

EVENING GROSBREAKS IN NEW BRUNSWICK - CHAPTER V

By Mr. & Mrs. G. Hapgood Parks

(Volume-No.-page references throughout this paper will point out to our readers previous issues of EBBA News which carried earlier chapters of this story.)

This particular portion of our report on our experiences with New Brunswick Evening Grosbeaks could very well be subtitled, "The Chapter that Almost Never Got Written".

The 1968-69 winter in Connecticut was especially bitter. Although no grosbeaks found our feeders in Hartford we were aware of small numbers in the suburbs and we had news of a considerable flight south of New England. Although mid-February saw no significant moderation in the weather, the authors continued successfully to avoid the threats of a local influenza epidemic while prolonged medication finally brought some relief to the senior author's DDT-provoked pulmonary affliction (31:1, 13-14). It was none too soon to start making plans if another study of the Evening Grosbeaks in New Brunswick was to be attempted this spring. So, on Feb. 22, we mailed a letter to Ottawa requesting the renewal of our Canadian banding permit and we enclosed a requisition for 500 No. 1A bands. A reply brought our 1969 permit and the announcement that a supply of bands had been mailed on April 17 to us at Mr. Joseph Munn's address in Astle, New Brunswick (30:1, 7). Preliminary preparations for our return to New Brunswick were begun immediately.

Everything developed smoothly until June 4 found our home prepared for the prolonged absence and our car packed with such banding equipment and other essentials as previous experience dictated. When the alarm clock woke us for a very early start next morning the junior author was unable to arise from her bed; she had been stricken with lumbar cramps. Four days and nights of heating pads, rest and prescribed medication resulted in so much improvement that, when our telephone rang on June 8, it interrupted us in the process of repacking the car for our long journey. One of our closest friends had passed away most unexpectedly.

We finally got away from Hartford early on June 12 and reached Milbridge, Maine, that afternoon. Three days there permitted us to open our summer cabin at Monhonon's Cove and to perform the rather complex chore of revising our car's load for the second phase of our trip into Canada. We woke at 0500 on Monday, June 16, to find a "smoky sou'wester" in progress with spray from the crashing rollers misting the window panes on the windward side of the cabin. To say the very least the mile-long walk out through the fog-saturated, untrimmed "pathway" around the top of the cove was a very efficient eye-opener but, somewhat sodden and thoroughly chilled, we were, at long last, actually headed back to Astle, New Brunswick. Another chapter in our continuing story about Evening Grosbeak

banding in Canada seemed about to be written.

We faced a moderate drive of about 230 miles. At Astle a comfortable cabin, as our headquarters, awaited us. An ample supply of bands had been sent to our Astle address on April 17. We had had official notice of their mailing so we need have no misgivings regarding them. The only missing links to assured success seemed to be the birds and, perhaps, the weather. We were in high spirits as the car's engine responded to the turning of the ignition key and we found ourselves actually moving toward the Canadian border.

The 125 miles over Maine's routes 1, 193, 9 and 6 were mostly foggy, so foggy at times that the headlights had to be turned on. At St. Croix the Canadian customs officer remembered our previous visits graciously as he welcomed us again into New Brunswick, but the New Brunswick weather lacked the graciousness of the customs official. We had scarcely rolled onto Canadian soil when rain began falling. As if bound to remind us of the sodden week we had suffered through during last year's stay (32:1, 5-13) there was no letup until we had reached Fredericton.

Only drizzle - and frequent puddles - complicated matters during the remaining 60 miles of our drive. Throughout the entire trip we had watched as best we could for evidence of Evening Grosbeaks, but none had been discovered until we reached Taymouth. The very name of the town, Taymouth, turned our minds back to three years ago. If the rain reminded us of 1968 Taymouth reminded us of 1966. It was at Taymouth that we had first seen Evening Grosbeaks in 1966 (30:1, 7), the year when such vast numbers of these birds had come to our traps at Astle. Here again, in 1969, we saw our first Evening Grosbeaks. From Taymouth to Astle individuals and flocks of as many as 25 flew up from the shoulders of the highway as we passed or were grouped in gravel driveways. Only two females were observed among many males.

