

THE EVENING GROSBEEK INCURSION IN THE NORTHEAST WINTER OF 1957-58*

By MARY S. SHAUB

Despite an unusually dry season in many parts of northeastern United States and the Maritimes during the summer of 1957, the nesting season was apparently unusually favorable for the Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*). Reports were received from many localities in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont and W. A. Squires wrote from New Brunswick that the Evening Grosbeaks "apparently bred almost throughout the Province." In general in the northeast the native food supply was variable, especially the cone crops, so despite a mild autumn it was assumed that there might be a sizeable Evening Grosbeak incursion.

"In late August and September they were as common as migrating robins" in NEW BRUNSWICK "and then in October practically all of them left." (W. A. Squires). In southern ONTARIO Mrs. D. H. Speirs reported an early incursion and during September and October grosbeaks were observed in this Province from the Thunder Bay District north of Lake Superior east to Carleton Co. and south to *Hamilton* and then southwest to *Leamington* on Lake Erie. The flocks varied from a few birds to 100 at *Havelock*, Peterborough Co., Oct. 6th, (Bunkers), and were seen largely feeding on Manitoba maples, black cherry and sumac. One of the most significant ONTARIO reports came from *Scarborough* where on Oct. 6th, "at about 11:00 P.M. p-teer notes were heard from a flock traveling west at night. Three calls were heard; the night was clear." (Taylor, fide D. Speirs).

To the south the incursion was early and widespread in New England. Christopher Packard, Director of the Portland, Maine Museum of Natural History, reported "a fine heavy movement of Evening Grosbeaks in Maine the first week of September and increased numbers throughout the month." During September and October grosbeaks in flocks of 10-250 birds were reported from 32 MAINE localities extending from *Houlton* in the northeast to *Kittery* on the southeast coast and from inland points—*Kokadjo* in the north and *Norway* in Oxford Co. In most instances arrival dates were mid-Sept. to mid-Oct., the earliest dates being *Kittery*, Sept. 4th, (V. Hebert); *Kokadjo*, Sept. 14th, (E. Sherman); *Monmouth*, Sept. 12th, (fide H. Ramsdell); and *Skowhegan*, Sept. 12th, (R. E. Bernard).

In NEW HAMPSHIRE flocks built up rapidly from the first arrivals at *Berlin*, Sept. 1st, (M. Hoos); *Colebrook*, Sept. 1st, (E. Ball); *Durham*, Sept. 5th, (V. H. Smith); to flocks of up to 100 birds at 32 localities in all parts of the state from *Second Connecticut Lake* in the extreme north to *New Ipswich* in the southern central part of the state almost at the Massachusetts line.

In VERMONT native foods appeared to be scarce. In the north among the conifers only the Norway spruce had cones (J. Watrous) and in southern Vermont some wild apples had fruits and others did not, beechnuts were lacking or very scarce and the cone crop was variable, (E. Downs, E. and A. Macdonald). Only six localities reported in Sept. and Oct. From *So. Londonderry* Mrs. Downs wrote, "after the nesting season here the Evening Grosbeaks remained in flocks of varying size from a few to over 30 but numbers dwindled around Sept. 21st, about 30 were noted on Oct. 8th and during the month 20-40 were in and out of the feeders. Numbers of hawks and shrikes may have accounted for the low numbers of grosbeaks on some days in Sept. and Oct." At *Woodstock* grosbeaks "appeared in considerable numbers about the middle of Sept. and increased to 50 on Sept. 30th. This is their earliest appearance in 10 years. From sight obser-

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variations there appear to be far more males than females." (T. S. Fillebrown).

In MASSACHUSETTS the incursion got under way early with coastal areas reporting first: *Provincetown*, Sept. 2nd, 3 birds, (Gammell); *Marblehead Neck*, Sept. 9th, one bird, (D. Searle, RNEB*). Thereafter in all parts of the state from *Nantucket* to *Pittsfield* flocks of a few individuals up to 100 birds, (*Northampton*, Sept. 30, M. Sampson), were seen during Sept. and Oct. in 53 localities. In western MASSACHUSETTS where box elder seeds were abundant, for about 2 weeks early in Oct. hundreds of birds passed through *Adams*, *No. Adams* and *Cheshire*. The numbers were so large that Evening Grosbeaks had stripped most of the box elders by mid-Oct. of a seed supply which in other years would have lasted at least two months. Late nesting in this general region was indicated by the presence on Oct. 6th of four male and two female juvenals still in juvenal plumage. The birds came to the feeders even before the box elder, Norway and sugar maple seeds had been cleaned up. Males predominated at *Florence*, *Gloucester* and *Great Barrington*. At *Pittsfield* E. L. Dunbar reported that "seeding trees, including all maples, were exceedingly heavily seeded, beechnuts were plentiful and it was a fairly good cone year."

In RHODE ISLAND, despite the heavy Evening Grosbeak incursion, this state had only one winter report: *Adamsville*, Sept. 2nd and 3rd, 10-12 birds (W. G. Brackett, RNEB). It seems singular that this New England state should have been by-passed by the birds in favor of the southern states.

CONNECTICUT reports for Sept. and Oct. came from only six localities, the earliest being *Marlborough*, Sept. 27th, 7 (Peter Isleib, RNEB), and the largest flocks only 20 birds at *W. Hartford*, (A. Bergstrom).

In NEW YORK STATE the earliest arrivals were: *E. Chatham*, Sept. 24th, 1 male (E. Radke); *Hornell*, Sept. 29th, flock (W. Groesbeck, fide S.H.*); *Morrisville*, Sept. 29th, 9, (Ada Carter, fide S.H.); *Sapsucker Woods*, Ithaca, Sept. 30th, small flock (D. Allen, fide S.H.). Otherwise NEW YORK reports indicated arrival dates in Oct. or later. The grosbeaks were quite well distributed from *E. Chatham* to *Rochester* but generally the flocks were small, the largest number being 50 birds noted Oct. 22nd at *Woodstock* (Mrs. Lewis, fide S.H.).

