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EVENING GROSBEAK WINTER INCURSIONS – 1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61*

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PART I — INCURSION OF 1958-59

Rarely have two heavy winter incursions of the Eastern Evening Grosbeak followed in succession, and so it was not surprising to find that in the last three annual flights of this species the heavy and deeply penetrating incursion of 1959-60 was preceded and followed by lighter incursions. The nesting season of 1958, especially in New Brunswick, was highly successful and the reports from Maine, New York and western Massachusetts indicated in early Fall a plentiful supply of beechnuts and Manitoba maple seeds with some instances where the grosbeaks continued to frequent these trees ignoring the sunflower seeds offered nearby.

Fall and Early Winter

The Fall arrivals were not early nor were they unusually late, and the distribution was spotty and the flock sizes small. A few scattered birds were seen in NEW BRUNSWICK in mid-October and at *Fredericton* in November. In MAINE by September 25th reports had come from *Kokadjo*, *Skowhegan* and *Cape Elizabeth* and before the end of November flocks were widely distributed at over 30 localities and ranged from a few birds to 30 at *Patten*, just east of Mt. Katahdin and up to 50 at *Rangeley*. In QUEBEC, in approximately the same latitude as the northern half of Maine, the Evening Grosbeak was thinly distributed in flocks ranging from a few birds to as many as 50 at *Valcartier* on September 29th. By the end of October the species had been reported from southeastern Quebec from *St. Anne-de-la-Pocatiere* on the St. Lawrence south and west to *Quebec City* and *Montreal* and north of the latter city of *St. Sauveur-des-Monts* where 40 birds were seen on October 17th. The same situation prevailed for ONTARIO where flocks were reported by Mrs. Doris H. Speirs as being generally very small in October and November with the distribution largely in the area north of Lake Ontario with the exception of *Chalk River* in Renfrew County where all summer a few pairs had been seen and during the Fall sometimes a hundred would be observed at one time.

In NEW HAMPSHIRE 14 localities reporting Fall grosbeaks ranged from *Pittsburg* in the extreme north with 18 birds on Sep-

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tember 12th to *Groveton*, just north of the White Mountains with a flock on October 28th, and *Jackson*, just south of Pinkham Notch where 5 birds were observed in mid-October, and south to *Concord* where the arrival date was November 23rd with 12 birds noted. The largest Fall flock reported was a group of 100 birds feeding on box elders at *Lebanon* on November 17th. The earliest arrival date for VERMONT was *South Londonderry* which had had a summer population, and the wintering flocks returned to feeders in groups of 8 to 10 birds on September 27th. With the exception of *Topsham* where 2 birds were seen in flight on October 6th, other VERMONT localities reported all arrival dates in November: *Arlington*, the 25th; *Chester*, the 28th; and *Manchester Depot*, the 28th. The earliest first appearance for MASSACHUSETTS was *Greenfield* on October 29th, but shortly thereafter there was an incursion into the State in November with flocks reported from many towns from *Middleboro* in the eastern part to *Adams* in the Berkshires where Frances Brierley had as many as 60 individuals in a flock with sexes about equally divided. In some instances the birds were feeding on abundant native foods such as box elders and beechnuts but on November 24th Mrs. J. B. Hull, Jr. at *Great Barrington* recorded about 100 birds at her feeder.

In NEW YORK STATE earlier arrival dates were expected because of the usual summer population in the *Saranac Lake* region. Greenleaf Chase, Game Manager in this area, heard a few grosbeaks during October yet Fall arrivals did not begin until October 20th, and the birds did not return to feeders until November 27th. He noted that apparently the beechnut crop was keeping the birds in the woods for they were heard generally over most of the Adirondack area. By the end of November the species was well distributed from *Gloversville*, November first, to the Finger Lakes region with reports from *Dryden*, *Ithaca*, *Etna*, and *Watkins Glen*; to *Hornell* with 7 birds noted on November 18th and west to *Hamburg*, just south of Buffalo, where Mrs. J. E. Bacon had 2 birds at her feeder on November first. The only Fall report from NEW JERSEY was a flock of 27 grosbeaks on November 27th at *Clayton* in the southern part of the state. PENNSYLVANIA had several November records: *Hyner*, the 29th, 20; *Pine Grove Mills*, the 18th, one female; *State College*, the 23rd, 10 grosbeaks eating maple seeds from a tree; and *Kempton*, Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, where Mr. Maurice Broun had 20 grosbeaks on November 21st. By November first Evening Grosbeaks had come to feeders at *Evert*, MICHIGAN in flocks of 30-50 and from the 6th to 21st at *Hulbert* in the northern peninsula not far from the Soo there were several flocks of a hundred or more in the tops of large beech trees. In late November grosbeaks were reported at *St. Croix Falls*, WISCONSIN.

December

In December W. A. Squires reported in NEW BRUNSWICK only 5 grosbeak localities with the largest flock 35 birds at *St. Stephen* on the 29th. The QUEBEC distribution was about the same as during the Fall months with the largest flock 100 birds on Decem-

ber 31st at *St. Sauveur-des-Monts*. In ONTARIO in December the range was extended to include *Huntsville* in Muskoka District and *North Bay* on Lake Nipissing where a large flock was seen on the 4th, yet the numbers in southern ONTARIO were not generally very large. Although there were over 30 reports of flocks in MAINE during December, none were of any appreciable size, the 35 seen at *Cumberland Mills* on the 18th being the largest number. Small groups were seen at a few points in NEW HAMPSHIRE from *Groveton* to *Concord*, and the same pertained in VERMONT from *Montpelier* to *South Londonderry*, but Mrs. James Downs at the latter locality reported greater numbers than usual. In MASSACHUSETTS the range was further extended and flock sizes increased with 55-60 daily at *Adams* where there were 80 per cent males at the end of December; 30-75 birds daily in *Middleboro* December first to 4th; and throughout the month flocks of 100-125 with males predominant 4:1 daily in *Pelham*. Five CONNECTICUT localities had a few grosbeaks during December, and RHODE ISLAND was represented by 11 birds in *Newport County* on the 21st and 65 in *Narragansett County* also on the 21st. In NEW YORK STATE the distribution remained about as it was in the Fall months with generally small flocks, the largest one being 25 birds at *Syracuse* December 25th to 31st. A few birds were seen at *Hynes*, *Rush*, *Troy* and *State College*, PENNSYLVANIA in December and several during the month in the *Washington*, D. C. area.

In MICHIGAN flocks built up during December at *Battle Creek*, *Ewart*, *Kalamazoo*, *Grand Rapids*, *Midland*, and *Hulbert*, the latter area having as many as 70 grosbeaks present by December 20th. R. W. Dexter in *Inland Bird-Banding News*, 33(1): 10-11, 1961, reported small numbers in OHIO at *Kent*, *Cuyahoga Falls*, and *Brecksville* for December with 70 birds on the Christmas Count at *Mohican State Forest*, and 8 on the same count at *Elyria-Lorain*. Later in the winter small numbers were noted in 7 localities of the greater *Cleveland* area. At *St. Croix Falls*, WISCONSIN grosbeaks were present in small numbers all December and a few were reported during the month in the *Pocahontas-Randolph County* areas of WEST VIRGINIA (*Redstart*, 26(2): 46, March 1959).