It was shortly after 1400 when we turned in at the driveway to the Astle cabin which was to shelter us while we sought data for this new chapter. Twenty-five male Evening Grosbeaks and one female were calmly scooping up gravel (30:1, 16) directly in front of our cabin doorstep. Not even in 1966, nor upon the occasion of any of our other visits, had a feathered welcoming committee seen fit to meet at a salty-gravel banquet in honor of our arrival. Even before we opened the cabin door we spread handfuls of sunflower seeds at convenient spots along the edge of the driveway. The extremely tame birds were all about us as we transferred our load of equipment into our living quarters. Our hostess, Mrs. Sereta Stewart, increased our already excited pulse when she reported: "Budworms are everywhere, and so are the grosbeaks".

So another link necessary to the success of our project was very certainly assured - the Evening Grosbeaks were available. It was barely

mid-afternoon, the rain had dwindled to an almost imperceptible mist and in the springtime Evening Grosbeaks are evening grosbeaks in New Brunswick. We need only pick up our bands at Mr. Munn's home and we would be "in business".

Mr. and Mrs. Munn greeted us warmly. Their description of the abundant grosbeak flocks whetted still further our urge to get to the banding. "I've kept my horse in the barn for three weeks", said Mr. Munn, "because of the spraying going on. It killed all the black flies and mosquitoes, but the birds are still here, lots of them. Did you know", he added, "your bird tags have never come? Maybe they'll be in tomorrow's mail".

Words fail us as we try to describe how we felt when we learned that Mr. Munn had never received the supply of bands which had been officially "mailed on April 17, 1969" to us at his address. There was no reason, certainly, to wait for any more mail deliveries; someone, somewhere along the line, had failed to perform his proper duty. We must contact Ottawa headquarters!

At this juncture we remembered Dr. C.D. Fowle (29:4, 158). If he were in the vicinity again this spring his constant direct contact with the Canadian Wildlife Service office could provide a solution. We set about to find him. We stopped at the home of Mrs. George McClellan who, we knew, had worked with Dr. Fowle last year. She was unable to tell us his present location, but she offered the information that all spray-planes were working out of Dunphy Air Strip at Upper Blackville some 35 miles to the eastward.

It was too late to consider a drive to Upper Blackville that afternoon, so we returned to our cabin. Hoping that we might capture a returning grosbeak or, perhaps, a "foreigner" we set our four 3-celled Potter traps in the driveway close by the doorstep at 1800. Within ten minutes the traps held nine male Evening Grosbeaks and one female. Twenty-seven males and five females had been trapped, aged and released by 1910. All of the females were AHY birds. Eight males were SY, 18 were ASY, one could not be aged more closely than AHY. None provided us with a record.

June 17 dawned with an overcast sky. When we arose 16 male grosbeaks were cleaning up the sunflower seeds where our traps had been set last evening and new birds were constantly dropping down onto the driveway. We started early for Upper Blackville, leaving a flock of four females and 35 males close beside our doorstep. We made good time through moderate traffic which allowed us to evaluate the considerable flocks of grosbeaks everywhere along the highway. We were made acutely aware that spraying was still in progress when, near Blissfield, two low-flying spray planes crossed our path slightly ahead of us. At Upper Blackville we learned that Dr. Fowle's headquarters was located near Doaktown, some 15 miles back toward Astle. We lost little time in returning westward.

We had seen a considerable number of dead Evening Grosbeaks on the highway during our morning drive, but we had not taken time to examine them. Back in Blissfield we stopped at the service station where mechanic Mark Matchett (30:1, 15) had provided us, in 1966, with a band he had removed from a victim of Highway #8's motor traffic. When we were recognized by Mr. Matchett he immediately supplied us with our first record for this new chapter of our story. He handed us band 55-153679. He had removed it from the leg of a male Evening Grosbeak that had been killed by a motor vehicle directly in front of the service station only a few minutes ago. Five other males lay dead in the roadway nearby. We examined them. One wore band 61-128257.

In Doaktown we found Dr. Fowle at his office and it was our rare good fortune to arrive just as he was preparing to make a telephone call to the Ottawa headquarters of the Canadian Wildlife Service. In the course of his business call he explained our bandlessness and received assurances that steps would be taken to rectify it as soon as possible. During a subsequent conversation Dr. Fowle told us that he had discovered tragic evidence of local Evening Grosbeak nesting. He had found three ready-to-lay eggs in the body of a female which had been found dead on the highway.