PENNSYLVANIA had a good Fall incursion with Evening Grosbeaks reported at 10 localities from *Allentown*, Sept. 24th, 6 (T. Hanson, fide M. Broun), to *Ridgway* in the western part of the state, Oct. 15th 125-150 (Trudy Smith in *Ebba News*, 21(2): 34). From *Hawk Mt.*, Kempton, M. Broun wrote, "we saw at least 880 Evening Grosbeaks migrating here during Oct., probably many more passed through." At *State College* the first grosbeaks were seen Oct. 4th and they were observed throughout the month in large numbers feeding on box elders near town and in many of the mountain areas. (D. Bordner).

In MARYLAND Evening Grosbeak arrival date records were broken on Oct. 12th when one bird was seen at *Monkton*, Baltimore Co. by Andrew Simon. During the month small numbers were reported from *Annapolis*, *Bethesda*, *Cabin John*, *Denton*, *Trappe* (fide C. Robbins); at *Laurel* and *Rock Point* (R. F. Stewart), and at *Unity*, (S. Low).

Reports from farther south in Oct. included VIRGINIA: *Washington* area, Oct. 12th on, noted (Paxton, p. 51*); *Charlottesville*, Oct. 12th on (Paxton, p. 52); *Clifton Forge*, from Oct. 30th, (Paxton, p. 52); *Richmond* area, Oct. 15th, noted (Paxton, p. 50). Two NORTH CAROLINA reports included: *Halifax*, Oct. 27th, 11 flying north, (L. Gstell); and *Newfound Gap*, Oct. 30th, one bird (fide B. R. C.**).

In WISCONSIN at *Armstrong Creek* groups of Evening Grosbeaks were observed Sept. 3rd, Oct. 15th, 20th and 26th with up to 30 birds noted at the end of Oct. (R. Stefanski); and at *Mishicot* a flock of about 30-40 arrived Oct. 28th (B. Brouchoud).

*RNEB refers to *Records of New England Birds*, published by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Boston, Mass.

*S.H. refers to Mrs. Sally Hoyt.

*Paxton, Robert O., "The Evening Grosbeak in Virginia 1957-1958," *The Raven*, 29(5 and 6): 49-52, May-June, 1958.

**B.R.C. refers to unpublished manuscript by B. R. Chamberlain.

NOVEMBER

Weather continued favorable during Nov. with an open season in most of the Maritimes and New England. In NOVA SCOTIA after the Sept. 24th report no Evening Grosbeaks were seen until late Nov. (R. Tufts). Mrs. D. H. Speirs had fewer ONTARIO records in Nov. with only 20 localities reporting flocks of from a few birds to 125 on Nov. 3rd at *Rondeau Park* headquarters, Kent Co., and 200 on Nov. 25th at *Brockville* (Ivy Jarvie). In the Nipissing Dist. at *W. Ferris* "the prospect for food for the winter birds does not look too bright. Other than the lack of Manitoba maple samaras . . . there are no mountain ash berries, very few winter berries, the dogwood and nannyberry bushes appear to be mostly stripped of what fruit was on them." (Mackie, fide D. H. Speirs). Where noted the males predominated in numbers.

In MAINE the distribution ranged from *Calais* to *York Harbor* with flocks ranging from 10-60 birds as reported from 12 localities. NEW HAMPSHIRE was represented by only four localities with males predominant at *Durham* and two immature males observed by Dr. H. C. McDade at *Hanover* on Nov. 1st. In VERMONT 20-40 Evening Grosbeaks were seen daily at *So. Londonderry* (Downs); 8 males and one female on Nov. 11th at *Topsham* (Macdonalds); and 200 birds estimated in and around *Woodstock* (T. Fillebrown).

The great interest in birds in MASSACHUSETTS was reflected in 45 reports from coastal points (*Rockport*, *W. Gloucester*, *Bourne*, *Cohasset* and *Duxbury*, RNEB), to *Adams*, *Great Barrington* and *Pittsfield* in western MASSACHUSETTS. The largest flocks were: *Cohasset*, Nov. 18th, 50 (V. Visser, RNEB); *Great Barrington*, up to 75 daily by the end of Nov. (E. Hull); *Hingham*, Nov. 24th, 100+, (RNEB); *Marshfield*, Nov. 1st, 100 (M. O'Brien, RNEB). Males predominated at *Northampton* (Shaub), *Pelham* (J. Seitz), and *Sterling* (Allen Farm). Other-wise sex ratios were not indicated.

From CONNECTICUT came reports of a few grosbeaks at *New Fairfield*, *Norwichtown*, *W. Simsbury* and *Windsor*.

In NEW YORK STATE, during Nov., 13 localities from *E. Chatham* to *Corning* had flocks of variable size and composition most of the month, the largest numbers being about 50 at *Canajoharie* (Mrs. L. Putnam), and about 50 by mid-Nov. at *Etna*, with the sexes about equal (S. Hoyt).

Eight localities in PENNSYLVANIA from *Hawk Mt.* to *St. Mary's* reported in Nov. with the largest flocks of over 100 at the *Hawk Mt.* feeders by Nov. 8th (M. Broun), and large numbers observed feeding on box elders near *State College* and in many mountain areas during the month (D. Bordner).

In MARYLAND by the end of the month every county on the lower half of the Eastern Shore had been represented by Evening Grosbeak reports (C. Robbins). In VIRGINIA through Nov. the birds were noted in the *Richmond* and *Washington* areas (Paxton, p. 51); at *Charlottesville* and *Clifton Forge* (Paxton, p. 52); and 12 birds were seen Nov. 18th at *Waynesboro* (Paxton, p. 52).

Southern records continued to increase with a male observed Nov. 1st at *Elizabethton*, TENNESSEE (F. Behrend). NORTH CAROLINA Nov. records included: *Asheville*, Nov. 20th, 5; *Boone*, Nov. 7th, about 75; *Elkin*, Nov. 27th, 1; *Mattamuskeet*, Nov. 22nd, 35-40; *Raleigh*, Nov. 17th, about 300 (B. R. C). At *Aiken*, SOUTH CAROLINA, Mrs. H. S. Hatcher observed a male on Nov. 19th.

From the Midwest R. A. Stefanski reported 30 birds on Nov. 3rd at *Armstrong Creek*, WISCONSIN.

