

LATE SOUTHWARD MOVEMENT OF EVENING GROSBEAKS

By F. R. Scott

The 1969-70 "winter" concentration of Evening Grosbeaks reached a peak in eastern Virginia during March and April. When this occurred previously in the middle Atlantic region, it has usually been assumed that these birds were a return flight northward of birds that had wintered farther south. Evidence is now at hand that indicates this may be an incomplete interpretation of this phenomenon. (Supporting evidence is in the form of personal communications with other banders by means of letters, oral comments and the author's own articles in Audubon Field Notes. Ed.)

The "fall migration" of birds in the middle Atlantic states usually extends for nearly half a year, from roughly early July to mid or late December. As late as 29 December 1968 at Fisherman Island, Virginia, I observed a distinct diurnal southward migration of small land birds following the passage of a cold front the day before. This flight included Robins, Myrtle Warblers, Pine Siskins, and American Goldfinches, as well as a few Evening Grosbeaks.

There are now at hand five banding recoveries indicating that a southward movement of Evening Grosbeaks occurred after 1 January 1970. These are the following:

<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Banding Data</u>	<u>Recovered</u>
59-175619	F	01-02-70 Laurel, Md. S.M. Carney	04-09-70
75-170104	F	01-02-70 Federalsburg, Md. V.E. Unger	04-03-70
74-120558	F	01-03-70 Oakton, Va. G.D. Lakata	04-05-70
74-163563	M	01-04-70 Linwood, N.J. Mr. & Mrs. Savell	04-16-70
75-170265	F	01-06-70 Federalsburg, Md. V.E. Unger	04-20-70

All birds were recovered at Richmond, Va., by F.R. Scott except number 75-170104 which was recovered at Williamsburg, Va., by M.A. Byrd.

Note that all five birds were banded in a relatively small area between northern Virginia and southern New Jersey during the first week of January 1970. All were recovered during the following April as indicated. It would be interesting to know where these birds were during the intervening three months, but wherever they were, it is probable that they, along with hundreds or thousands of their fellows, moved southward after 1 January. I would be interested to receive recovery data from others which supplement, substantiate or detract from these conclusions.

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