Leaving Doaktown we turned off the highway into a small clearing within a heavy stand of mixed spruces in the outskirts of the community. While we partook of a picnic lunch we became pleasantly aware that we were the chance auditory witnesses of a feathered musicale. A vast, indiscreet audience of gossiping Evening Grosbeaks, perched in the extensive green canopy, was paying scant attention to the hearty renditions of featured White-throat soloists which were being supported eloquently by a Purple Finch chorus. Orchestrally, the noisy grosbeak audience paid equal inattention to expert percussion performances by Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers widely dispersed through the abundant spruce growth that rimmed the amphitheater. The composition rendered by a particular sapsucker duo was especially appealing to us human intruders. The two birds were visible from our vantage point, silhouetted, one higher than the other, on opposite sides of a utility pole. They had found two peculiarly resonant areas the vibration frequencies of which differed just enough to produce a particularly pleasant staccato of harmonious tones.

As we reached our Astle cabin four female Evening Grosbeaks and 48 males flew up from about the doorstep. Many hundreds had been seen along the shoulders of the highway and in gravel driveways during our 70 mile trip. The flocks were predominantly of males. We had examined 17 dead bodies (all males) but none, except the Blissfield specimen, wore a band.

The clamor of many Evening Grosbeaks in our driveway awakened us before sunrise on June 18. Bandless, we lacked the urge which should have caused us to get up and count our flock. Later in the morning Mr. Munn reported that his driveway had been crowded with between 600 and 700

grosbeaks when the sun rose. He gave us band 65-188439 which he had removed from a dead male that he found lying in the highway near his home. At about midday a phone call from Dr. Fowle advised us that he had contacted two potential sources of bands in New Brunswick (at Fredericton and Sackville) but neither could supply us with any.

We used part of the afternoon to revisit Clearwater Hill (30:1, 13). It was a pleasant surprise to find not even one dead bird at the memorable site where the highway had been literally carpeted with crushed bodies when we first visited it in June, 1966. An interested neighbor told us that very few grosbeaks had been seen there this spring and for only two or three days. During our 15-mile drive along Highway #8, however, we examined 92 battered grosbeaks (84 males, 8 females) but found no bands. A woodsman who chanced to walk by while we were examining a gorgeously-plumaged male body exhibited the center of interest among Miramichi watershed residents when he remarked, "I see you're planning to tie yourself some salmon flies".

Back at the cabin again, bright sunlight slanting among the slender trunks of towering spruces revealed uncounted filaments which hung down from the high canopy. The sun's rays glinted from them as from so many glass threads. A late-instar spruce budworm larva dangled at the end of each glistening filament. The larva had spun the thread during its descent from the overhead twig-tip where it had hatched and where it had grown in spite of sprayed poisons and from which it had escaped the hungry Evening Grosbeaks that were even now filling the treetops with their constant chatter.

On June 19, our fourth day without bands, the sun broke through early cloudiness by 0845. The early flocks were decidedly the smallest we had seen; nor were those which visited the driveway later in the day appreciably larger. Our greatest count was 24 males, four females. Apparently the flocks were dwindling. Perhaps our big opportunity had already flown away. Since there seemed to be nothing we could do about it we turned the day over to letter writing.

Ink was still flowing from our pens at 1600 that afternoon when a knock sounded on our door. It was Mr. Munn with an airmail envelope from Ottawa. THE BANDS HAD ARRIVED! Yes, the bands had come - and, upon opening the envelope, we learned that we were faced by another complication. The 500 bands consisted of 100 from each of three different series and 200 from still another series. (They were: 58-112501-600, 58-115601-700, 59-155501-600, and 59-132601-800.) Four different series of band numbers with enough digits common to all of the series to keep even a sleepy bander very wide awake! It was already that part of the day when banders who are familiar with Evening Grosbeak behavior during winter flights south of the border would not expect even to see one of these birds at a feeder. But we were in New Brunswick!

In less than half an hour after Mr. Munn had delivered our bands to us our four Potter traps and two 5-meter EBBA nets were activated along his driveway. In spite of a brisk, blustery southwest breeze that fluttered and bellied our nets they had been fully set only three minutes when a female Evening Grosbeak struck one of them and, at long last, our banding began. By 2015 we had banded 56 males and four females. "Foreign" male 73-134073 was also netted. Meanwhile, the traps, though well baited and carefully adjusted, failed to capture even one bird.