DECEMBER

In Dec. at *Baddeck*, NOVA SCOTIA, 22 birds were noted on the 29th by Mrs. M. W. MacRae and 6 reports came from NEW BRUNSWICK. In ONTARIO grosbeaks were quite well distributed and large flocks observed at *Huntsville* (Waters, fide Speirs), a daily flock of 7-20 birds at *New Liskeard* with 16% females (Anderson, fide Speirs), and the largest flock, 140 birds, at *Peterborough* on the 28th (fide Speirs).

In New England the weather continued to be fairly mild in Dec. and grosbeaks were well distributed. From MAINE came reports from 21 areas from *Houlton* to *York* with generally fair-sized flocks, the largest counts being 50-60 on the 12th at *Cumberland Mills*, (I. A. Werner), 55 at *Warren* (Lord), and 45 at *Castine*

(Morse). In NEW HAMPSHIRE grosbeaks were noted from *Groveton* in the north to *Nashua* in the south with the largest numbers at *Bedford* from mid-Dec. to the 31st, 40 birds daily (Kennard) and *Meredith*, Dec. 30th, 49+ (Pardee, RNEB). VERMONT Dec. records came from *Montpelier*, 40-50 during the month (Miskelly and Allens, RNEB); *So. Londonderry*, 8-20 daily with very few females (Downs); *Topsham*, a few noted on 6 days in Dec. (Macdonalds); and *Woodstock*, 40 birds during Dec. (Fillebrown).

MASSACHUSETTS was well represented in Dec. with grosbeaks reported from many localities in flocks of a few birds up to 100 from the coast to the Berkshires with males predominant where sexes were noted. The largest consistent flocks were reported by J. Seitz in *Pelham* where from Dec. 9th to 30th daily flocks ranged from 75-100 birds. The numerous reports from eastern MASSACHUSETTS were undoubtedly due in large part to the active birding interest there and consistent reporting to the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

In CONNECTICUT during Dec. only 4 localities reported: *Hartford*, small numbers during Dec. (Parks); *New Hartford*, 60 birds at the end of the month (Mrs. F. Hartman); *Norwich*, Dec. 4th, 3 males; Dec. 18th, pair (Mrs. H. Knup); and *Windsor*, Dec. 28th, 43 (M. Belden).

In NEW YORK STATE 19 localities from *E. Chatham* to *Buffalo* recorded grosbeaks with generally small numbers except *Etna* where 80 birds were present by mid-Dec. with males predominant but sexes about equal by the 31st (S. Hoyt). Males were noted predominating at *E. Chatham* (E. Radke), *Hillsdale* (Mrs. R. Green), *Nassau* (B. Shineman), *Peru* (E. Washbourne), and *Trumansburg* (Mrs. L. Warren, fide, S.H.).

The first winter NEW JERSEY report for 1957 came from Mrs. Joseph Cardinali at *Jamesburg* with 20 birds on Dec. 6th.

PENNSYLVANIA observations continued to come from *Hawk Mt.* (M. Broun) to *Coudersport* (R. Lyman) with 100-150 birds reported at the latter locality on Dec. 10th. At *Hawk Mt.* by the 28th there were "about 200 in the area with numbers fluctuating from 50 or less to 200" (M. Broun).

On Dec. 5th C. Robbins wrote from *Laurel*, MARYLAND, "Thanks to a foot of snow that fell yesterday (heaviest in 15 years) the first Evening Grosbeak, a female, came to our feeders today. . . . So far we have had reports from the following MARYLAND counties: Allegany, Montgomery, Prince Georges, Ann Arundel, Charles, Baltimore, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico and Somerset."

In WEST VIRGINIA, Pocahontas Co., grosbeaks were abundant in Dec.*

VIRGINIA records doubled over the previous month with *Nansemond Co.*, Dec. 30th, 5; *Richmond* area, small groups in Dec.; *Washington* area, noted in Dec.; *Williamsburg*, Dec. 23rd to 30th, noted at feeder (Paxton, p. 51). Also *Charlottesville* had grosbeaks in Dec., as did *Clifton Forge* and *Hot Springs* while *Shenandoah Nat. Park* reported 7 on the 22nd and *Waynesboro* a maximum for the winter with 70 birds in Dec. (Paxton, p. 52). At *Mount Rogers*, Grayson Co. F. Behrend recorded that on the Christmas Bird Count 96+ were recorded at 5100' altitude in spruce, balsam and birch on Cabin Ridge.

Thirteen localities in NORTH CAROLINA from *Ahoskie* on the coastal plain to *Roan Mt.* in the western part of the state had grosbeaks in Dec. in flocks of varying numbers from a few birds to a maximum of 50 as recorded by E. Pike at *Ahoskie* on the 29th. On the NORTH CAROLINA-TENNESSEE line on the 22nd a count of 93+ was made by the Audubon Christmas Bird Census at 5200'-6150' altitude in coniferous forest (F. Behrend).

By Dec. the grosbeaks were fairly numerous in MICHIGAN with one to 268 birds observed from the 21st to the 30th in 18 localities, the majority from the Lower Peninsula.

JANUARY

Although winter weather continued mild in Jan. in the Maritimes, grosbeaks were noted in only a few places. In NOVA SCOTIA only the *Wolfville* area had these birds during the month (R. Tufts). In NEW BRUNSWICK at *Hampton Station* 9 birds were seen in Jan. (Mrs. A. Leatherbarrow); at *Kingshurst* 7 were noted from the 21st to the 25th (fide W. Squires); and at *St. John* a small flock

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was observed during the month by R. Ryder. ONTARIO had about the same distribution as earlier but some flocks had increased in size with 100-125 daily at *Kingston* (Edwards), 50 on the 26th at *Victoria* (Saunders), and about 400 on the 10th at *Maple* (F. Lovesy). Where noted the males greatly predominated.