January

The Evening Grosbeak appeared to be pretty well distributed in NEW BRUNSWICK and ONTARIO by early January with some build-up in numbers at several points in the latter province. At *Ferris* in the Nipissing District there were daily flocks of up to 40 birds with males predominant, and at *Cherrywood*, Ontario County, as many as 50 birds were counted in January flocks. At *Tweed*, Hastings County, grosbeaks were present in hundreds during the month, and at *Barrie*, Simcoe County, on January 10th, 150 were counted. In MAINE Christopher Packard wrote that the Evening Grosbeak was the most reported bird in January with 33 records with males generally predominant, and flocks of about 50 daily at *Cumberland Mills*. At 4 localities in NEW HAMPSHIRE grosbeaks were observed in January with males predominant and the largest

flock 246 birds on January 17th at *Barnstead*. Grosbeaks were seen at 10 localities in VERMONT from *Bellows Falls* to *Montpelier* and in MASSACHUSETTS the distribution was state-wide with the largest numbers reported at *Pelham* where there were over 150 daily through the month. From *Bloomfield* to *Clinton*, CONNECTICUT a few were noted on several days in January. Grosbeaks had reached *East Setauket*, about half-way out Long Island on the north shore, by January 12th, and the species frequented most of the NEW YORK STATE areas previously reporting the birds this winter. Flocks of a few to 60 birds were noted at *Kempton*, *Sykesville* and *State College*, PENNSYLVANIA, with females predominant at the latter locality. A few reports came from the *Washington*, D. C. area, from *Ashtabula*, OHIO, and from WISCONSIN — *St. Croix Falls*, *Mishicot* and *Two Rivers*. Of more significance were the hundreds in the *Detroit*, MICHIGAN area in mid-January and the extension of the incursion to *Gadsden*, ALABAMA where one female was seen on the 6th and flocks of up to 9 birds off and on up to January 24th.

February

During February the distribution and concentration of flocks in ONTARIO remained about the same with the largest numbers noted at *Ferris*, Nipissing District. In NEW ENGLAND the incursion continued heavy in the localities previously reporting and large numbers were present at *Greenville*, MAINE, *Barnstead*, NEW HAMPSHIRE, and at 7 localities in VERMONT. The birds continued to be present in all sections of MASSACHUSETTS but were reported from only 4 localities in CONNECTICUT. In NEW YORK the largest flocks were noted at *Etna*, *Varna*, and *Gloversville*, and the distribution was quite widespread. Over 50 birds were at feeders at *Hawk Mt.*, PENNSYLVANIA, and small numbers off and on at other localities previously reporting from this state. Grosbeaks were present at 3 areas in MICHIGAN and 4 stations in WISCONSIN and on February 15th 3 birds were seen at *Clarksville*, VIRGINIA.

March

During March there seemed to be general movements of grosbeaks in ONTARIO where many birds were reported at *Toronto*, and hundreds in the general region of *Pickering*. Large flocks continued at *Greenville*, *Kittery* and *Skowhegan*, MAINE. In NEW HAMPSHIRE besides small flocks at 6 localities in various parts of the state there were 150-200 at *Concord* during a blizzard on March 12th and over 200 during heavy snows at *Barnstead* March 4th through 8th. Grosbeaks were seen at 11 stations in VERMONT and they were well distributed in MASSACHUSETTS during the month. The range was somewhat extended in CONNECTICUT with flocks reported in *Norwich*. Grosbeaks were still widely distributed in NEW YORK STATE and were present at the same PENNSYLVANIA localities of *State College*, *Stroudsburg* and *Sykesville*. Fifteen birds were seen in *Sussex County*, VIRGINIA on

March 8th and two on the 15th at *Denton* on the Eastern Shore of MARYLAND. Nine localities in MICHIGAN and three stations in WISCONSIN provided March reports and numerous records came from *Ashtabula County*, OHIO.

April

Fairly large flock sizes were maintained in early April in ONTARIO, NEW ENGLAND and NEW YORK but most areas reported appreciable declines in numbers toward the end of the month. Some departure dates were reported for the month: CONNECTICUT, *Clinton*, April first; NEW YORK STATE, *E. Chatham*, the 29th; *Etna*, the 26th; *Gloversville*, the 15th; *Groton*, the 23rd; *Newport*, the 17th. Grosbeaks were at 4 PENNSYLVANIA localities in April and last seen on the 29th at *Troy*. In VIRGINIA last reports were 5 birds on the 4th at *Prince William Forest Park* and 50 on the 18th at *Middle Mountain*. In OHIO one bird was seen on the 11th at *Ravenna* and one on the 12th at *Cleveland*. In MICHIGAN flocks reduced to about 40 birds were seen daily at *Battle Creek*; and at *Newago*, 100 birds were noted on the 11th.

MAY

Reports for May for NEW BRUNSWICK in *Nature News*, 10(3): 2, May-June 1959, indicate that "the Evening Grosbeaks are back in overwhelming numbers to breed in New Brunswick. Mated pairs are reported almost throughout the Province but still no one has found a nest". In southern ONTARIO last dates were *Kingston*, the 9th; *Wolfe Island*, the 3rd; *Cherrywood*, the 8th; *Rouge Hills*, the 6th. From farther north at *North Bay* Evening Grosbeaks were plentiful until mid-May when their numbers suddenly declined, and at *New Liskeard*, there were 2 to 13 birds daily through the month. Last dates grosbeaks were seen in MAINE were: *Auburn*, the 4th; *Brewer*, the 12th; *Brunswick*, the 24th; *Damariscotta*, the 15th; *South Portland*, the 11th; *Westbrook*, the first (Maine Field Observer, 4(3): 51, May 1959). In northern MAINE at *Kokadjo* grosbeaks were seen until the 11th but returned later to nest; and at *Patten* on the 6th Mrs. Wayne Chapman noted, "here in the camp yard a large flock of over 50 and also that day Mr. Chapman observed another large flock at *Bowlin Pond* area three miles away". Grosbeaks remained to nest here also. Last dates for NEW HAMPSHIRE were: *Concord*, the 18th; *Durham*, the 20th; *New Hampton*, the 19th; *West Lebanon*, the 6th. In VERMONT grosbeaks remained to nest at *Gaysville* and *South Londonderry* but departed from *Topsham* on the 8th and from *Woodstock* on the 6th. Departures from MASSACHUSETTS ranged from May first to 24th with some of the last dates: *Annisquam*, the 16th; *Boston Public Garden*, the 15th; *Edgartown*, the 9th; *Hingham*, the 24th; *Orleans*, the 16th. The last CONNECTICUT record was May 3rd at *Canton*. In NEW YORK STATE the departures were: *East Chatham*, the 7th, and *Moravia*, the 31st. In PENNSYLVANIA birds were last seen at *State College* on the first and at *Stroudsburg* on the third.