Let us offer, in Table I, an abstract of our bandings during the five full days and the additional $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours (divided between two other days) during which bands were available for us to use. Then we shall discuss some observations and experiences which are pertinent to this phase of our study.

TABLE I. EVENING GROSBEEKS CAPTURED AT ASTLE, N.B.

Date (1969)	M	F	Daily Total	Returns	Foreign Retraps	Repeats
June						
19	56	4	60	-	1	-
20	105	5	110	-	-	-
21	29	3	32	-	1	-
22	49	8	57	-	1	-
23	51	4	55	-	1	-
24	88	3	91	-	1	-
25	92	-	92	-	1	-
Totals	470	27	497*	0	6	0

*Plus 3 Pine Grosbeaks

TABLE II. FOREIGN RETRAPS CAPTURED AT ASTLE, N.B.

Band No.	Age	Sex	Netted & Released (1969)	This Bird By	Was Banded At	Date
69-121168	ASY	M	June 25	Mrs. J.R. Downs	S.Londonderry,Vt.	3/26/66
70-121166	AHY	F	" 22	F.A. Clinch	Burrs Mills, N.Y.	11/16/68
73-123153	SY	M	" 24	G. Loery	Morris, Conn.	12/23/68
73-134073	ASY	M	" 19	F.L. Lowden	Ohiopyle, Pa.	3/10/69
74-140329	AHY	F	" 21	F.S. Hill	Winston-Salem, N.C.	3/ 8/69
682-19115	AHY	M	" 23	R. Andrews	Hall, Md.	12/25/68

Discussion

Sex Ratio. The most consistent phenomenon that we have noted during our studies of Evening Grosbeaks in New Brunswick has been the numerical imbalance of the sexes in favor of the males. This year our banding suggests a male preponderance of about 18 to 1 over females. Our flock counts suggest an even greater excess of males, especially during the latter days of our visit. On June 25, for example, only three females were seen during the entire day and the 93 birds we captured that day were all males.

Migratory Movement. A glance at Table I is enough to reveal one very unique element in this year's experience: not even one of the 500 birds we banded was recaptured as a repeat. One's first inclination is to explain this as an indication of a mass flight through the area without pause. A definite migratory movement toward the west had been noted during some of our previous visits, but we found it very difficult to detect such a trend this year. On June 20 a significant westward flight did become apparent, but only early in the morning and again in late afternoon; and on June 23 the entire sunrise flock of more than 100 birds remained north of Highway #8 and moved westward along the edge of the forest until they were out of sight. This flock's noisy chatter and erratic flight were reminiscent of the migrations we saw during past seasons. But mostly, throughout this spring's study, the birds moved in and out of the forest from and to every point of the compass only to disappear into the forest again after a brief visit to some source of other of salty gravel. To complicate the situation even further our final observation late in the afternoon of June 25 found a large part of our very considerable Evening Grosbeak population moving eastward en masse.

Highway Mortality. Although we saw the bodies of many dead Evening Grosbeaks along Highway #8 the carnage was definitely less than that which had moved us so deeply during our 1966 visit (30:1, 12-16). This reduced mortality may be explained, in part, by the fact that some Canadian drivers have learned to sound the horn of their motor vehicle when they see a flock of these birds in the roadway or on the shoulder of the road ahead. The birds are usually startled into flight by the horn's blast in time to escape the onrushing vehicle. The data in Table III (at top of page 12) have been provided by some of the unfortunate victims which did not escape.

The dead birds listed in Table III were recovered (in order) by: Mark Matchett, Danny Dobson, G.H. Parks, Edward Hunter, Joseph Munn, and Reginald Astle.

An Instance of "Reciprocal Recoveries". Table III reveals that the Evening Grosbeak which wore band 65-188439 had been banded by V.E. Unger at Federalsburg, Maryland. This is the band which Joseph Munn gave to us on June 18 after he found it on the leg of a dead bird that was lying on Highway #8 at the entrance to his driveway - our banding site this spring

TABLE III. EVENING GROSBEAKS KILLED BY MOTOR VEHICLES ON HIGHWAY #8.