Fewer observations than earlier in the season came from MAINE with only *Cumberland Mills* (I. Werner), *Skowhegan* (Bernard), and *Mt. Desert* reporting and males predominated in each case. There was considerable observer activity in Jan. in NEW HAMPSHIRE from all sections with the largest flocks at *New Hampton*, over 40 birds (V. Hebert); a maximum of 200 at *Raymond* (Miller, RNEB); and 40 birds at *Bedford* (Kennard). Only five areas in VERMONT reported, with the largest numbers at *So. Londonderry*, maximum of 40 (Downs), and at *Montpelier*, 50 on the 15th (fide V. Hebert).

There was much more reported activity in MASSACHUSETTS with flocks noted from *Annisquam* and *Duxbury* on the coast to *Adams* in the west. Flocks varied in size, the largest numbers being 60-90 daily with 100 on Jan. 18th at *Pelham* (J. Seitz). Where noted males predominated about 3:1 with the exception of *Middleboro* where Mrs. Romaine noted 60% females in a flock of 28 on Jan. 9th.

Larger flocks were seen in Jan. in CONNECTICUT with a maximum of 80 in *Glastonbury* (Whittles, RNEB); 73 in *Hartford* (Parks); and 75 in *Windsor* (M. Belden).

Heavy winter weather brought large flocks to feeders in NEW YORK STATE during the month from *E. Chatham* to *Buffalo* with 100-125 noted at *Binghamton* (Mrs. R. Rivers, fide S.H.); 100 in the village of *Etna* daily (S. Hoyt); 100 at *Freeville* daily (Landon, fide S.H.); and a flock of 200 seen on box elder at *Rome* (Mrs. B. Aspinwall, fide S.H.).

Only *Allendale* (Dater), *Ramsey* (Dater) and *E. Brunswick* (Mrs. T. Shelley), recorded any grosbeaks in NEW JERSEY in Jan.

In PENNSYLVANIA the birds were fairly widespread during the month with 300 at *Hawk Mt.* Jan. 20th with 70% females (Broun); and flocks of up to 59 birds at *State College* (D. Bordner).

More outstanding were the southern records with flocks at *Baltimore*, MARYLAND. Birds were also noted in VIRGINIA at *Churchville*, *Staunton*, *Monterey* and *Pine Ridge*. Other reports from this state included *Waverly*, *Richmond* area, *Washington* area, *Chase City*, and *Saxe* (Paxton, p. 51); also *Charlottesville*, *Waynesboro* and *Clifton Forge* (Paxton, p. 52).

F. Behrend noted flocks at *Burbank*, TENNESSEE, of over 50 birds and at *Roan Mt.* in the same state approximately 150 birds in coniferous forest at 5500-6100' altitude. Reports from the Carolinas included: NORTH CAROLINA—*Ahoskie* (E. Pike); *Durham* (Mrs. W. C. Davison); *Greensboro* (Mrs. C. E. Breckenridge); *Jackson* (Mrs. E. Norfleet); *Washington* (Mrs. L. Carver); and *Wilkesboro* (W. Smith); SOUTH CAROLINA—*Columbia* (Mrs. J. B. Frazier); *Florence* (L. M. Dargan); *Hartsville* (Mrs. K. G. Kuehner); *Huger* (E. von S. Dingle); and *McClellanville* (fide E. A. Mason).

Probably the most significant Jan. report was *Gadsden*, ALABAMA, where Mrs. B. P. Clark had one male on the 20th and 26th and two to three males daily from the 27th to the 31st. It is interesting to note that this is only the second year that Evening Grosbeaks have visited *Gadsden*, the first time being in 1955, and this is also only the second Evening Grosbeak record for the state of ALABAMA.

From *Muskegon*, MICHIGAN, Mrs. Harold Clover reported that on Jan. 11th the Evening Grosbeaks returned in great numbers with appearances in many areas. At *West Branch* in the same state Evening Grosbeaks arrived in Jan. and stayed all winter (Mrs. C. Martin).

FEBRUARY

During February very few grosbeaks were seen in NEW BRUNSWICK with only *Kingshurst*, *Rothsay* and *Salisbury* reporting (fide W. A. Squires). On the contrary the incursion continued to be heavy generally during Feb. in ONTARIO with a definite wave during the month and the birds were distributed from *Kirkland Lake* to *Ottawa* and south to *Ipperwash Beach* in Lambton Co. Large flocks were observed at *Kingston*, 250 on the 2nd (fide D. Speirs), and at *Richmond Hill*, 300 on the 9th (S. Gadsby). Mrs. Speirs wrote from the *Toronto* area, "A few Evening Grosbeaks went through this area last fall and remained here all winter, but this month there have been many flocks of them around, some containing upwards of 200 birds."

Many coastal points in MAINE had flocks of 10-70 birds during the month. The distribution in NEW HAMPSHIRE remained about the same as in Jan. with 100 birds Feb. 18th at *Peterboro* (fide V. Hebert), and 150-200 at *Raymond* on the first (fide V. Hebert). VERMONT reports indicated small numbers at *So. Londonderry* (Downs); *Rutland* (E. V. Page), and *Arlington* (Congdon).

The situation was different in MASSACHUSETTS with 48 areas well represented from all sections. Largest flocks were reported from *Great Barrington*, 40-100 daily (E. Hull); *Haverhill*, 100+ (RNEB); *Mansfield*, Feb. 3rd, 101 (A. R. Richardson); *Pelham*, Feb. 6th, 102 (J. Seitz); *Wareham*, Feb. 15th, 250-300 (RNEB); and *Winchendon*, Feb. 18th, 100+ (RNEB). Males were predominant where indicated.

In CONNECTICUT only *Hartford* reported in Feb., with daily flocks of 8-42 birds with varying sex ratios (G. H. Parks).

NEW YORK STATE had grosbeaks in 22 areas from *E. Chatham* to *Rochester* with males generally predominant. An interesting report came from A. Glen Acheson of *E. Setauket*, L. I., where on Feb. 17th 35-40 birds were noted with sexes about equal and the birds came daily through Feb. 27th. This was the first Evening Grosbeak occurrence on Long Island since 1951.

In NEW JERSEY only *Ramsey* had a few birds daily (E. Dater), and *Jamesburg* had several on Feb. 19th to 23rd (Mrs. J. Cardinali).

