

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

	Robin	Cardinal
April 30		First nest and young destroyed
May 2	(Young hatching)	} (Building of second nest)
May 7		
May 13	Young left nest	} (Egg laying)
May 15		
May 27	Young first seen fed by Cardinal	
May 28	} Cardinal feeding Robins	(Young hatching)
June 3		
June 8		Young out of nest and being fed by male

Unobserved events are enclosed by parentheses

half hour. This suggests that the Cardinal was not neglecting his own family but was striving to raise two families simultaneously. It is interesting to note that the Robins were but a few days younger than the first set of Cardinal young which perished. The female Cardinal did not feed the robins, nor did the male when the female was in the yard.—STANLEY LOGAN, 6107 Newburg Ave., Chicago 31, Illinois.

**Young Evening Grosbeaks, *Hesperiphona vespertina*, at Saranac Lake, New York, 1949.**—A bird that has attracted considerable attention during the past 60 years in New England, the Middle Atlantic States, the Great Lakes States, including the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, has been the rather rare, striking and easily identified Evening Grosbeak. The interest in this colorful bird has greatly increased during the past decade, and its presence in many villages and cities of the northeastern states is becoming an almost annual event during the period from November to the middle or latter part of May (Mason and Shaub, Bird-Banding, 20: 169-179, 1949).

In New England the records of young birds begin on July 12-14, 1926, when two adults and four young were observed by E. K. Wright and Richard M. Marble (Auk, 43: 549, 1926) at Woodstock, Vermont. On July 28, 1937, Harry C. Holton saw an adult male at Mt. Hermon, Massachusetts, and the next day a very "young bird more buff or brownish than the female" (Bagg and Eliot, 'Birds of Conn. Valley in Mass.,' 1937: 788).

The first record of young for the state of Maine was of an immature bird with an adult male which came to a feeder at Presque Isle for several days, commencing August 4, 1946 (G. D. Chamberlain). An immature was seen early in July, 1946, by Mrs. Harry G. Whitney of Hampden Highlands, near Bangor (Palmer, 'Maine Birds,' 1949: 526).

From the above resume, it is certain that the appearance of the young of the Evening Grosbeak in the United States east of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is far from common. However, it is more or less apparent that the appearance of the species in summer (Baillie, Can. Field-Nat., 54: 15-25, 1940) and its breeding range have been gradually extended eastward during the past three decades.

Young Evening Grosbeaks in company with the adults were seen at 51 Franklin Avenue, Saranac Lake, by Miss Ruth Hagan in 1947. Again in 1948 the parent birds brought their young to the same feeding station. Miss Hagan informed the writer that as many as eight young, together with the adults, were present on her feeding tray in 1948. Each year both the old and young left before the end of the summer.

On the afternoon of May 19, 1949, I stopped at 51 Franklin Avenue between 5 and 6 p. m. and saw 15 to 20 grosbeaks in the green foliage of a tree close to and partly overhanging the house.

Upon my return to Saranac Lake in the early part of June, two or three pairs of grosbeaks were reported coming to the feeding station at 51 Franklin Avenue and also to the feeding tray of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Hodgkins at 112 Lake Street. At the latter place a pair was reported to have carried nesting material into a tall spruce tree near by, but the nest-building was quickly abandoned. The adult birds continued to visit regularly these feeding stations throughout June and July. A young grosbeak was reported at 51 Franklin Avenue on June 15 and again on June 19. This is the earliest date reported for the appearance of young grosbeaks within the Great Lakes area and eastward.

On July 2 a male grosbeak was reported to have brought another young to 51 Franklin Avenue. It was said to be very much grayer than the previous ones. This young remained in the tree near the house and was frequently fed by the male grosbeak. On July 7 I saw this bird and at once recognized it as a young Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*, at least a week out of the nest. At this time the male grosbeak energetically and hastily shelled sunflower seeds at the feeder and made eight trips in quick succession from the tray to the Cowbird as it sat upon a limb with partly outstretched, quivering wings; but then it refused more food. This appears to be the first time that the Evening Grosbeak has been observed to be parasitized by the Cowbird.

At no time could any evidence of food be seen in the grosbeak's bill; hence the five to ten sunflower kernels must have been held in the back part of the mouth or throat when carried to the young. On July 11 the male grosbeak and the young Cowbird were again seen, but at this time the grosbeak's interest in the Cowbird had greatly lessened; he was reluctant to feed it and only did so after much begging for food on the part of the young Cowbird.

As yet no nests of the Evening Grosbeak have been located at Saranac Lake or in the vicinity; hence it cannot be said positively that a grosbeak's nest was invaded by a Cowbird and that the young Cowbird was actually incubated and reared by this bird and its mate.

On July 3, 1949, I first saw one of the young Evening Grosbeaks and the adult male at 112 Lake Street. The male made several trips from the feeding tray to the young perched on a branch of a maple tree. The immature was well feathered, active and probably ten days or two weeks away from the nest.

The young birds would sometimes remain on the feeding tray at a distance of 2.5 feet while the camera shutter was reset. At this distance, I could, at times, clearly see a large bird-fly, *Hippoboscidea*, move about the neck feathers of one of the females.

The outstanding characteristic action of the immature grosbeaks, when on the feeding tray was their extremely slow, deliberate and measured motions. Upon alighting on the tray, often with a pronounced thud, they would hold rigidly their initial posture for approximately five seconds and would then slowly move their heads or bodies into some other position and carefully survey the tray for food. When an acceptable object was located they would slowly stretch their necks and pick it up. At first the young had considerable difficulty in cracking the sunflower seeds and extracting the kernel. They would turn the seed over and over in their mouths in attempts to crush the hard cover. They did not move about much on the tray and usually kept away from the numerous active and bothersome Purple

Finches, but as they grew older they were less on the defensive and soon became more belligerent.

The last of the adult birds, a molting female, was seen on August 7. On August 15 the last immature bird was seen.

An immature male was found dead beneath the feeding tray at 51 Franklin Avenue on July 24.

The selection of the vicinity of Saranac Lake as a breeding place may be due to the abundance of food, supplied by the residents of the village, which delayed the departure of some of the birds that nest early. The similarity of the Adirondack region to the Canadian areas where they have been seen in the breeding season may also be an important factor.

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B. M. SCHAUB, 159 Elm St., Northampton, Massachusetts.

**The Occurrence and Possible Significance of a Spring Molt in Leconte's Sparrow.**—As nearly as can be ascertained from the accounts of Dwight (1900: 188-193) and other authors, the only North American emberizine finch of the "sharp-tailed" group known to undergo a complete spring molt is the Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Ammodramus caudacuta*. Leconte's Sparrow, *Passerherbulus caudacutus*, is not treated in Dwight's work, and we found little in the subsequent literature in regard to its molts. However, Chapman (1910: 18) said the "spring molt [of Leconte's Sparrow] is confined to the head and breast." Accordingly, it was a matter of interest when extensive molt was noted in a series of five Leconte's Sparrows collected in April, 1950, in Marshall County, Kentucky, by Mengel. We have therefore undertaken a careful examination of 35 specimens in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, taken in February, March, April, and May.

Two of the Kentucky specimens were plucked and examined minutely. We examined the remainder of the specimens under an 18-power binocular microscope for indication of feather wear and replacement. New and incoming body feathers can be readily distinguished from old feathers by this method. Rectrices and remiges were also examined for evidences of molt. Where basal sheaths are present there can be no doubt that the feathers are new; however, with wear alone as a criterion, the matter is more difficult. We believe that the age of rectrices can be judged with some accuracy under a lens, but considerable uncertainty remains in regard to remiges.