Band No.	This Bird Was Recovered			This Bird Was Banded :		
	Age	Sex	Date (1969)	Date	By	At
55-153679		M	Jun.17	Blissfield	3/ 3/66	D.H.Weaver Pomfret, Conn.
58-115620	ASY	M	" 25	Astle	6/20/69	G.H. Parks Astle, N.B.
61-128257		M	" 17	Blissfield	11/14/61	F. Brierly Adams, Mass.
62-173308		M	" 20	Astle	1/ 3/64	D.C. Bordner State Coll., Pa.
65-188439		M	" 18	Astle	3/20/69	V.E. Unger Federalsburg, Md.
73-111037	ASY	M	" 21	Astle	12/11/68	M.A. Burg Williamsburg, Va.

and during three of our previous annual visits. This record reciprocates one which was initiated when we placed band 62-109133 on the left tarsus of an adult male while banding in Mr. Munn's New Brunswick driveway on June 15, 1966. Mr. Unger trapped and released this bird at his Maryland station on December 16, 1968.

On July 4, 1966, by the way, another Maryland-banded grosbeak from Mr. Unger's station (66-157566) was killed by a motor vehicle in Blissfield, N.B., a few miles eastward along Highway #8 from Astle (30:1, 15). These three records hint at a significant pattern of flight by our vagrant species.

Do Evening Grosbeaks Eat Spruce Budworms! This paragraph heading has been punctuated intentionally with an exclamation point. Doubt has been expressed whether Evening Grosbeaks use spruce budworms in their diet or merely as food for their nestlings. It remained for an injured adult grosbeak to supply us with a satisfying answer to this question.

Early in the evening of June 21 while we were eating a delayed supper several youths in an auto stopped at our door. The driver, Reginald Astle, handed us a carton containing a male Evening Grosbeak which, he explained, had been struck by a car close to his home a few miles west along Highway #8. The bird wore band 73-111037 on his right leg. Although there was no external bleeding the right side of his body seemed to be crushed and the wing hung limp.

We carried the bird in our hand as we stepped out among the spruces to gather a bough that would serve him as a perch in his carton during the

night. Gossamer filaments were all about us each of which suspended a fat budworm larva from the overhead canopy. Lighted by the almost horizontal rays of the setting sun which caused them to glint and gleam, these transparent threads and their burdens became especially conspicuous. We paid them little heed, however, except to avoid as many as possible while we walked among them. One of the larvae swung close to the head of the injured bird. He struck with surprising speed. His billed snapped audibly as he flicked the insect from its suspending thread and the contractions of his throat muscles indicated where it went. We held the bird near a second larva. He grabbed it and carried it, squirming, in his bill while we found a proper bough. As we deposited the bird on his bough perch in the carton his throat muscles contracted again and the second larva followed the first one out of sight.

During subsequent days we offered live budworm larvae to several uninjured Evening Grosbeaks, females as well as males, and without exception, every one of the birds eagerly seized and swallowed from one to as many as half a dozen of the insects. (Injured No. 73-111037 failed to survive the first night.)

Grosbeaks and the Mist Net. 484 of the 497 Evening Grosbeaks which we banded at Astle this spring were captured in mist nets. Our six "foreign retraps" were all netted, as were, also, our three Pine Grosbeaks. Whenever nets were in use, at least three of our 3-cell Potter traps were operative too; yet only 13 grosbeaks were trapped during our entire stay. If one recalls the 32 grosbeaks we trapped, but did not band, during the first hour or so following our arrival at Astle, it is difficult to comprehend such a result.

In the Munn driveway, where 458 Evening Grosbeaks had been trapped during our 1966 visit, only three were trapped this year. Although we had managed to net only 42 there in 1966, this year we netted 355. Despite this success the netting site was unshaded and the nets were offered no protection at all from any breeze that might blow. If even a single grosbeak chanced to alight in the driveway others would usually come raining down from any flock that happened to fly overhead. A Potter trap with each of its compartments holding a grosbeak was placed judiciously on the ground near the nets. It became such an efficient decoy that we were sometimes compelled to furl one, and sometimes both, of the nets in order to protect ourselves against an oversupply of netted birds. It became very apparent that grosbeaks are attracted more forcibly to other individuals of their own kind than to even such appealing edibles as salty gravel and sunflower seeds.

