

INVASION FROM THE NORTHLAND

By Bob Pepper

December 16, 1963, was the start of an invasion which would last until May 6, 1964. Our home at 206 South Second Street, Denton, Maryland, had been invaded by these creatures before but never in such large numbers. They produced a piercing sound which always warned us that they were near. They ranged in color from variations of gray and white to variations of yellow, black and white. Known as *Hesperiphona vespertina* vespertina or as the winter finch Evening Grosbeak to most people, they invaded our feeders at the rate of up to 125 a day. We fed their seemingly bottomless pits about 250 pounds of sunflower seeds during the winter.

During the remainder of December, after their arrival, we banded 335 Evening Grosbeaks for an average of 20.9 a day. The highest number banded on a day, during the winter, was 75 on Christmas day. It was accomplished almost entirely with three potter traps which sat on the ground. It was quite a chore but one that any faithful bird bander enjoys. For the winter our total was 971 Grosbeaks banded for an average of 6.78 a day. The following chart shows our banding broken up into monthly periods.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u># BANDED</u>	<u># OF FEMALES</u>	<u># OF MALES</u>	<u>AVERAGE PER DAY</u>
December	335	200	135	20.9
January	334	214	120	10.4
February	132	80	52	4.5
March	118	58	60	3.8
April	47	29	18	1.5
May	5	1	4	0.8
TOTALS	971	582	389	6.78

During the winter we recaptured 21 birds which were not ours. There were 19 Evening Grosbeaks and 2 Cowbirds. None of the birds listed were recaptured more than once. However, a bander about 15 miles from us was also getting about the same number of Evening Grosbeaks that we were, and we recaptured 27 of the ones he banded. Four of them we recaptured 3 times, and three others we recaptured twice. Sometimes it was a few days between one recapture and the next, but they were as much as two months apart. The two Grosbeaks banded at Pleasantville and the two at Swiftwater were by different people although in the same area. This made every bird recaptured banded by a different person in 9 states and Quebec, Canada. My mother, father, and I all enjoyed the busy winter with our friends, but at the time of this writing we have not seen them this winter. The following chart gives information on the recoveries.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DATE BANNED</u>	<u>DATE RECOVERED</u>	<u>PLACE BANNED</u>
Grosbeak	3-22-63	12-19-63	Granby, Massachusetts
Grosbeak	3-21-63	12-19-63	Ballston Spa, New York
Grosbeak	3-30-63	12-21-63	Etna, New York
Grosbeak	4-28-63	12-22-63	Springvale, Maine
Grosbeak	12-16-63	12-25-63	Swiftwater, Pennsylvania
Grosbeak	3-10-63	12-25-63	Arvida, Quebec, Canada
Grosbeak	12-14-63	12-26-63	Swiftwater, Pennsylvania
Grosbeak	12-21-63	12-27-63	No. Greenwich, Connecticut
Grosbeak	3-9-59	12-30-63	New Hampton, New Hampshire
Grosbeak	1-5-64	1-19-64	Pleasantville, New Jersey
Grosbeak	3-8-60	1-29-64	Pleasantville, New Jersey
Grosbeak	3-8-63	2-4-64	Cider Hill, Maine
Grosbeak	12-15-61	2-13-64	Ridgeway, Pennsylvania
Cowbird	11-29-61	2-29-64	Pemberton, New Jersey
Grosbeak	4-10-63	3-8-64	Bedford, Massachusetts
Grosbeak	3-31-63	3-8-64	Rockaway, New Jersey
Grosbeak	3-22-59	3-18-64	Watertown, New York
Grosbeak	12-24-63	3-19-64	Ardmore, Pennsylvania
Cowbird	2-25-64	3-22-64	Newark, Delaware
Grosbeak	2-4-62	3-27-64	Slaterville Springs, New York
Grosbeak	12-23-61	3-29-64	Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania

Two Grosbeaks were kept about two weeks because of injuries. One male was released apparently okay and the female after being released was found dead in the yard later. Our banding totals for 1964 were 4234 birds of 102 species, which bettered our 1963 totals of 1634 birds of 90 species.

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FIRST BOOK ON BIRDS OF PERU

Las Aves del Departamento de Lima, by Dr. Maria Koepcke, the first book on birds of Peru, has just been published in Lima.

Dr. Koepcke, an EBBA member since our visit with Frank P. Frazier, Jr. in Lima in 1963, gives complete descriptions (with her fine black and white drawings) of the 313 birds to be found in and around Lima. It is in Spanish, but for those visiting Lima the pictures alone are invaluable. Copies of the book (the price is \$3.50) may be secured by writing either Frank P. Frazier, Jr. (Colmena Derecha 208, Lima, Peru) or the author.

Dr. Koepcke is now working on a book that will describe all the birds of Peru. This book is to be in English, we understand.