The last reported date for ILLINOIS was May first at *Momence* and for MICHIGAN: *Christmas*, the 27th; *Ewart*, the 4th; *Grand Rapids*, the second; *Hale*, the 30th; *Inlay City*, the 8th; *Kalamazoo*, the 15th; *Mt. Pleasant*, the 17th. At *Hulbert*, MICHIGAN five pairs were still present on the 24th. OHIO'S last date was *Brecks-ville* on the 10th. From the "Passenger Pigeon", Winter Issue, Oct.-Dec. 1959, p. 169, "An interesting departure pattern was noted for this species as it left northern counties of Wisconsin well in advance of last observations in the south." In the north the last dates were: May 9th, *Bayfield Co.* and May 17th, *Brown Co.* In the south grosbeaks were still present through May 24th in *Columbia Co.* and May 22nd *Manitowoc Co.*

Banding was carried on by 32 banders who banded 6,471 Evening Grosbeaks during the winter of 1958-59. This may be only part of the total reports which have been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service but are an indication of the relatively limited incursion of the winter. Mrs. J. S. Y. Hoyt marked wings with red circles of printer's ink and these marked birds were reported to her from ten localities most of which were within 12 miles of her station at *Etna*, the exception being one bird observed at *Marathon*, 17 miles distant, and another at *Morrisville*, about 42 miles to the northeast. This was the only color marking of the Evening Grosbeak authorized by the Survey within the winter range this year.

Evening Grosbeaks in Newfoundland

Probably one of the most significant aspects of the Evening Grosbeak study was the occurrence of considerable numbers of the species from April 9 to May 1, 1958, at *Clarenville*, Newfoundland, the largest single flock at this locality being about 50 birds on April 13th and final observation was 2 on May first. The species was recorded again at *St. John's* during the winter of 1958-59, the first report was of 10 birds on Dec. 13, 1958. They were recorded at *St. John's* all this winter until April 2, 1959 when 6 birds were seen. From March 25th to May 12, 1959 grosbeaks again occurred at *Clarenville* and an estimate on March 31, 1959 indicated that about 700 birds were in *Clarenville* and *Grand Falls* on that date. Evening Grosbeaks had been noted at *Grand Falls* in the interior on January 19, 1959 and remained here until April 14, 1959. The 1958-59 wintering populations of Evening Grosbeaks in Newfoundland were the highest recorded so far. (L. M. Tuck, personal communication 4/5/61)

PART II — INCURSION OF 1959-60

Two aspects of the Evening Grosbeak Incursion of 1959-60 that are of special interest were the presence of the species in Labrador for the first time and the extension of the winter range to include *Oxford*, MISSISSIPPI, on March 20th and 26th when a female and male were seen by B. O. Freeman. Otherwise the incursion followed

much the same pattern as other extensive flights in the past. Again Newfoundland had winter records and according to Mr. L. M. Tuck the birds "were apparently more widely distributed than in other years but relatively few in numbers. The first observations were quite early in the Fall. A single male was observed near *Doyles* on the west coast on September 29th. Another single male was observed near *Bellvue* on the east coast on October 8th. Two males were recorded at *Badger* in the central part of the island on October 28th and a flock of ten at *St. John's* on October 31st." At *Fred-ericton*, NEW BRUNSWICK Mr. Squires indicated that "the flocks which increased greatly in early September included many young birds." In ONTARIO Mrs. Doris H. Speirs reported a number of records for September: *Selkirk*, Haldimand County, the 6th, pair with 4 immatures; *Burlington* on Lake Ontario, the 4th; *Dinorwic*, Kenora District, the second; *Verner*, the 7th, about 25 adults and immatures; *Espanola*, Sudbury District the 10th; *New Liskeard* 12 birds daily until September 23rd. In October Mrs. Speirs reported grosbeaks at *Cherrywood*, *Collingwood*, *Havelock*, *Huntsville*, *Lorne Park*, *North Bay* and Toronto.

In MAINE grosbeaks had nested at *Ellsworth* and the young continued frequenting feeders until September 15th, then less regularly and on October 19th the first Fall visitors came to the station. The same pattern prevailed at *Patten* where the birds returned on October 2nd and by the 27th 100 birds were present. At *Houlton* grosbeaks were seen continually from early September, but at most other localities the arrival dates were in October: *Skowhegan*, the 13th; *Bucksport*, the 20th; *Ashland*, the 27th; *Damariscotta*, the 28th; *Brewer*, the 28th; *Standish*, the 29th; *South Windham*, the 29th; *Warren* the 29th; *Corville*, the 30th. In NEW HAMPSHIRE grosbeaks were first noted at *Concord* on the 29th and at *Durham* on the 27th. In VERMONT at *Topsham* the birds were recorded on the 19th and at *Woodstock* on the 30th; whereas at *Gaysville*, where there had been summer nesting, grosbeaks remained until the latter part of September and then gradually departed. At *South Londonderry* on September 5th a very young juvenal was brought to the trees near the feeders, and after the middle of the month the grosbeaks came less often to the station. By October 21st they commenced daily visits. In MASSACHUSETTS a very late Summer or very early Fall report was on August 30th when a male grosbeak was seen at *Spencer*. Otherwise first dates for this state were: *Adams*, Oct. 18th; *Amherst*, the 29th; *Barre*, the 27th; *Ware*, the 29th; *Wellesley*, the 18th. There were a few September arrivals in NEW YORK STATE: *Nassau*, the 15th, *Ghent*, the 16th and *Old Chatham*, the 26th; with the majority arriving in October: *Alpine*, the 22nd; *Elmira*, the 23rd; *Oneida*, the 25th; *Homer*, the 29th; *Waterloo*, the 29th; *Ithaca*, the 30th; *West Danby*, the 31st. First dates for PENNSYLVANIA were *Kempton*, Oct. 16th; *Rush*, the 22nd. In WEST VIRGINIA at *Barnesville* grosbeaks came on October 13th; at *Marquette*, MICHIGAN on the 12th; and in WISCONSIN at *Polk County* on the 15th, and at *Misshicot* on the 21st.