Distribution in PENNSYLVANIA was generally in eastern and central areas during the month with 18 localities indicating fairly small flocks with the exception of *Hawk Mt.* where from the first to the 16th there were heavy concentrations with 30% males and at least 550 birds were present during the third week of Feb. (M. Broun).

In MARYLAND at *Baltimore* a pair was seen Feb. 26th by L. Ford and at *Laurel* two pairs were noted on the 24th by C. Robbins. In WEST VIRGINIA (*The Redstart*, *op. cit.*) grosbeaks were observed at *Petersburg* Feb. 5th, at *Beckley* Feb. 15th, at *Winchester* in Feb., and at *Martinsburg* 20 birds were seen Feb. 13th to March 13th. In VIRGINIA Paxton, p. 51-52, reported as follows: *Clifton Forge*, flocks varying up to 175-180 during Feb.; *Fries*, three birds on the 21st; *Hot Springs*, noted in Feb.; *Roanoke*, one bird on the 21st and 22nd; *Lawrenceville*, about 50 on the 13th; *Williamsburg*, 20 on the 25th; and noted during Feb. in the *Richmond* area, *Washington* area, at *Charlottesville*, *Sweet Briar*, and *Waynesboro*.

NORTH CAROLINA produced a surprisingly large number of grosbeak records during Feb. with 16 localities reporting. At *Lenoir* the heavy snow of the 2nd brought large numbers to feeders and birds came daily in Feb. in flocks of one to 11 with females generally predominant (Mrs. J. B. Bernard). At *Jackson* about 30 birds were present from the first to the 8th (fide R. Parker). The largest Feb. report at *Ahoskie* was 13 males and 30 females on the 25th, and on other days from the 15th to the 27th females predominated (R. Parker). An outstanding report of 300-400 on the 20th came from *New Bern* (F. D. Conderman, fide B. R. C.).

In SOUTH CAROLINA eight localities had grosbeaks in Feb. with the largest flocks at *Camden*, 75 birds on the 9th (E. J. Wellborn, fide B.R.C.); and at *Dillon*, 30-40 birds on the 25th and 27th, (A. McCallum, fide B.R.C.).

GEORGIA had Feb. reports at *Eatonton* on the 3rd, large flock (F. W. Fitch, Jr., fide B.R.C.); at *Rome* on the first, one male (G. L. Hight, Jr., fide B.R.C.); and at *Thomson*, 30 miles west of Augusta, one female collected on the 4th (H. Hunt, fide, B.R.C.).

At *Gadsden*, ALABAMA, Mrs. B. P. Clark noted two to three birds Feb. first to 15th, 2 males on the 24th, about 50 on the 25th, and a few birds from the 26th to the 28th.

The Chicago Sunday Tribune for Feb. 9th reported many persons feeding grosbeaks in the area including: *Oak Lawn*, Ill., pair (Mrs. D. E. Frazier); *Wayne*, Ill., at least 3 pairs (Mrs. J. S. Giles); *Warrenville*, Ill., one bird (Mrs. Paul Daw); *Chesterton*, Ind., pair (E. A. Nickel); *Gary*, Ind., flock several times (L. Snyder); *Beverly Shores*, Ind., 3 birds (Mrs. E. S. Wheeler).

MARCH

During March Maritime reports included: *Wolfville*, NOVA SCOTIA, where Robie Tufts felt that the Evening Grosbeaks were present in greater numbers

than at any previous time with males outnumbering females at least 4:1; NEW BRUNSWICK, *Kingshurst*, near St. John, two birds on the 2nd and 3rd (D. Christie); and *St. John*, two birds on the 20th (R. Ryder). In southern ONTARIO grosbeaks were noted from the Temiskaming Dist. to *Ottawa* to *Toronto* with large flocks at a number of localities: *Cherrywood*, over 200 birds on the 8th and 9th (A. Bunker); *Ottawa*, 78 birds on the 15th (D. Gibson); and *Toronto*, 40 birds on the 4th (LeVay).

Twelve localities in MAINE reported grosbeaks in March with females increasing to dominance at *Lewiston* by the 29th and flocks of up to 45 birds (H. Ramsdell). The largest flocks were at *Brunswick*, 70+ on the 22nd (Varney, *Maine Field Observer*, III, No. 4, p. 39); *Warren*, 60 through March (Lord, *op. cit.*); *York Harbor*, 50 on the 3rd (Drury, *op. cit.*); and *Skowhegan*, up to 55 birds, (R. E. Bernard). In NEW HAMPSHIRE only *Groveton* (M. L. Lehnert), and *Durham* (V. H. Smith), noted grosbeaks in March. Small numbers were seen during the month in VERMONT at *So. Londonderry* (Downs); *Rutland* (E. V. Page); and *Woodstock* (Fillebrown, RNEB). In MASSACHUSETTS fewer reports came in but the distribution remained about the same throughout the state with the largest flocks noted at outer *Cape Cod*, 70+ on the 23rd (Gardler, RNEB); *Pelham*, 60-80 daily (J. Seitz); and *Great Barrington*, 30-100 on the first to the 22nd (E. Hull). At *Adams* and *Northampton* males greatly predominated. In CONNECTICUT G. H. Parks reported from *Hartford* that flocks of 2-35 birds were present on all but one day in March with females predominant on 15 days and sexes equal on 7 days. At *Windsor* M. D. Belden noted daily flocks of 3-30 birds during the month.

In NEW YORK STATE reports came from *E. Setauket*, L. I., with 25 birds noted on the 23rd by A. G. Acheson to *Elmira* with 20-40 birds daily during the month (fide S.H.). Where indicated sexes were equal at *E. Setauket* and males predominated at *Gloversville* and *Nassau*.

The only NEW JERSEY March record came from *Ramsey* where Mrs. Dater observed a few birds daily from the first to the 11th with females predominant on some days but males usually in the majority.

IN PENNSYLVANIA grosbeaks were noted at *Clearfield*, March first to 18th, 25-35 daily (Mrs. J. A. Dague); *Downington*, March first to 25th, small numbers almost daily (Mrs. K. M. Maxwell); *Hollidaysburg*, March 14th to 23rd, birds almost daily (W. J. Moughemer); *State College*, flocks of one to 22 birds on all but two days in March with decline at the end of the month (D. Bordner); and *Sykesville*, 17-102 birds daily with the largest flocks on days of heavy snow, 80 on the 14th, 100+ on the 21st, and 102 on the 29th (Mrs. O. P. Eaton).

