aspect of ornithology of monographic scope or otherwise important, and significant books. The editors feel that these changes represent a progressive change; comments and suggestions will be welcomed.

Some readers of *Bird-Banding* may not be familiar with the very extensive listing of ornithological literature (by titles, subject, distribution and species) in Section *Aves* of the *Zoological Record*. This takes some time to prepare (the 1948 number appeared in May 1950), as its object is to list all titles in any language. Orders and remittances should be sent to the Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, N.W. 8, England; the price for this section when sold separately is \$1. The numbers for 1942 through 1948 are still in stock (at the same price), as well as a considerable number for earlier years; it is possible to place a standing order for future issues, to be billed at the time of publication. Care should be taken to refer to Section *Aves*, as the *Zoological Record* is made up of 19 sections.