November

During November the winter range was broadened by the inclusion of reports from NEWFOUNDLAND where Mr. Tuck reported that on "November 8 a flock of 12-15 were seen near *Corner Brook*" . . . "but of particular interest is the occurrence of Evening Grosbeaks during this winter at *Happy Valley*, Goose Bay, LABRADOR. Happy Valley is the civilian settlement for the Goose Bay Airport . . . and the first observations . . . were on November 4, 1959 and the final ones on March 10, 1960. The largest single flock was about 30 birds and they were seen all during the winter except during the month of February". From Mrs. Speirs came additional Fall reports from ONTARIO: *Warton, Oakville, Manitoulin Island, Frenchman's Bay, Pickering, Rouge Hills, Bolton, Aldershot, Highland Creek*, and *Toronto Island*. During November grosbeaks were quite well distributed over the state of MAINE with flocks of up to 100 at *Cumberland Mills*; an albino at *Houlton* on the 10th; many seen in the woods especially at higher elevations in *Oxford County* from the first to the 19th; daily flocks at *Patten* ranging up to 200 birds; flocks of 35-50 off and on at *Skowhegan*: flocks of 12 to 100 birds at *Buckfield, Readfield, Liberty, Livermore, New Sharon, Scarborough, and Lewiston*. During November grosbeaks were seen in NEW HAMPSHIRE at *Concord, Durham, Gilford, Gorham, Groveton, Hanover* and *Randolph*, in small flocks with the largest number at *Gilford* of 75-100 birds between November 15th and 25th. Only 5 VERMONT localities reported for November with *Montpelier* having flocks of 11-60 during the month; *Rutland* 25-30 regulars; *Burlington* numerous flights early in the month; *Topsham* with daily variable flocks of up to 25 birds. At *South Londonderry* the first influx of Fall grosbeaks came during the first week of November with mostly adults; during the latter part of the month the birds were mostly immatures. IN MASSACHUSETTS by the end of the month grosbeaks were well distributed. At *Adams*, Miss Frances Brierley noted that "hundreds must have been going through here this month though we haven't seen more than 50-60 each day; but I have banded 239 since October 28th and we still see only about one banded bird in 20 every day. Females still predominated, but only by a little by November 30 . . . they have cleaned up all the box-elders in the neighborhood already." In CONNECTICUT at *Bloomfield* grosbeaks were seen on the 4th and 30th; at *Clinton* on the 9th; at *Hartford* on the 15th; at *Norwich* on the 27th; and at *Westport* on the 18th.

By the end of November small flocks were well distributed in NEW YORK STATE from *Glens Falls* and *Piseco* to the *Ithaca* area and south to *Scarsdale* and *Putnam Valley*. In PENNSYLVANIA reports during the month came from *Indiana, Kempton, Sykesville, Meadville, South Williamsport, State College, Stroudsburg, University Park* and *Williamsport* with the largest flocks of up to 65 birds noted at Hawk Mt. at *Kempton*. Several were seen at *Morgantown*, WEST VIRGINIA on the 15th and during the month in VIRGINIA birds were observed at *Edinburg* and *Hampton*. Grosbeaks had reached NORTH CAROLINA by November with a large

flock at *Henderson* on the 28th; one female at *Southern Pines* on the 29th; seven at *Durham* on the 11th; and a few at *Rocky Mount* late in the month. OHIO'S three November records were *Brecks-ville* and *Stow* on the 15th and *Kent* on the 30th. In WISCONSIN in the *Adams-Friendship* area the birds were noted in November; they arrived at *St. Croix Falls* on the 15th and at *Mishicot* they were present at the end of the month in flocks but not at feeders.

December

By December it was obvious that this was to be one of the most extensive of the Evening Grosbeak incursions. On December 6th a flock of about 20 was recorded at *Clarenville*, NEWFOUNDLAND, with 25 or 30 birds noted here from time to time during the next two weeks and for the remainder of the winter nearly every day, though the numbers were rarely more than 10 and usually 5 or 6. Grosbeaks were seen again at *St. John's* on December 22nd to 26th when five were seen. During the month at Happy Valley, LABRADOR birds were seen regularly by Mrs. Peacock. Mr. W. J. Chicomne reported from *Barachois West* (close to the eastern tip of the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec) 19 birds in flight on the 13th. The Christmas Count in NEW BRUNSWICK produced small numbers of grosbeaks at *Fredericton*, *Norton*, *St. Andrews* and *St. John* and there were also December records for *St. Martins*, *St. Stephen*, *Rothsay-Kingshurst*, and *Riverview Heights*.

In MAINE the Christmas census recorded grosbeaks from many coastal points from *Portland* to *Deer Isle* and during the month many interior stations reported the species with large flocks at *Houlton*, about 25 birds daily; at *Skowhegan*, daily flocks of 35-40; at *Augusta* 40 birds on the 22nd. NEW HAMPSHIRE did not fare as well and sent in records from only 4 localities from *Concord* to *Groveton*. Small flocks were seen also in VERMONT with a few birds daily at *Montpelier* and *Rutland*; about 40 daily at *Chittenden*; about 2 dozen birds from the 15th on at *Waterbury*; and small numbers with flocks up to 18 and mostly males daily at *Topsham*. At *South Londonderry* there were small flocks daily with a ratio of 3M:2F up to the 21st and then a change to about 4M:1F. In MASSACHUSETTS grosbeaks "became regular at feeders and built up to good numbers by the end of the month." (R. Emery). At *Adams* flocks averaged 50-60 a day on cold or stormy days, 30-40 on mild days except on the 29th when there were about 100. In CONNECTICUT there were 2 grosbeaks at *Clinton* on the first, 25 at *Hartford* on the 30th, and at *Westport* there were birds off and on during the month at feeders with a total of 173 on the Christmas Count.

The NEW YORK STATE distribution was further broadened during December with flocks observed from *Huntington* and *East Setauket*, *Long Island* to *Scarsdale*, *Putnam Valley*, *Saranac Lake*, *Piseco*, *Ithaca* and *Corning*; where noted the males predominated and the largest flocks were observed at *Gloversville* with 35-120 birds and at *Canaan* 75 birds on the 19th. At *Buck Hill Falls*, PENNSYLVANIA up to 100 birds were estimated the last week of Decem-

ber; Christmas Counts in this state indicated a few birds at *Clarksville*, *Pinesville* and *Presque Isle*; and other reports for the month included flocks of 70-75 at *Kempton*, 65 birds on the 19th at *Sykesville*, and daily flocks of variable size at *State College*. The Christmas Count in WEST VIRGINIA produced one bird each at *Charleston* and *Wheeling* and at *Buckhannon* the species was noted on the 4th. Eight localities in VIRGINIA had grosbeaks during the month with up to 91 counted with females predominant at *Dunn Loring*, and about 40 at *Herndon*. In OHIO in late December a few birds were seen at *Lake Jay* but in the Christmas Count the following totals were recorded in "Audubon Field Notes", April 1960: *Brecksville*, 69; *Cleveland* 35; *Ashtabula* 28; *Mohican Forest* 5; *Salem* 2; and grosbeaks were also seen during the count period at *Burton* and *Lakewood*. In NORTH CAROLINA additional localities reported the species: *Bath*, the 25th, 2 females; *Chapel Hill*, the 11th, about 30 birds; *Raleigh*, the 6th, 2 flocks of 30 each and on the 27th several flocks totaling 50 birds; *Robertsonville*, noted; *Rockingham*, the 22nd a pair. GEORGIA reported grosbeaks at *Rome* with 13 on the 27th. Mrs. B. P. Clark of *Gadsden*, ALABAMA wrote on the 15th that grosbeaks were back at *Birmingham*, *Huntsville*, and *Gadsden*.

