

- 1947, The Evening Grosbeaks Return to Hartford. *Bird-Banding*, 18(2) : 57-76, April.
 1948, Evening Grosbeaks Choose Their Lipsticks Well. *Audubon Magazine*, 50, no. 2: 110-112, March-April.
 99 Warrenton Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

GENERAL NOTES

Proposed Regional Colors for Evening Grosbeaks.—The United States Fish and Wildlife Service suggests the discontinuance of the use of celluloid bands, because of reported injuries to birds and the uncontrollable and highly variable colors of the material. The Service has asked the Massachusetts Audubon Society to co-operate in making available to banders a new type of colored aluminum band. These are in stock at Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston 16. The sizes available correspond to the regular band sizes of 1, 1A, 2, 3, and 6. The cost is \$1.50 for a string of one hundred bands, except that size 6 costs \$2.00 per hundred. The colors available are red, gold, blue, and green, and eventually others will be added.

It is therefore proposed that color bands for Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) be used on a regional basis as follows:

- GREEN:** Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Northern New York (Area north of the line delineated by Route 29 from its eastern terminus to Middleville; thence Route 28 to Trenton (Barneveld P.O.); thence from Trenton along a line running westerly to Taberg on Route 69; thence along Routes 69 and 13 to Lake Ontario. Cities on the line belong in the region using gold).
- GOLD:** Massachusetts and Central New York (South of the area defined under "GREEN," and north of the northern boundary of Pennsylvania and a line extending from the northern boundary of Pennsylvania to the southern boundary of Massachusetts).
- BLUE:** Rhode Island, Connecticut and Long Island.
- RED:** Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Indiana, Ohio and New York south of the area defined under "GOLD."
- BLACK:** Ontario, Michigan (except upper peninsula).
- SILVER:** Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and the upper peninsula of Michigan.

It is suggested that the new 1A band would be best for Evening Grosbeaks. The colored aluminum bands are of the same temper as the 1A bands which just recently were made available. In 1949-50 quite a few reports were received of Number 2 bands being partially opened. The new 1A band is just as strong as the Number 2 band and seems ideal for the Evening Grosbeak.

To satisfy the desire for local or regional studies, we submit for your consideration the following techniques. It should be emphasized that no system of marking birds is of value unless there is central control to avoid duplication. This is important if our efforts are to mean anything at all. We at Arcadia Sanctuary, Northampton, Massachusetts, offer our services as a clearing house for the registration of bands and color combinations. Here are some of the possibilities:

1. Colored lacquers for marking bills. (These markings are good for at least one month.)
2. Brands, made like rubber stamps, to mark the white wing patches of males. One letter, one number, or a simple design in a square or circle, the total to be about the size of a quarter. (See Bull. Mass. Aud. Soc., Vol. XXXIV, No. 6, Oct. 1950, pp. 244-247.)
3. Dyed chicken feathers to be attached, upcurled, to the base of tail primaries. This is the technique used by Richard Lee Weaver and mentioned in his paper "The Purple Finch Invasion of Northeastern United States and the Maritime Provinces," *Bird-Banding*, 11: 3, for July, 1940.

We have two new baits to offer. They are dried currants and hemp seed. Sun-

flower seed, peanut hearts and other nut meats have been used extensively, the nut meats with variable success.

Even if the banding project carried on during the past few years with the Evening Grosbeaks had done nothing toward increasing our knowledge of the species, it still would have been a huge success. It has renewed the spark of interest in some banders whose activities had reached a low ebb; it has stimulated co-operative studies; it has brought forth many new, young, enthusiastic banders. It is contended that this alone would have made all the effort worth while, for it ensures the future of the bird-banding method of ornithological investigation.

Evening Grosbeak Survey
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Trapping English Sparrows.—I have been very much interested in the recent notes in *Bird-Banding* about traps to catch English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), and hope my experience will be of help to other banders and operators of feeding stations. I have had excellent results with six Dyke Potter traps, purchased at the Massachusetts Audubon Society. I have trapped 1,025 English Sparrows from October 23, 1949, to October 2, 1950, and broke all previous daily records on September 24th with a catch of 70. I place the traps on the ground (as sparrows are natural ground feeders) near some shrubbery; for bait, I use a mixture of chick scratch and yellow millet, putting bait inside of traps and sprinkle a little around the traps and when this is gone they will enter the traps for more. I felt sure there must be a suitable trap to catch English Sparrows and the answer is the Dyke traps. I had tried other makes and have not had success until I used the Dyke trap. I might add I had excellent results with the Dyke trap this summer by capturing and banding 34 Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) and 91 Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*).—Margaret A. Fitzgerald, 1 Fitzgerald Lane, Amsterdam, New York.

A Nine-year-old Cardinal.—On April 15, 1941, a female Cardinal, *Richmondia cardinalis* Linnaeus, entered a trap in my yard at Louisville, Kentucky, and received band No. 40-240104. This bird returned two years later on April 18, 1943, and evidently nested in the neighborhood as she repeated on May 8, June 29 and July 1. In 1944, she drifted into a trap on February 12. She was again present and probably nested close by in the summer of 1945, being trapped on April 18 and June 17. She was not taken during the 1946 season, but reappeared on April 19, 1947, and repeated twice more during the month (April 21 and 27). The Cardinal was absent during 1948 and was believed dead. It was an agreeable surprise when the long-lived bird returned on February 23, 1949. Her last appearance was on April 15, 1950, exactly 9 years after the time she was first taken. Since she must have been nearly 1 year old when first banded, her age must have been within 2 or 3 months of 10 years when trapped the last time.

When this Cardinal was taken in 1949, it was noted that her face around the eye was becoming gray. The band too had worn rather thin. In 1950 the graying of the face was very noticeable giving the bird a distinctly elderly appearance. She seemed strong and vigorous, however. She struggled violently when being handled and managed to bite me sharply. The band had worn paper thin and was extremely loose on the bird's leg, but the numbers were still perfectly visible. A second band, No. 45-202227, was added to the opposite leg, as a precaution against the loss of the worn band. The old band was left in place in the hope of obtaining data on how long a band of this size will last. It will be noted that the Cardinal appeared in my traps in April on 5 different years, from April 15 to 19. On the two other years she first "arrived" in February. Since the Cardinal is certainly a non-migratory bird in this locality, the regularity of appearance must be considered as a local population shifting from winter feeding areas perhaps in search of a breeding territory and a mate. Similar regularity of appearance in April has been noted with several other Cardinals over a shorter period of time.—Harvey B. Lovell, Biology Department, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.