A number of VIRGINIA reports for March reported by Paxton, p. 51-52, included: *Charlottesville*, noted; *Chase City*, noted; *Clifton Forge*, birds departed on the 26th; *Courtland*, March 25th, 30; *Elkton*, late March, 6; *Fries*, March first to 15th, 18-20 birds; *Hampden-Sydney*, March 29th, 10; *Harrisonburg*, 12-15 birds seen three times in March; *Hot Springs*, noted; *Millboro*, March first to 30th, about 100; *Richmond* area, *Washington* area, *Waynesboro*, noted; *Williamsburg*, March 21st, last date seen. Also from *Fork Union* L. J. Wade noted 7 males and 14 females the first week of March.

In NORTH CAROLINA the distribution in March ranged from *New Bern* to *Charlotte* with the largest flocks at *Henderson*, 11 males and 35 females noted on the 2nd by Mrs. A. W. Bachman; and *Southern Pines* where M. K. Wintyen observed from the 6th to the 20th flocks of two to 100 birds on 13 days with 75-100 on the 8th with females predominant. Females also predominated at *Mount Olive* (Mrs. E. W. Holmes). In SOUTH CAROLINA small numbers were seen at *Columbia* and *Dillon* and 60 birds were recorded on the 3rd at *Charleston* with females predominant (fide B.R.C.); near *Witherbee*, 15 were seen on the 8th by E. vonS. Dingle and at *Hartsville* Mrs. K. G. Kuehner had daily flocks of several hundred from the first to the 9th.

In GEORGIA at *Atlanta* grosbeaks were first spotted in March, and at *Rome* were noted during the month (fide B.R.C.). At *Gadsden*, ALABAMA, Evening Grosbeaks were observed in a wooded residential area from March 2nd to 31st in flocks of one to 18 birds almost daily with males generally predominant (Mrs. B. P. Clark).

At *Edgerton*, OHIO Mrs. G. E. Hopkins reported six males and 14 females on the 2nd and a few birds daily from the 3rd to the 31st.

APRIL

In ONTARIO although the distribution was about the same as in the previous month there was a decline in numbers during April with the largest flocks at *Bolton* (Peel Co.), 30 on the 30th; *Port Credit* (Peel Co.), 35 on the 11th; *Toronto*, 25 on the 5th; and *Rouge Hills* (Ont. Co.), 36 on the 30th. At the latter locality Mrs. Speirs reported seeing on April 15th a female dancing before a male and spreading her tail and swaying.

In MAINE although at *Skowhegan* in April there was an increase in birds to 55 (R. E. Bernard), in most areas there was a decline from a maximum of 20-50 birds during the month. In NEW HAMPSHIRE grosbeaks were seen at *Plymouth* and *Durham* and at *Hanover* on the 11th twenty birds were seen eating buds or catkins of aspen by H. C. McDade. In VERMONT small numbers were observed at *Bennington* (fide S.H.) and *Woodstock* (Fillebrown, RNEB); at *Bradford* thirty were counted on the 23rd (fide Macdonalds); at *Rutland* 20-21 birds were seen April first to 7th (E. V. Page); and 20-40 appeared daily during the month at *So. Londonderry* (Downs).

Twenty-one localities in MASSACHUSETTS from *North Chatham* on Cape Cod to *Adams* in the Berkshires reported flocks of a few individuals to about 80 birds April 3rd at *Middleboro* (D. Briggs). At *Adams* F. Brierley observed April first to 16th, 45-50 birds with 80% males; April 17th to 30th, 30-35 birds daily with males predominant although the females gradually increased; April 14th a female was seen spreading her tail and bobbing her head at a male; April 27th a male was observed twice fluttering his wings with head and tail up. At *Northampton*, April 19th, a female spread her tail and danced and a male bobbed his head; April 20th a pair bobbed heads on the feeder; and on the 24th a male courted a female by vigorous fluttering of wings with crest raised and tail in the air (M. Shaub).

At *Hartford*, CONNECTICUT, flocks of two to 34 birds were seen on 29 days in April with females predominant but an increase in the proportion of males occurred April 22nd to 30th (Parks). At *Windsor* on April 29th the five birds present were the last seen this year (M. D. Belden).

In NEW YORK STATE seven localities from *E. Chatham* to *Corning* reported a few birds to about 100 daily with males predominant 4:1 at *Gloversville* (Mrs. O. Slade).

In PENNSYLVANIA small flocks were seen in April at *State College*, *Hollidaysburg* and *Altoona*, a large flock April 10th at *Ligonier* (fide W. J. Moughemer) and at *Sykesville* during the month daily flocks of 27-73 the first half of the month with a decline the second half to 16 birds on April 30th with males usually predominant where indicated (Mrs. O. P. Eaton).

At *Salisbury*, MARYLAND, eight grosbeaks were observed on the 20th by Mrs. A. Bergstrom.

As in previous years the peak month for VIRGINIA was April in most localities: *Arlington*, April 12th, first date seen, about 10 birds present with females predominant 2:1; April 19th a male displayed before a female with head back and breast almost touching the feeding tray he vibrated his full-spread wings; April 21st to 30th about 15-20 birds daily (A. H. Fast); *Fredericksburg*, a few birds on the 23rd and at *Jamestown* several noted on the 22nd (Mrs. A. Bergstrom); *Wilmington*, 15 pairs on the 25th (L. J. Wade). Paxton, p. 51-52, recorded the following: *Charlottesville*, noted in April with a maximum of 12 on the 30th; *Chase City*, noted April first to 13th; *Hot Springs*, 76 on the 18th; *Lexington*, noted April 20th to 30th; *Millboro*, about 100 April first to 12th; *Sweet Briar* noted in April; *Washington* area and *Waynesboro* noted in April.