The Christmas Count in MICHIGAN indicated: *Boyne City*, the 26th, 15 birds; *Cheboygan*, the 26th, 39; *Davisburg*, the 27th, 11; *Imlay City*, the 27th, one; *Jackson*, the 27th, 18; *Otsego*, the 30th, 17; *Sault Ste. Marie*, the 27th, 123; *Traverse City*, the 27th, one. In WISCONSIN grosbeaks were numerous late in the month at *St. Croix Falls* and during the Christmas Count: *Bancroft*, the 29th, 2; *Chippewa Falls*, the 26th, 3; *Luck*, the 25th, 37; *Racine*, the 26th, 104; *Two Rivers*, the 31st, 23; *Wisconsin Dells*, the 24th, 2 birds. Flocks of 100 or more were present around the *Adams-Friendship* area, and a flock of 28 was noted in the *Milwaukee* Christmas Count.

January

During January flocks were seen at *Happy Valley*, LABRADOR; small numbers at *Clarenville* during the month and a single bird on the 10th at *Corner Brook*, NEWFOUNDLAND. In NEW BRUNSWICK 57 birds were noted on the Christmas Count on New Year's at *Moncton* and other reports included: *Belmont*, Jan. second, 1; *Fredericton*, the second, flock; *Hampton Station*, the 17th, 17; *St. John*, the 16th, 5. The MAINE Christmas counts that were conducted the first week of January resulted in many small flocks at points along the coast with 116 birds totaled at *Castine* on the 2nd and 120 in the *York-Wells* area on the first. At *Ellsworth* there were over 100 birds on the 3rd; flocks of 50-75 at *Houlton* during January; and besides the Christmas Counts there were 33 reports of 762 birds from 26 localities along the coast and inland. In NEW HAMPSHIRE large numbers were recorded at *Wolfeboro* through January, a few daily at *Groveton* and up to 40 birds on the 10th and 28th at *Concord*. Grosbeaks were regular visitors at *Montpelier*, *Rutland*, *Chittenden*, *Bennington*, *South Londonderry*, *Topsham*, and *Waterbury*, VERMONT. In MASSACHUSETTS numbers of Evening Grosbeaks increased and well-distributed flocks of up to 100 birds

were reported by the end of the month from the coast to the Berkshires, the largest numbers being 100 plus on the 16th and 17th at *Adams*. During the first week of January small numbers of grosbeaks were reported at *Clinton*, *Hartford* and *Westport*, CONNECTICUT. The distribution in NEW YORK STATE ranged from *Huntington* and *East Setauket* Long Island to *Piseco* in the southern Adirondacks and west to *Etna* and *Buffalo*, with flocks of 35-120 birds at *Gloversville* and 75-100 birds at *East Chatham*. At *Allentown*, NEW JERSEY the first grosbeaks of the season were noted. At *Hawk Mt.*, *Kempton*, PENNSYLVANIA Mr. Broun reported about "2000 birds within a 20-mile radius. The birds reached us, apparently, from New England via the mountain ridges, and the majority lingered in Schuylkill and Luzerne Counties to the north of the Sanctuary" . . . "The sex ratio was generally three females to one male". At *State College* and *Sykesville* there were large numbers through January.

At *Laurel*, MARYLAND, flocks of up to 40 daily in January were noted by Chandler Robbins and in WEST VIRGINIA the species was reported from *Wheeling*, *Huntington*, *Charleston*, *Moundsville*, *Parkersburg* and *Middlebourne*. In VIRGINIA 14 localities had grosbeak reports for the month. The Carolinas were well represented with NORTH CAROLINA reporting from *Asheville*, *Bath*, *Black Mt.*, *Charlotte*, *Elkin*, *Fayetteville*, *Goldsboro*, *Greensboro*, *Henderson*, *Laurinburg*, *Raleigh*, *Lenoir*, (large flock), *Southern Pines*, *Waynesville* and *Winston-Salem*. By January 18th grosbeaks had reached *Aiken*, SOUTH CAROLINA. During the Christmas Count in MICHIGAN grosbeaks were seen in small numbers at *Marquette*, *Midland*, *Mt. Pleasant* and *Muskegon*. January reports on the Christmas census in WISCONSIN came from *Mishicot*, *St. Croix Falls*, *Milwaukee*, *Wausau* and *Adams*. OHIO January records included *Brecksville*, *Charlestown*, and *Hinkley*.

FEBRUARY

At *Happy Valley*, LABRADOR grosbeaks were present during February and by the 18th Mrs. Doris H. Speirs reported that the grosbeaks were well distributed throughout ONTARIO from *Toronto* north to *Kirkland Lake*, *New Liskeard* and *North Bay*. In MAINE the distribution was about the same as the previous month with grosbeaks noted at many coastal points as well as the interior localities of *Presque Isle*, *Wilton*, and *Buckfield*, with many stations reporting flocks of up to 50 birds. Large numbers were observed at several localities in NEW HAMPSHIRE during the month with males greatly in predominance where sex ratios were noted. Smaller flocks were recorded at *Chittenden*, *Rutland*, *Montpelier*, and *Waterbury*, VERMONT. In MASSACHUSETTS grosbeaks were still well distributed with the largest flocks reported at *Adams*, 100 birds on 4 days; *Great Barrington*, over 100 birds daily the first week of February; *Pelham*, about 100 daily. Only *Hartford*, CONNECTICUT reported in February with 5 males and 4 females on the 9th.

The NEW YORK STATE distribution did not appear to be as extensive as in the previous month but birds were still noted at *East*

Setauket, Long Island as late as February 8th and about 25 came to feeders daily all month at *Piseco*. At *Allentown*, NEW JERSEY grosbeaks were still present and in PENNSYLVANIA the species was seen all month at *State College*, *Sykesville* and *Meadville*. At *Laurel*, MARYLAND, Chandler Robbins had a flock of up to 40 birds daily in February, and 2 localities in WEST VIRGINIA, *Morgantown* and *Richwood*, reported the species through the month. Small numbers were seen in OHIO at *Willoughby*, *Ravenna*, *Bath*, *Hinkley* and *Brecksville*. Fair-sized flocks were in VIRGINIA at various times during the month at *Arlington*, *Blacksburg*, *Danville*, *Fairfax County*, *Herndon*, *Hampton*, *Lexington*, *Lynchburg*, *Monterey*, *Park View*, *Richmond area*, *Roanoke*, and *Salem*. The first TENNESSEE record for the winter was 2 birds in February at *Kingston Springs*. NORTH CAROLINA continued to have a heavy influx with flocks of a few birds to as many as 40 noted at *Asheville*, *Brevard*, *Concord*, *Durham*, *Elm City*, *Elkin*, *Henderson*, *Jamestown*, *Lenoir*, *Monroe*, *Swannanoa*, and *Tarboro* (fide B. R. Chamberlain). SOUTH CAROLINA had reports during February from *Aiken*, *Chester*, *Clemson*, and *Spartanburg*, (fide Chamberlain). In ALABAMA "Evening Grosbeaks were reported from 5 localities . . . with two flocks of up to 14 and 20 birds at *Bessemer*, February 13th to April 27th, the farthest south the species has remained for any time, and this constituted the latest record for Alabama." ("Aud. Field Notes", 14(3): 317, June 1960). At *St. Croix Falls*, WISCONSIN, the species was present during the month.

