

Evening Grosbeaks in southwestern Virginia.—In view of the general southward penetration of the Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) in the winter of 1945–46, the following occurrence appears to warrant publication. The writer, after searching vainly in his home community of Emory, determined to look for the species in the residential sections of Abingdon, about ten miles west-southwest of Emory. Such a trip was effected on January 26, 1946, and the effort was rewarded, after thirty minutes of searching, by the discovery of eight of these birds flying into a sugar maple at the eastern edge of the town. In flight they resembled waxwings, but the apparent thickness of the bill suggested the advisability of studying them with my 8-power binoculars. The suspicion that they were Evening Grosbeaks proved correct, and all identification marks were noted even though light conditions were poor. Approximately half of the birds had the adult male plumage, but the exact number of these could not be determined.

This appears to be the southernmost of the few Virginia records for the Evening Grosbeak. On a later search (February 16) none of the birds could be found.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, *Department of Biology, Emory and Henry College, Emory, Virginia.*

Evening Grosbeaks in Maryland.—The infrequent and irregular winter visitations of the Evening Grosbeak *Hesperiphona v. vespertina* (Cooper) to the eastern United States have always aroused the interest of ornithologists.

The species breeds from western Canada (Alberta) to northern Michigan and is reported to drift into the eastern States in the middle of winter when certain of their preferred seeds are scarce on their normal range.

While hunting along Antietam Creek, about one mile east of Hagerstown, Washington Co., Maryland, on December 15, 1945, the attention of the author was attracted to a small flock of these grosbeaks feeding in a thicket. The ground was covered with about three inches of snow and the temperature was about 15° F. A female was collected and sent to the museum at Cornell University.

Kolb and Bond (Auk, 60: 451, 1943) reported two adult males on January 17, 1942, near Towson, Baltimore Co., and in the same paper stated that a small flock was seen near Washington, D. C. in 1922 [*cf.* Auk, 40: 130, 1923—ED.].—WOODROW W. MIDDLEKAUFF, *University of California, Berkeley, California.*

Evening Grosbeaks in the Adirondacks in late June.—The Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) is commonly reported as a winter visitant in the eastern United States, usually leaving for its more western range before May 15. It was with great interest therefore, that the writer observed two pairs of these attractive visitors on May 31, 1945, on the campus of the New York State Ranger School, on Cranberry Lake in the western Adirondacks. On June 3, three pairs were seen in the same vicinity, apparently feeding on the lawn and in the shrubbery about the grounds. Mr. James Dubuar, Director of the Ranger School, reported having seen several pairs previous to these two observations.

Of even greater significance was what appeared to be a nesting pair observed on June 27. Although the male was not seen, the female was recognized. Both individuals made their presence known by the constant reiteration of their very distinctive chipping call. The calls emanated from the middle and upper crown of a seventy-foot red spruce tree. It was here that the female was seen. This site was in a mixed hardwood-softwood stand about 350 feet from the shore of Cranberry Lake. Since there appeared to be only two birds, in such a restricted territory and at this season of the year, it seemed only logical to assume that it was a nesting pair.

A few days previous to this (June 24), Mr. P. J. Haddock of the Ranger School staff reported seeing six males feeding at the Ranger School dump. As far as is known by the writer, this species was not again observed about the grounds this summer. Whether the pair observed in the forest continued residence could not be ascertained because the writer's duties called him elsewhere.

If there have been any observations of this species as late as, or later than, the above dates in the eastern United States, the author would indeed appreciate hearing of them.¹—FRANK B. BARICK, *Roosevelt Wildlife Forest Experiment Station, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.*

Evening Grosbeak in West Virginia.—In a suburb of Fairmont, Marion County, West Virginia, on November 15, 1945, I observed a scattered flock of at least a dozen individuals of the Evening Grosbeak, *Hesperiphona vespertina*. An adult male and an adult female were collected, which Dr. George M. Sutton at the University of Michigan has determined as belonging to the eastern race, *H. v. vespertina*. The birds were tame, but moving about freely, and were seen to feed only upon the seeds of one small box elder tree. Both the specimens taken appeared to be in good condition and were extremely fat. While there have been a few recent sight records of this unmistakable bird in West Virginia, these are the first specimens on record from the state.—WILLIAM A. LUNK, *Bell Run Road, Fairmont, West Virginia*.

Chimney Swift (?) in Ecuador.—In late 1944, I was in the lowlands along the Río Upano, southeastern Ecuador, crossing over and going into the Cordillera Cutucú. I crossed the Upano the middle of November, working in the upper Cutucú until December 6, when I returned to the Upano. On my return to the lower elevations in the valley of the Upano, I noted that during the late afternoons and early evenings the sky was full of birds which I was certain were our common Chimney Swifts. They had not been there when I passed in November and the Jivaros said that the birds had arrived in the valley that week (the first week of December) and added that the birds always came there at about that time of the year.

On this particular trip my assistant, H. B. Jorgensen, was with me and also noted the birds. I pointed out the erratic flight of the swifts and we clearly distinguished between them and the various swallows in the valley. Later we both saw them again near Mendez and also along the Río Chupianza (a stream which joins the Paute-Upano system south of Mendez). An air-mail letter from Jorgensen, now working at Tenguel on the coastal plain of southeastern Ecuador, mentions that he had seen a large flock of the same birds crossing Tenguel that evening (December 7, 1945), apparently heading toward some of the valleys on the western slope of the Cordillera.

Remembering the controversy which was current some years ago when, as a beginning field naturalist, I was perhaps more actively interested in bird migrations than at present—and especially the controversy regarding the winter home of our Chimney Swifts—I wish to offer this observation. I might very easily be wrong in my identification of the species, but I have watched them so often during my field work in the States that it would seem that I ought to know a Chimney Swift when I saw it.—W. H. CAMP, *New York Botanical Gardens, New York 58, N. Y.*

Olivaceous Flycatcher in South Carolina.—The enviable reputation of Bull's Island, not only in South Carolina ornithology, but in that of the entire southeast as well, was upheld to a marked extent on November 27, 1945, when a flycatcher of the

¹ There is a record from Woodstock, Vermont, of birds nesting in 1926 (Cf. R. M. Marble, *Auk*, 43: 549, 1926).—ED.