In NORTH CAROLINA localities from *New Bern* to *Charlotte* reported flocks of varying size with the largest numbers at *Greensboro*, 24 (Mrs. C. Breckenridge) and *No. Wilkesboro*, approximately 50 on the 23rd (W. P. Smith). In SOUTH CAROLINA at *Charleston* from April first to 15th up to 70 birds were present with 20% males, the males departing on the 25th, the females on May 2nd (Dr. J. Cavanagh, Jr.); *Hartsville*, decline in flock size with the last ones, a pair, noted on the 24th (Mrs. K. Kuehner).

In GEORGIA grosbeaks were seen frequently during April at *Eatonton* and last noted at *Atlanta*, 3 birds on the 27th (fide B.R.C.). In ALABAMA at *Gadsden* a few birds were seen almost daily April first to 12th with a peak of 15 on the 4th and one male was the last seen on the 23rd (Mrs. B. Clark);

Livingston, about 15 feeding on ash trees on the 10th (fide Mrs. Clark); *Randolph Co.*, near the Georgia line, one male on the 10th (fide Mrs. Clark); and *Wedowee*, one male on the 10th (fide Mrs. Clark).

At *Edgerton*, OHIO, a few grosbeaks were observed in early April by Mrs. G. E. Hopkins and at *Armstrong Creek*, WISCONSIN, eight birds were noted on the 20th by R. A. Stefanski.

MAY

At *Wolfville*, NOVA SCOTIA, three males and two females were still present May 28th (R. W. Tufts). Reporting for NEW BRUNSWICK, W. A. Squires wrote in *Nature News*, Vol. 9, No. 3, May-June 1958, p. 2, "Evening Grosbeaks which were scarce in the Province all winter returned in the middle of May in great numbers to breed. There were many in the *Fredericton* area for several weeks. I saw at least 100 there on May 22nd." In northern NEW BRUNSWICK grosbeaks were reported May 24th and on June 2nd two were seen near *Saint John* (W. A. Squires). There was a definite decline in ONTARIO in numbers of birds and in areas still having grosbeaks in May with only 9 localities reporting. Departure dates included: Nipissing Dist., *W. Ferris*, May 25th; Ont. Co., *Cherrywood*, the 18th and *Rouge Hills*, the 18th; Peel Co., *Port Credit*, the 27th; Temiskaming Dist., *New Liskeard*, the 14th; Wentworth Co., *Hamilton*, the 18th (Ont. reports fide D. Speirs).

In MAINE grosbeaks were last noted in May at *Lewiston* on the 4th (H. Ramsdell) and as indicated in the *Maine Field Observer*, III, No. 6, 1958, p. 65: *Bar Harbor*, one bird the 30th (Craney); *Brunswick*, one bird the 22nd (Varney); *Castine*, 20 on the 31st (M. C. Morse); *Cumberland Mills*, 63 on the 16th (Werner); *Harrington*, two on the 30th (Bigelow); *Matinicus Island*, two on the 21st (Bucheister); *So. Berwick*, one bird on the 18th (Libbey); *Wilton*, four on the 31st (Fernalds). At *Brewer* (Clish), *Kokadjo* (Sherman), and *Skowhegan* (Bernard) grosbeaks were seen into June indicating probable nesting in these areas.

In NEW HAMPSHIRE the picture was quite different. With the exception of *Pittsburg* where grosbeaks were observed in several fair-sized flocks in May and also during the summer (Fred Scott) the other areas that had grosbeaks during May did not have these birds after that. The last dates seen were: *Bedford*, one bird on the 23rd (J. H. Kennard); *Campton*, one male on the 24th (G. E. Davis); *Durham*, the 20th (V. H. Smith); *Groveton*, the 12th (Mrs. William Lehnert); *Hanover*, the 19th (McDade); *Lebanon*, the 20th (fide Mrs. K. Churchill); *Melvin Village*, 10 on the 6th (Mrs. A. Foote); *Peterboro*, the 22nd (Mrs. W. Brown).

In VERMONT Evening Grosbeaks departed from *Topsham* May 22nd (Macdonalds) but birds remained through the month and into June at *So. Londonderry* (Downs), *Waterbury* (L. Squier), and *Woodstock* (T. Fillebrown).

MASSACHUSETTS departure dates included: *Bedford*, May 13th (E. Wade); *Cambridge*, May 12th, 2 birds (H. T. Wiggin); *Great Barrington*, 3 pairs on the 14th (E. Hull); *Middleboro*, May 23rd (D. Briggs); *Northampton*, a pair on the 29th (J. Watrous); *Pelham*, one male on June 6th (Seitz); *Somerset*, one male June 6th (A. M. Blackledge). The heavy concentrations in *Adams* during May with males predominant brought 55-60 birds on the first and 30-35 daily May 2nd to 4th followed by the departure date of May 23rd despite the courtship activity during the last two weeks of their stay and actual mating on May 18th, all indicating a potential nesting area. However, neither nests nor very young birds were found here (F. Brierley).

Last reports from CONNECTICUT were *Cos Cob*, May 16th (Mrs. M. S. Roesler); *Hartford*, the 17th (Parks); and *Norwichtown*, the 3rd (Mrs. H. Knap).

Later departure dates were indicated in NEW YORK STATE: *Amsterdam*, June first (M. Fitzgerald); *Cazenovia*, May 27th (fide S.H.); *E. Chatham*, the 11th (E. Radke); *E. Setauket*, L. I., the 23rd (A. G. Acheson); *Etna*, the 25th (S. Hoyt); *Glens Falls*, June first (I. B. Sauter); *Gloversville*, May 17th (B. Slade); *Hornell*, the 26th (W. Grosbeck); *Ithaca*, the 24th (fide S.H.); *Nassau*, the 18th (E. Turner); *Oriskany*, the 16th (K. Worden, fide S.H.); *Pen Yan*, the 20th (fide S.H.); *Rome*, the 23rd (fide S.H.). At *Piseco* about the last of May the major number of birds departed, leaving two or three mated pairs (R. Christie, Jr.).