March

Robie W. Tufts wrote on March 25, 1960 from *Wolfville*, NOVA SCOTIA, that the Evening Grosbeaks were "here in swarms this winter, more than ever." In New England grosbeaks were reported in moderate-sized flocks during March in MAINE at *Eustis*, *Ellsworth*, *Houlton*, *Lewiston*, *Limerick* and *Westbrook*; in NEW HAMPSHIRE at *Concord*, *Dover*, *Groveton*, *Hanover* and *Wolfboro*; in VERMONT at *Chittenden*, *Montpelier*, *Rutland* and *Waterbury*; in MASSACHUSETTS at *Adams*, *Lexington* and *Northampton*; in CONNECTICUT at *Norwich* through March third.

In NEW YORK STATE grosbeaks were present at *East Chatham* through the 16th; at *Etna* through the 20th; at *Glens Falls* through the 21st; at *Gloversville* through the third; and throughout the month at *Piseco* and *Hamburg*. The species appeared at *Burlington Flats* early in March. In NEW JERSEY grosbeaks remained during March at *Allentown*, *State College* and *Sykesville*. About 40 birds appeared daily from the first to the 14th at *Laurel*, MARYLAND. In VIRGINIA they remained through the month at *Arlington*, *Blacksburg*, *Edinburg*, *Fairfax County*, *Hampton*, *Herndon*, *Lexington*, *Park View*, *Richmond area*, *Roanoke*, and *Salem*, ("The Raven", 31(7, 8), July-Aug. 1960), and were noted during the month at *Accomac*, *Amherst*, *Brownsburg*, *Lynchburg*, (The Raven, *ibid*). At *Kingston Springs*, TENNESSEE two grosbeaks were seen during March ("Aud. Field Notes", 14(3): 317, June 1960).

In NORTH CAROLINA there was wide distribution during the month with flocks varying from a few birds to as many as 200 (*Charlotte*) at *Asheville, Bath, Brevard, Burlington, Fayetteville, Elkin, Greensboro Hickory, Hillsboro, Jamestown, Lenoir, Mocksville, Monroe, Rocky Mount, Salisbury, Southern Pines, Swannanoa, Winston-Salem* and *Zebulon* (fide B. R. Chamberlain). Heavy snows in SOUTH CAROLINA in early March also brought large flocks to feeders at *Camden, Chester, and Spartanburg*, and during the month grosbeaks were seen at *Aiken, Charleston, Clemson, Columbia, Greenville, Peak, and Rock Hill*. (fide Chamberlain). In GEORGIA a flock of 100 was reported at *Atlanta* in March, and smaller numbers at *Augusta*, (fide Chamberlain). One of the most significant reports of the winter came from *Oxford, MISSISSIPPI*, where on the 20th and 26th a pair was noted by B. O. Freeman ("Aud. Field Notes"). Grosbeaks declined in numbers at *Bath* and *Hinkley, OHIO*; they were still noted during the month in WISCONSIN, at *St. Croix Falls, Marathon, Brown, Manitowoc, Rusk, Polk, Adams, Eau Claire* and *Shawano Counties (Passenger Pigeon, 22(4): 210, 1960)*.

April

In ONTARIO during the mid-winter the distribution of Evening Grosbeaks had covered most of the Province, and by Spring feeding stations in *York County* and in *Peel County* were especially well patronized, the Neills of *Holland Landing (York Co.)* having fed a ton of sunflower seeds to an estimated number of 500-1000 grosbeaks. There had been many in *Huntsville (Muskoka District)*, in *Kingston (Frontenac County)* and in *Ottawa*; however, in the *Toronto* region numbers diminished radically in late April, really unusually early. The last date at *Cobble Hill, Pickering* was April 16th, at *Highland Creek* the 22nd and at *Cherrywood (Ontario County)* on the 25th. Numbers diminished in April at *New Liskeard (Temiskaming District)* and at *North Bay (Nipissing District)*.

In MAINE numbers decreased in early April in southern sections, declined after the 24th at *Presque Isle*, but grosbeaks were present all month at *Ellsworth*. The birds were noted through April at *Concord* and *Dover, NEW HAMPSHIRE*, and during the month also at *Groveton* and *Hanover*. In VERMONT grosbeaks were last seen on the 23rd at *Chittenden* and *Rutland*, but were present all month at *Montpelier* and *South Londonderry*. In MASSACHUSETTS, although there was a decline in numbers in most sections, at *Adams* there was a build-up with 100 or more going through almost daily with males predominant most of the time and sexes about equal the end of the month. Departure dates for CONNECTICUT were the first week of April at *Clinton* and the 12th at *New London*. In NEW YORK STATE last birds were seen at *Hamburg* on the first; at *Indian Lake* on the 10th; at *Piseco* on the 8th; and at *Stanley* on the 28th; whereas birds remained all month at *Canaan* in flocks of 3-39 birds with females predominant. In NEW JERSEY grosbeaks were noted April 12th to 30th in small numbers with males generally predominant. In PENNSYLVANIA there was a decline in flock size at *State College, South Williamsport, and Sykesville* by the mid-

de of the month. In VIRGINIA grosbeaks continued to be reported in April from *Arlington, Blacksburg, Fairfax County, Hampton, Lexington, Park View, Richmond area, Roanoke and Salem.*

From NORTH CAROLINA the grosbeaks began to depart in April with last dates: *Beaufort County* the 24th; *Elkin*, the 8th; *New London*, the 30th; *Raleigh*, the 27th; *Rockingham*, the 30th; *Southern Pines*, the 29th; and *Winston-Salem*, the 20th. Last dates for SOUTH CAROLINA were somewhat earlier: *Camden*, the 19th; *Columbia*, the 24th; *Greenville*, the 8th; *Rock Hill*, the 16th; and *Spartanburg*, the 8th. Last GEORGIA April records were *Augusta*, the 18th and *Columbus*, the 23rd, and the last ALABAMA record was at *Bessemer* April 27. At *Bath*, OHIO grosbeaks were last seen the end of April.

May

With the exception of *Ellsworth, Kokadjo and Patten*, MAINE, where the grosbeaks remained to nest, departure dates were generally early to mid-May as follows: *Biddeford*, the 4th; *Brewer*, the 20th; *Buckfield*, the 9th; *Cumberland Mills*, the 16th; *Danville*, the 8th; *Lewiston*, the 5th; *Orrington*, the 22nd; *Rockwood*, the 9th; *South Portland*, the 9th; *Warren*, the 8th; *Westbrook*, the 12th; and *Wilton*, the 13th. In NEW HAMPSHIRE last dates seen were: *Concord*, the 10th; *Dover*, the 9th; *Hanover*, the 17th; *Wolfboro*, the 2nd week of May. In VERMONT grosbeaks remained all summer at *South Londonderry* but were last seen on the 24th at *Montpelier*. In MASSACHUSETTS last dates included: *Adams*, the 19th; *Easthampton*, the 24th; *Hadley*, the 14th; *Lexington*, the 20th; and *Northampton*, the 14th.

