

- STURKIE, P. D. 1954. *Avian physiology*. Ithaca, Comstock. xx, 423 pp.
 THOMAS, R. H. 1946. A study of Eastern Bluebirds in Arkansas. *Wilson Bull.*,
58: 143-183.
 U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY. 1956. *The American ephemeris and nautical almanac
 for the year 1958*. Washington, xvii, 593 pp.
 WETMORE, A. 1921. A study of the body temperature of birds. *Smithsonian
 Misc. Coll.* 72, No. 12. Washington. 52 pp.
 WRIGHT, H. W. 1913. Morning awakening and even-song. Second paper. *Auk*,
30: 512-537.

Ellettsville, Indiana and Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

EVENING GROSBEAK JUVENALS AT HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS — JULY 1958*

By MARY S. SHAUB

After an unprecedentedly heavy and extensive Evening Grosbeak incursion in the northeast during the winter of 1957-58 it was not surprising to find that the breeding area has been extended to the middle of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts in 1958.

The first definite breeding record for the State was established in 1937 at Mt. Hermon where on July 28th Harry C. Holton observed an adult male molting and on July 29th "a very young bird 'more buff or brownish than the female' was also studied in the pines behind Mr. Holton's house." (Bagg & Eliot, p. 788). Despite this record, a survey of the literature revealed only a few summer records of adult Evening Grosbeaks for Massachusetts and no other juvenal observations. These reports included Cape Cod 1923, Bedford 1946, Middleboro and Wilbraham 1950 and West Hatfield 1952. (Shaub 1954, p. 93). No adult or juvenal grosbeaks were reported in the State in the summers of 1953-57 inclusive although in 1957 grosbeaks were observed at Bloomfield, Connecticut (Shaub 1958, p. 9). In the meantime juvenals were observed at Glebe Farm, South Londonderry, Vermont in the summers of 1953-57 inclusive, a locality only about 33 air miles north of the Massachusetts-Vermont line.

After the deep penetration of the Evening Grosbeak during the winter of 1957-58, the lagging movement north in May was watched with keen interest. In the Connecticut Valley region of Massachusetts there was unusually late activity. At Northampton on May 29th two pairs were observed fluttering their wings and a male offered a seed to a female (J. Watrous). In Pelham as many as 50 grosbeaks were still present on May 13th with subsequently a decline to one male which remained until June 6th. (J. Seitz). In Amherst Mrs. Alden Tuttle observed a pair in her yard on June 19th and in the same town Mr. Merrill Thompson and Mrs. Kenneth Bullis noted a female on the 26th. Also in Amherst Mrs. Elmer Staples observed a male flying over Gray Street on July 1st (fide J. Seitz).

Of more significance were the observations made by Mrs. Marion Durgin in the town of Hadley between Northampton and Amherst. Mrs. Durgin's home is located on North Maple Street just off Route 5 and

*Contribution No. 22 from the Shaub Ornithological Research Station

2.6 miles northeast of the center of Hadley on a knoll comprising about 2 acres of isolated fairly dense growth composed of mixed hard and soft woods largely maples, pines and birches. Mrs. Durgin had maintained a feeding station during the winter for Evening Grosbeaks which were noted by her for the last time on June 8th. On July 2nd a female grosbeak, apparently familiar with the area, came directly to her window feeder and Mrs. Durgin observed that the bird appeared to have been incubating eggs. The grosbeak came at about two-hour intervals all day from 10 A.M. until 6:15 P.M. and remained only a short time at the feeder on each visit. On July 3rd a female came to the feeder at about 5:30 A.M. and was seen off and on all day until 6:15 P.M. It was assumed that this was the same bird that had visited the feeder the previous day as distinctive characteristics of the partly peeling upper mandible provided almost certain identification. On July 4th there were similar visits of the female during the day and also on the morning of the 5th.

At 3 P.M. on July 5th Mrs. Durgin noted a bird on the edge of the bird bath with definite white wing patches and also a heavy horn-colored, conical bill. This was certainly a juvenal male. At 6 P.M. an adult female flew into the yard calling and then flew west with a smaller bird calling in a similar manner and following the adult. At 7:15 P.M. an adult female was observed in the top of a butternut tree calling. She then flew off with a young bird following her.