The edge of an extensive spruce forest came close up behind our house-keeping-cabin headquarters. Its canopy held numberless spruce budworm larvae in various stages of maturity to tempt any Evening Grosbeak that might happen upon the region. The clamorous disharmony of their chirps among the

treetops bore evidence to our ears that many of the birds had already yielded to the temptation offered them there. A row of alternating lilac and honeysuckle bushes and young white pines, each about ten feet tall, just beyond the wide, gravel driveway that passed our front doorstep would be an ideal netting background. The forest, the cabin and the row of bushes combined to form an excellent windbreak that would shield a net from every direction.

Having received our hosts' permission to do so we installed a single 5-meter EBBA net, experimentally, in this new location and "baited" it with a Potter trap containing three Munn-driveway-netted Evening Grosbeaks. The installation was an instant success as grosbeaks came pouring down from the forest canopy to the caged decoys. We were very busy indeed, until the last one of the 500 bands which had threatened not to become available at all was used at 1020 on the morning of June 25. Three Pine Grosbeaks and 139 Evening Grosbeaks were banded at this very efficient stand. The final bird netted was "foreign retrap" 69-121168. While we were in the act of furling the net for the last time three more Pine Grosbeaks - as playful as they were beautiful - swooped through that area in the air from which the meshes had just been removed.

In spite of the heavy grosbeak pressure and in spite of the relatively brief period our nets were set, 35 birds of eight other species were netted. All were released without bands. They were: Purple Finch, 20; Robin and Savannah Sparrow, 3 each; Barn Swallow, Pine Siskin and Chipping Sparrow, 2 each; Song Sparrow, House Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 each.

A Word of Appreciation. Although someone, somehow, somewhere along the line caused us several very anxious days the situation was cleared up with such courteous personal consideration by Canadian Wildlife Service personnel as to earn our sincere thanks. We are especially indebted to Dr. C.D. Fowle whose cooperation saved this study from impending failure, and to Mr. E.G. Kettela, of the New Brunswick Forestry Research Laboratory, whose 1968 budworm report and forecast of conditions for 1969 helped us so greatly in planning our venture. Chief Earl B. Baysinger and the other nice people at his Banding Laboratory cooperated with us again, promptly and efficiently. Our cordial thanks go, again, to our hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Stewart, and to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Munn, who supplied banding sites that proved to be as attractive to the grosbeaks as to us. We appreciate their generosity in granting us the privilege to carry on our activities in spite of the resulting inconvenience to themselves. Two neighborhood boys, Larry and Danny Dobson, helped us during out-of-school hours. Their willing assistance saved us many steps when our own feet had become leaden from the demands of busy days.

Summary. After a series of disconcerting delays our fifth annual banding study of Evening Grosbeaks in central New Brunswick developed successfully from June 19 to 25, 1969. Although the region had been sprayed

repeatedly from the air before our arrival we were unable to detect any adverse effect on the grosbeak population and the area still supported large numbers of spruce budworm larvae. Evening Grosbeaks were seen to devour the larvae ravenously. The birds exhibited a great deal of flying about, but a definite migrational flight was difficult to detect. 497 Evening Grosbeaks were banded, revealing a male preponderance of 18 to 1 over females. Six "foreigners" were also captured. No return from any previous season was taken, nor was even one of this spring's bandees recaptured as a repeat. Mortality was, again, shamefully high along Highway #8. Six bands were recovered from victims of speeding motor vehicles. No nests were discovered, but unmistakable evidence of local nesting was observed. All clock references in this paper have been converted to equivalent Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, Conn. 06105



THE 1970 ANNUAL MEETING

The EBBA Annual Meeting will be held June 12 to 14, 1970, at the State University of New York at Albany, N.Y. Sponsoring organizations are the Department of Biological Sciences at the university, and the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club (formerly known as the Schenectady Bird Club).

The meeting place is located southwest of the center of Albany, conveniently reached from the New York Thruway. Full details regarding reservations, how-to-get-there, etc., will be published in the next issue of EBBA News...but now is the time to note the date on your calendar and start planning to attend the meeting.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Members and others who are considering presenting a paper, a talk or a demonstration at the meeting should contact Program Chairman Emil J. Berger, Jr. as soon as possible. His address is 411 N. Broad Street, Lansdale, Pa. 19446. He will need to know time required, title, and requirements for special equipment such as projectors - but let him know if you wish to give a paper even if these details are not yet available. Suggestions regarding the program and potential speakers he might contact, are also eagerly solicited.