Departure dates in PENNSYLVANIA included: *Altoona*, May first (fide W. J. Moughemer); *Hawk Mt.*, the 19th (M. Broun); *Holidaysburg*, the 4th (W. J. Moughemer); *Rush*, the 10th (Mrs. E. McCain, fide S.H.); *State College*, the 17th (D. Bordner); *Sykesville*, the 15th (Mrs. O. P. Eaton); *Wellsboro*, the 16th (fide S.H.).

Southern departure dates were earlier as might be expected: *Laurel*, MARYLAND, May 5th (fide E. Downs); in NORTH CAROLINA—*Greensboro*, the 6th (Mrs. C. E. Breckenridge); *Henderson*, the 6th (Mrs. A. W. Bachman); *Southern Pines*, the 5th (fide M. K. Wintyen). Additional departure dates from NORTH CAROLINA (fide B.R.C.) included: *Charlotte*, May 4th (Mrs. H. B. Wellford); *Durham*, the 3rd (Mrs. G. C. Pyne, Jr.); *Elkin*, the 14th (L. Hendren); *New Bern*, the 15th (F. D. Conderman); *No. Wilkesboro*, the 2nd (W. P. Smith). Dr. J. E. Cavanagh, Jr., last observed grosbeaks at *Charleston*, SOUTH CAROLINA, on May 2nd. Mr. Chamberlain also reported from *Eatonton*, GEORGIA, the departure date as May 2nd when a pair was observed by F. W. Fitch, Jr.

In VIRGINIA the departure dates included: *Arlington*, May 14th (A. H. Fast); *Charlottesville*, the first; *Lexington*, the 3rd; *Sweet Briar*, the 7th; *Waynesboro*, the 12th (Paxton, p. 52).

From MICHIGAN last reports were *Muskegon*, May 12th (Mrs. H. W. Clover); and *West Branch*, the 2nd (Mrs. Carol Martin).

In WISCONSIN at *Armstrong Creek* the peak of the migration was May 4th and the last bird noted May 11th (R. A. Stefanski) while at *Mishicot* the departure date was May 13th (B. Brouhard).

The Evening Grosbeak situation in QUEBEC followed a different pattern from that farther south. Here the birds were reported from only 16 localities during the winter with indications of scarcity in the *Quebec City* region where noticeable waves of migration occurred from May 18th to 25th. The species was more abundant in southern QUEBEC in the *Rigaud* region with 200 birds noted here Sept. 29th and Oct. 1st to 3rd by Rev. L. Genest and 200 grosbeaks observed at *Charlesbourg* by H. Ouellet on May 19th.

CONCLUSION

The Evening Grosbeak incursion for 1957-58 was significant in many respects. The season began early with heavy movements in Northern New England the first week of September, wide distribution of the species in most of New England by early October, fairly wide scattering in New York State by October 22nd. Pennsylvania was well represented by the end of October and during the month there were reports from a number of Maryland localities with the Evening Grosbeak arrival date in this state broken on October 12th at Monkton, Baltimore Co. By the end of the month the Evening Grosbeak was reported from Virginia and North Carolina.

Before the season was over, the wintering range of the Eastern Evening Grosbeak as reported to the author extended from Baddeck, Nova Scotia, on the east across southern New Brunswick and northern Maine, across the St. Lawrence River to Kenogami on the Saguenay River, then south to the Montreal area and west to the Ottawa region. The northern delineation of the wintering ground then extended northwest to New Liskeard in the Temiskaming District, northwest to the Thunder Bay District north of Lake Superior and south to Armstrong Creek in northeastern Wisconsin. The line then extended south to the Chicago area, southeast to central Ohio, then to western Tennessee and Gadsden, Alabama. The southern delineation of the wintering ground was a line from Gadsden to Rome, Georgia to Charleston, South Carolina, the latter locality being the southernmost penetration of the species this winter.

As might have been expected the withdrawal to the north began earlier

in the South with the birds last seen at Charleston May 2nd and North Carolina departure dates ranged from May 2nd to 15th. Virginia departure dates ranged from March 21st to May 14th, Pennsylvania from May 1st to 19th, and New York State from May 11th to June 1st. New England last dates were April 29th to May 17th for Connecticut, May 12th to June 6th for Massachusetts, May 22nd for Vermont, May 6th to 24th for New Hampshire, and May 4th to 31st for Maine. In southern Ontario the departure dates ranged from May 14th to 27th. However, in New Brunswick the picture was very different with grosbeaks scarce in the Province all winter but returning in the middle of May in great numbers to breed.

As noted in past years the female grosbeaks tended to penetrate more deeply into the wintering grounds than the males. Flock sizes were variable over the winter range from a few birds to over 100 with the largest numbers noted in various areas. Banding was carried on at a number of stations, 31 of which reported to us a total of 7,152 grosbeaks banded during the winter of 1957-58. Undoubtedly more were banded and these records sent to the Banding Office. However, in comparison with other years it is interesting to note that since 1950 this is the 4th highest total for one winter season, the record being 12,404 birds banded in 1955-56 by 33 stations. The number of late departure dates and the several reports of courting seemed to indicate an extension of the summer range and we can look for more widespread summer records in the future.

159 Elm Street, Northampton, Mass.

THE DESTRUCTION OF NEARLY ONE HUNDRED EVENING GROSBEAKS AT ST. LEON le GRAND, QUEBEC*

BY B. M. SHAUB

Our research station receives from the Bird-banding Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from time to time, reports on the activities of bird-banders and others who supply information concerning the Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*). During the latter part of 1959 and in January of 1960, we received some startling reports concerning the collecting of large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks in Rimouski County, Quebec. On the 15th of February I wrote to the collector asking for information concerning the birds he had collected and which were banded at our station. Not ever expecting to hear from him, I was astonished at receiving a reply in less than a week. While he refers to himself as a "French Canuck" and states that English is not his language, his letter is in an excellent hand writing, far better than that of most of the students in the college where I taught. In his letter he frankly related the facts concerning his activities in collecting the Evening Grosbeak in his vicinity. He wrote that the "first one was killed by my cat and I showed that to my American fisherman and he told me to go ahead and get all I can to cooperate with the U. S. Wildlife Service.

*Contribution Number 25 from the Shaub Ornithological Research Station, Northampton, Massachusetts.