Last dates for NEW YORK STATE were: *Canaan*, the 23rd; *Canajoharie*, late May; *Etna*, the 19th; *Geneva*, the 17th; *Glens Falls*, the 6th; *Ithaca*, the 24th with one female seen through June; *Jasper*, the 18th; *Keuka*, the 24th; and *Norwich*, the 5th. In NEW JERSEY May 2nd was the last date at *Allentown*. In PENNSYLVANIA last dates were: *Clarksville*, the 16th; *Presque Isle*, the 7th; *Rush*, the 2nd; *Stroudsburg*, the 15th; and *Sykesville*, the 5th. VIRGINIA last dates were about the same: *Blacksburg*, the 14th; *Fairfax County*, the 11th; *Roanoke*, the 9th; and *Salem*, the 8th. WEST VIRGINIA last dates were: *Charleston*, the third and *Terra Alta*, the first.

Surprisingly a number of NORTH CAROLINA last dates were as late as those to the north: *Chapel Hill*, the first of May; *Charlotte*, the 13th; *Henderson*, the 13th; *Lenoir*, the 12th; and *Rocky Mount*, the 4th. Even SOUTH CAROLINA had a last grosbeak at *Chester* on May first, and *Atlanta*, GEORGIA reported one female on the 15th. In OHIO a last female was seen at *Hinkley* on the third, and last birds at *Brecksville* on the 8th. In MICHIGAN although the last grosbeaks were seen at *Midland* on May 16th, there was a build-up of birds at *Sault Ste. Marie* during the month. Whereas at the latter locality only small flocks had wintered here, a big incursion began on May first and continued to the peak on the 18th with high counts on May 18th and 20th of many flocks of 200-300 birds and

some counts as high as 1000 to 2400, ("The Evening News", Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. May 25, 1960). The same situation pertained at *Hulbert* where only 18-22 birds were present most of the winter, yet there was a great increase in May with flocks building up about May 12th with sexes about equal. On May 26th the first male was seen feeding a female and by June 30th the flock began to thin out materially. At *Marquette* the last grosbeaks were seen on June 3rd. In WISCONSIN the grosbeaks had departed from *St. Croix Falls* by mid-May and were last seen at *Wausau* on the 22nd.

During the winter of 1959-60 banding was carried on by 23 co-operators and a total of 11,167 Evening Grosbeaks banded were reported to us. Outstanding was the total of 4,933 banded by Miss Dorothy L. Bordner at *State College*, PENNSYLVANIA.

PART III — INCURSION OF 1960-61

The incursion of 1960-61 was characterized by an absence of grosbeaks in NEWFOUNDLAND, a very heavy and widespread incursion of the species in New England, especially in MASSACHUSETTS, and in NEW YORK STATE, and very few birds in the CAROLINAS and one report from *Birmingham*, ALABAMA in March. Mr. Leslie M. Tuck, wildlife biologist at *St. John's*, NEWFOUNDLAND, indicated that this was a unique winter there in many respects since there was a superabundance of Mountain Ash berries, thousands of Robins overwintered, and no grosbeaks were reported. In ONTARIO Mrs. Doris H. Speirs wrote at the end of October that the pattern of the incursion was very unusual with no grosbeaks seen in *Algonquin Park* until October 7th to 10th when hundreds were observed. There was a heavy crop of cones and yet, except for this period, very few Grosbeaks. In MAINE the picture was different. At *Patten*, where the species had been a common summer resident, there was first flocking on September 27th when 32 fed on sugar maple keys. At *Eustis* Mrs. L. R. Therrien had a pair nesting and they brought young to feed up until October. At *Patten* October 12th to 16th there were hundreds of birds in the many maples around the camp feeding on the abundant maple keys. Arrival dates in MAINE were mostly in late October: *Wilton*, the 9th; *Skowhegan*, the 20th; *Gorham*, *Mercer* and *Warren* on the 27th; *Orono*, the 29th; *Willimantic*, the 30th; *Bangor*, *Milo* and *South Portland* on the 31st. NEW HAMPSHIRE arrival dates were all in October: *Lakeport*, the 23rd; *North Conway*, the 16th; *Bristol* and *New Hampton*, the 19th. In VERMONT grosbeaks had remained all summer and continued to appear right into the early Fall at *South Londonderry*, but did not show up at *Topsham* until October 16th. In MASSACHUSETTS the first date was *Groton*, September 21st with other arrival dates all in October: *Adams*, the 18th; *Bedford*, the 26th; *Lithia*, the second; and *Newburyport*, the 21st. By the last of October grosbeaks appeared at *Canton*, CONNECTICUT. In northern NEW YORK STATE in the *Saranac Lake* area Mr. Greenleaf Chase wrote, "The Evening Grosbeaks came through

early but the maple seed crop was heavy and also beechnuts so they have been mighty slow coming to feeders. The spruce and hemlock seed crop is bountiful". Native foods were very abundant in PENNSYLVANIA in the *Berwick* region also. In MICHIGAN at *Marquette* the arrival date was October 8th when two birds were seen in flight.

November

Evening Grosbeaks did not arrive in *Wolfville*, NOVA SCOTIA until the late date of November 14th, and in MAINE there were many localities that had not had grosbeaks earlier and arrival dates were in November: *Bridgton*, *Caratunk*, and *Warren* on the first; *Parsonfield*, the 5th; *Portland*, the 7th; *Ellsworth*, the 8th; *Rangely*, the 12th; *Rumford Point*, the 13th; *Presque Isle*, the 14th; *York Harbor* and *Cornville* the 22nd; *Danville*, the 25th; *Jackman*, the 28th; and *Lewiston*, the 30th. Additional first dates for NEW HAMPSHIRE were *Campton* on the 3rd; *Groveton* and *Hanover* on the 8th; and *Concord* on the 27th. In VERMONT grosbeaks were present all month in *Topsham* but made their first appearance of the season at *Montpelier* November 6th and at *South Royalton* the middle of the month. There was an increase in the numbers in MASSACHUSETTS with arrivals reported at *Amherst* on the 30th; *Bedford*, the 27th; *Dalton*, the 10th; *Easthampton*, the 5th; *Hopkinton*, the 7th; *Lancaster*, the 24th; *Littleton*, the 26th; *Newburyport*, the 8th; *Northfield*, the 12th; *Northampton*, the 24th; *Pelham*, about the 20th; *Shelburne Falls*, the 30th; *Ware*, the 7th; and *Whately*, the 24th. At *Lakeville*, CONNECTICUT a flock of about 20 birds was seen only on November 20th. More NEW YORK STATE areas had arrivals in November: *Amsterdam*, on the 5th; *Essex* and *Glens Falls*, early in the month; *Jacksonville*, on the 30th; and East Chatham where there were good supplies of native fruits, seeds, and cones, on the 5th. November brought grosbeaks to the PENNSYLVANIA localities of *Sykesville* and *Hawk Mt.* on the 13th and to *Baltimore*, MARYLAND on the 8th.

