

Evening Grosbeaks at Boonville, N. Y.—From May 5 to 10 I was in Boonville, N. Y., and during that time I observed daily a flock of twenty Evening Grosbeaks. I was there again on the fifteenth, but could not find any of the birds. This is an unusually late date. I am informed that they were seen continuously through the winter. They were also reported at Constableville, eight miles to the north, during the previous winter. The birds which I saw in Boonville were feeding on the ground and in low shrubs.—F. C. SMITH, *Utica, N. Y.*

The Evening Grosbeak on Long Island, N. Y.—On the afternoon of February 4, 1919, my attention was attracted by a series of finch-like notes uttered by a flock of Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) that was flying eastward. An excited, but rather poor imitation of their call notes caused them to swerve from their course and pitch into a clump of wild cherry trees standing in a hedge-row about a quarter of a mile away. Hastening to the spot, I found them on the ground busily feeding on the pits of the wild cherry. With their powerful bills it seemed an easy task for them to split the pits and remove the kernels. Although not shy, they appeared to be very restless, keeping up an almost continuous calling, flying back and forth between the trees and ground. The birds, thirteen in number, were all in the plumage of the female with the exception of three or four that were in the black and yellow dress of the male. A portion of the flock soon flew to a yellow locust tree overgrown with vines of the poison ivy, and began picking among the ivy seeds. On my near approach they took fright and flew away to the eastward. No others were seen until March 26, when a flock of eleven was seen in the same locality.

On the morning of April 4 a flock of fifteen was seen flying north near the railroad station at Miller Place. Their flight was high and very direct. They were very noisy, keeping up a continuous calling, but refused to be diverted from their course by my imitations of their calls.

April 9 a small flock spent most of the day among the maples and black alders in a small swamp. I believe that all of the birds noted were merely transients and did not remain anywhere in the vicinity during the periods between the dates on which they were noted. The winter of 1918-1919, one of the mildest on record, would not lead one to expect a visit from these birds. The two preceding winters were of unusual severity, yet nothing was seen or heard of these birds on Long Island. There was a scarcity of suitable food for these and similar birds during the past two winters, more noticeable, perhaps, during the winter of 1918-1919 than in 1917-1918. A similar condition existed in many sections of the north, and may have been a contributive cause to the Grosbeaks wandering so far from their normal range in search of new feeding grounds.—A. H. HELME, *Miller Place, Long Island, N. Y.*

Evening Grosbeaks again at Lakewood, N. J.—Lakewood, New Jersey, harbored Evening Grosbeaks again on February 20, 1919, and it is

perhaps worth while to record the fact, since but one record¹ of their appearance there seems to have been made. Eight or ten birds formed the flock, which I watched at close range for an hour or so, at the corner of the Lake Drive and Forest Avenue, whilst they were feeding in trees and on the ground. About half of them were males.

The writer was at Lakewood, except for an absence of five weeks, from September 18, 1918, to March 22, 1919, and did not see Grosbeaks on any other occasion.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine*.

Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona v. vespertina*) in Ohio in May.—There were few if any reports of the Evening Grosbeak west of the Alleghenies for the winter of 1918–19, so it somewhat surprised me when on May 18 Mr. Glenn Vesey told me there was a male bird down in the Grackle roost, a thick growth of various haws and wild apples on the flats of Grand River. Knowing that he would not be liable to make a mistake, I looked through the growth late that afternoon but without result. However, upon visiting the place next morning the bird was there and, as reported, was a male in the best of adult plumage. The ground in places was strewn with the fallen haw apples of the fall before, and it was upon these that the bird was feeding. He was still there on the afternoon of May 20, but the next day I failed to find him.—E. A. DOOLITTLE, *Painesville, Ohio*.

Henslow's Sparrow in New York and Virginia.—One of the best recent bird discoveries in the Ithaca region was the location of a breeding colony of Henslow's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowi*) on a sedgy hill side just south of Wilseyville (10 miles south of Ithaca), N. Y. On May 14, 1916, Mr. Ludlow Griscom found three male birds on this rather high hill. The spot has a northern exposure and the birds were fond of sitting on the sedgy stools or in the tops of pine seedlings. They were very rail-like and elusive. On June 1 of the same year Mr. Griscom showed several of us the site, Dr. A. A. Allen being of the party. At that time we found five males, a few females, and a nest with one egg and three young. The nest is very difficult to find. On June 8 the same five males were in evidence. The following year, on July 5, 1917, Messrs. Allen and G. A. Bailey found another nest with four eggs. In 1916 (July 2), after the discovery of it at Ithaca, the author found one Henslow's Sparrow at Emerson, N. Y., at the northern end of Cayuga Lake. In 1918 another colony was found on the game farm of the university. This year (1919), on May 11, Mr. S. E. R. Simpson found it near Varna (three or four miles northeast of Ithaca, N. Y.).

The year following my introduction to this species, on May 30, 1917, Mr. Francis Harper showed me the Alexandria Va. colony and I determined to watch for the species southward. I heard it in two or three localities southward to Elmont, Va., where I made a definite journal record

¹ Auk, XXXIV, p. 477.