On July 6th what appeared to be a juvenal male and juvenal female were observed about 15-20 feet up in a sugar maple about 8 A.M. and the adult female flew up from the feeder to the same maple but she was not observed feeding them. The same procedure was observed the following day when the juvenals were observed off and on from 7:45 A.M. to 1 P.M. and again from 3-4 P.M. On July 8th Mrs. Durgin observed the adult female feeding a juvenal male and at about 8 A.M. three juvenals were noted with the adult. At 8:40 A.M. all four birds returned and the adult female fed only one juvenal. This was the last time three juvenals were noted together. The author visited the site at 11:30 A.M. and observed a juvenal female.

On July 9th the author returned to the site and observed the adult female feeding the juvenal male and female on a clothes line close to the feeder. The juvenals also drank at the bird bath nearby. On July 10th the author replaced the old plastic feeder with a triangular wooden one which the grosbeaks accepted readily. The adult female was observed feeding the juvenal male again. Mrs. Durgin saw the adult three more times during the day. Considering the infrequent and short visits of the adult female to the feeder it was assumed that the birds must have found plenty of native foods in the area.

On July 11th a camera and flash gun were set up and focused on the feeder. The adult female and juvenal male came to the area and neither appeared to object to the camera. The female was observed feeding the two juvenals and the juvenal male perched for a moment on the cord connecting the camera with the flash gun. None of the grosbeaks were observed after 11:15 A.M.

On July 12th a perch was set up beside the feeder and the camera and flash gun focused on the perch. At 8 A.M. the adult female fed

the juvenal female on the feeder. This was the first time that a juvenal had been seen to be fed at the feeder. The juvenal male was later fed by the adult in a maple and this juvenal then made several passes at the perch but did not alight on it. None of the birds sat on the perch although formerly they had used the clothes line in the same location for a perch. The birds were seen off and on until 9:10 A.M. when the adult shucked a few seeds and then flew away with the juvenals following her. There was a heavy thunder storm in the evening and no grosbeaks were seen again during the summer at this location despite constant observing.

Although no photographic record of these juvenals was possible, a number of reliable birders corroborated the presence of these birds and consequently the record is well substantiated. It had been thought previously that nesting records would be established in the Berkshires rather than in the Connecticut Valley but this has apparently not been so. The most surprising consideration is that 21 years had to elapse before the second Massachusetts breeding record was established and despite the great southern winter penetration of the Evening Grosbeak during 1958 there is still no record of juvenals south of Hadley, Massachusetts.

REFERENCES

- BAGG, A. R., and ELIOT, S. A., JR. 1937. Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, Hampshire Bookshop, Northampton, Massachusetts, 813 pp.
- SHAUB, MARY S. 1954. Summer Appearances of Adult and Juvenal Evening Grosbeaks, *Bird-Banding*, **25**: 87-95.
- SHAUB, MARY S. 1958. Evening Grosbeaks in the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada During the Winter of 1956-57 and Summer of 1957, *New Hampshire Bird News*, **11**: 3-10.

159 Elm St., Northampton, Mass.

GENERAL NOTES

Homing by a Female Cowbird.—A female Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) was given band 55-187923 by me on April 21, 1958, at Groton, Mass. She repeated six times in May, but not thereafter.

On April 26, 1959 this bird returned, and repeated on May 23, 25, 26 (three times), 30 (twice) and 31. On the last date she was taken to New Ipswich, N. H.—about 18 miles NW—and released. On June 1 she was retrapped at Groton, and released at a point about 5 miles W. On June 2 she was retaken, and released near Fitchburg, Mass., about 12 miles W.

Back in her favorite trap on June 4, she was given the opportunity to accompany me to a forestry meeting at Wilmington, Vt.—about 68 miles WNW—and there turned loose at 6 P.M. Not to be daunted, this determined bird was again in her trap at 10:30 A.M. on June 7.

On June 14, a relative of mine was leaving Groton for his home in Ithaca, N. Y.—about 265 miles, a little south of due west—and agreed to take my bird with him. On the morning of June 15 he released her at his farm near Ithaca, and reported she took flight towards the east. Despite long spells of cloudy, rainy and foggy weather, on June 29 at 6 P.M. this canny bird was again in my trap here, and in good condition.—William P. Wharton, Groton, Mass.

Robin Banded in Massachusetts Recovered in Nova Scotia.—Up to the fall of 1958, no Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) banded at my station in Groton, Mass., had been recovered at any point north of there, with two exceptions—both in southern Maine, and both banded in October. A Robin banded by me as an adult male on October 21, 1957 was found dead on October 7, 1958 at North Sydney, Cape Breton County, Nova Scotia. This bird was evidently a migrant when banded,