

THOMAS BROUSSEAU
with Evening Grosbeak



FINAL CHAPTER IN THE BROUSSEAU STORY

By G. Hapgood Parks

The name of Monsieur Thomas Brousseau is well known to many bird banders, especially those among us who have banded Evening Grosbeaks.

M. Brousseau was the French-Canadian woodsman who shot large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks after having been misinformed that the Fish and Wildlife Service was desirous of obtaining the information carried by the bands on their tarsi, by whatever means.

Some birders, failing to comprehend the entire story, have maligned this man as a slaughterer of Evening Grosbeaks. Our own intimate contacts with him, however, taught us that this talented man of the Canadian bush hid a gentle heart and a warm, beneficent character under his unpolished exterior. Although he lived in large part on the products of Nature's cornucopia, his conduct was essentially that of a strict conservationist.

On August 12, 1963, Thomas ("Pete") Brousseau found it necessary to travel from his isolated camp to the city of Amqui (Matapedia county, P. Quebec). While crossing one of the streets in that city on foot he was struck down by a speeding automobile. Mortally injured, Pete died in the Amqui hospital on August 19.

With his tragic passing we believe very strongly that the Evening Grosbeaks have lost a friend and champion.

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