

EVENING GROSBEAK SURVEY

Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Shaub are continuing the compilation of Evening Grosbeak data again this winter in the hope of making available, through publication in one of the ornithological journals, the various aspects of this winter's incursion. The results of the last two winter incursions should be published soon and details of last summer's nestings in the north-east will be in the hands of the editor of New Hampshire Bird News shortly. It is important in this cooperative Evening Grosbeak study that as much material as possible be sent to one central point so that it may be evaluated and presented in as true a light as possible.

After last winter's very light Evening Grosbeak flight into the north-east, it is gratifying to find that the species has made an early and fairly widespread penetration into the wintering ground already and flocks have built up in some localities to fairly good size. Massachusetts arrival dates were exceptionally early: Sept. 14, Williamsburg; Sept. 16, Amherst; Sept. 18, Pittsfield; Sept. 20, Adams; Sept. 23, Northampton; Other early dates included: Sept. 30, Ithaca, N.Y.; Sept. 30, New Ipswich, N.H.; Sept. 28, Merchantville, N.J.; Sept. 29, Allentown, Pa.; and Oct. 5, Hawk Mt., Pa. By early November the Evening Grosbeak had penetrated as far as Tennessee. Fred W. Behrend observed a male feeding on maple seeds in a tree in Elizabethton, Tenn. on November first and on the second he heard the chirping of Evening Grosbeaks three times at an estimated altitude of 5600 feet on the southwest slope of Roan Mt. on the North Carolina side. He felt that as the balsam seed crop on Roan Mt. is relatively abundant this year the Evening Grosbeak may stay on the mountain throughout the coming winter.

It will be interesting to note if the grosbeaks penetrate further into the Carolinas and into Alabama and Georgia.

The Evening Grosbeak Survey would like to have arrival and departure dates for the season, daily flock sizes with notations of numbers of males and females in the flocks, unusual plumages, (especially definite observations of juvenals exhibiting the characteristic washed-out coloring and horn-colored bills), native foods taken and interesting behavior patterns. Already the E.G. Survey has assigned distinctive wing-marking color to Mrs. J. S. Y. Hoyt, of Etna, N.Y. who is also executive secretary of the Laboratory of Ornithology of Cornell University at Ithaca, N.Y. She will apply a red circle with a rubber stamp on the right wings of Evening Grosbeaks banded at her station at Etna, N.Y. and we are anxious to receive all observations of her marked birds in order to plot a distribution chart if possible.

It would be appreciated if observations could be sent monthly to B. M. Shaub, 159 Elm Street, Northampton, Mass.
