

approaching night made the birds more nervous, or if a day of feeding under artificial conditions produced symptoms more evident as the day progressed. Morning birds were largely those with red polls and little pink coloration. Afternoon birds were largely the more brilliantly colored ones. Was it possible, we asked, that within the flock there were subdivisions as to age and sex? Based on plumage similarities there seemed to be a separation of sorts during the feeding day.

The greatest concentration of birds was noted between 3 and 6 p.m. during which time the greatest number was taken. This held true even for repeats. Might this indicate perhaps that the flock spread out during the day but as night approached the birds collected and roosted en masse for the night?

There were two strangers with the flock. A single Tree Sparrow appeared on March 24, was banded, and was observed four times feeding with the redpolls, the last time on March 28. A Pine Siskin was observed once on Sunday, March 25. Since Tree Sparrows and Pine Siskins were a rarity in our area, we surmised that they were part of the redpoll flock.

One redpoll, taken on March 26, had an injured and bleeding leg. Examination revealed that the left leg was broken and dangling. The fresh wound indicated the bird had been injured in the trap. It was hospitalized and released on March 29 when it seemed quite vigorous and capable of fending for itself. It flew off without difficulty and joined other members of the flock. It was observed again on Monday morning, April 2 at the kitchen feeder, perched on one leg, the other drawn up close against its body. It had been released unbanded. We had decided that its chance of survival might be greater if its one good leg were not encumbered. We wonder how much of a detriment a band may be to a one-legged bird.

Snow once again fell on the morning of April 17. Among the birds feeding in the area were a single unbanded redpoll and an unbanded Tree Sparrow. These were probably stragglers from the big flock for no further invasion developed.

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EXPERIMENT WITH BAITS Mud, horsehair from over-stuffed furniture, oranges cut in half, boiled raisins and some of the most unlikely baits can be used with great success at certain times, writes Geoffrey Gill. Don't be afraid to experiment, he adds. The Fraziers learned from Geoff years ago the attraction of dogwood berries -- and went on to use the red berries from barberry bushes when dogwood berries were no longer to be found. These red berries draw in many thrushes in the autumn migration period.