December

In NEW BRUNSWICK the Christmas Count indicated grosbeaks at *Fredericton*, *Moncton-Shediac*, *Sackville*, *St. John*, and *Woodstock*; however, Mrs. Speirs wrote on the 23rd that there was "neither a major nor a minor incursion" by that date in ONTARIO. In MAINE, on the other hand, the distribution was very extensive by the end of the month with reports from 46 localities all over the state from *Patten* in the north all down the coast and west to *Eustis* and *Farmington*. Where noted, the native foods appeared to be more plentiful than usual at *Lewiston*, *Mt. Desert*, and *Patten*, and flocks were not unusually large. In NEW HAMPSHIRE there were more localities reporting in December: *Blodgett's Landing*, *Campton*, *Concord*, *Dover*, *Hampstead*, *Hanover*, *Laconia*, *Lakeport* and *Pittsburg*. In VERMONT small flocks were reported from *Chester*, *North Calais*, *South Londonderry*, *South Royalton*, and *West Rutland*. By

December grosbeaks were well distributed all over MASSACHUSETTS from the coastal stations at *Duxbury*, *Ipswich*, *Newburyport* and *Orleans* west to *Adams* and *Williamstown* in the Berkshires, and in general the flocks were fairly small. In CONNECTICUT *Canton*, *Clinton*, *Essex*, and *Farmington* were added to localities previously reporting. In NEW YORK STATE grosbeaks were present at *Amsterdam*, the *Buffalo* area, *East Chatham*, *Glens Falls*, *Moravia*, and *Saranac Lake*. Only six to seven birds were noted in the southern NEW JERSEY Christmas count, and during December in PENNSYLVANIA only *Clarksville*, *Linesville*, *Presque Isle*, and *State College* reported grosbeaks. On the Christmas counts, *Ash-tabula*, OHIO had two grosbeaks; *Alexandria*, VIRGINIA one; *Lexington*, VIRGINIA four and *Roanoke*, VIRGINIA two. During December Mrs. Henry Rankin of *Fayetteville*, NORTH CAROLINA heard an Evening Grosbeak, the first of several reports from this state to follow in January. In WISCONSIN small numbers were noted at *Stevens Point*, *Tomahawk*, *Antigo*, *Rhinclander* and *St. Croix Falls*.

January

In NEW BRUNSWICK grosbeaks were still scarce, but in MAINE the statewide distribution of the previous month continued to prevail with flocks still remaining fairly small and numbering generally under 40 birds. Partial albinos were reported from *Westbrook* on the 15th by Mrs. T. H. Werner and from *Ellsworth* on the 18th by Mrs. Neil Walker. In NEW HAMPSHIRE grosbeaks were noted during January from *Groveton* in the north to coastal areas in the southeast in small numbers with the largest flock numbering 63 birds on the 22nd at *Hanover*. In VERMONT a few localities reported grosbeaks with the largest number 42 males and 14 females at *South Londonderry*. Many localities all over MASSACHUSETTS from Cape Cod to the Berkshires continued to have fairly small flocks with the exception of *Adams* where about 80 birds were counted on the 31st; at *Pelham* where numbers ranged up to 60; and at *Middleboro* where 50 were counted on the 20th. RHODE ISLAND reported 10 pairs on the 10th at *Bradford*, and 5 localities in CONNECTICUT, *Clinton*, *Glastonbury*, *Hartford*, *Lakeville* and *Windsor* reported grosbeaks off and on in flocks of up to 25 birds. In NEW YORK STATE grosbeaks were noted from the Adirondacks to Long Island at scattered localities and in small flocks. Only *Allentown*, NEW JERSEY reported during the month, and in PENNSYLVANIA small numbers were seen at 6 localities with the largest numbers at Hawk Mt. Sanctuary at *Kempton* where flocks of up to 40 were noted. In VIRGINIA reports came from *Alexandria*, *Arlington*, *Sterling* and *Vienna*, and in NORTH CAROLINA one female was seen at *Lenoir* during January and one male and three females on the 20th at *Pinchurst*. At *Marquette*, MICHIGAN grosbeaks were noted in flight but not at feeders, perhaps because of the apparent abundance of native foods. In WISCONSIN there were 46 birds at *Wausau* on the 8th, 25 at *St. Croix Falls* on the 5th and 12 at *Stevens Point* on the 14th.

February

In ONTARIO the invasion was underway in early February with increases in flock sizes at Pimisi Bay, *Rutherglen* to 46 birds on the 28th. Here females predominated early in the month with males in the majority by the 21st. In NEW BRUNSWICK 12 birds were seen at *Jacksonville* on the 11th and one at *Pennfield* on the 15th. In MAINE grosbeaks were fairly well distributed in February with flocks ranging from 25 to 50 birds at *Augusta*, *Brewer*, *Brunswick*, *Danforth*, *Gorham*, *Hallowell*, *Orrington*, *Skowhegan*, *Warren*, *Westbrook* and *Wilton*. Scattered flocks were reported in southern NEW HAMPSHIRE at *Concord*, 17 birds; at *Dover*, 25 birds; and at *Hanover* 250 birds on the 9th. Reports came from VERMONT from *Montpelier*, *South Londonderry*, and *Topsham*, and on the 11th 100 grosbeaks were counted at *Bolton*. In MASSACHUSETTS the species was still noted in various sections with 50 to 80 daily in *Adams* where the sexes were about equal at the beginning of the month and females predominant at the end of February. At *Carver* near the coast a flock of nearly 200 was present all winter. In CONNECTICUT a few were reported during the month at *Clinton*, *Hartford*, and *Lakeville*. Small numbers were fairly well distributed in NEW YORK STATE from the *Champlain* and *Adirondack* areas to the *Finger Lakes* region, *Mohawk Valley* and southern *Long Island*. In NEW JERSEY only *Allentown* and *Jamesburg* reported birds in February and in PENNSYLVANIA small numbers were seen at *Coudersport*, *Kempton*, *University Park* and *Williamsport*. In VIRGINIA two females were observed during the month at *Sterling* and 12 on the 13th at *Alexandria*; there was one report from WEST VIRGINIA at *Morgantown*. In NORTH CAROLINA one bird was noted on the 5th at *Raleigh* and at *Smithfield*. Grosbeaks still appeared at the same localities in MICHIGAN and WISCONSIN as in January.

March

In MAINE during March flocks remained with about the same size and distribution with the exception of *Patten* which had no birds in February but an increase during March. In NEW HAMPSHIRE the same southern localities reported flocks from a few birds to as many as 68 at *Hanover* on the 6th. In the *Franconia* area of northern NEW HAMPSHIRE grosbeaks were noted during most of the winter. In VERMONT numbers declined during March with the exception of *West Rutland* where an estimated 300 were counted during a storm about the middle of the month. IN MASSACHUSETTS grosbeaks remained at feeders in good numbers, with 60 to 100 noted all month at *Adams* where males predominated; 100 at *Northampton* on the 25th; 50 at *Ware* on the 9th; and small flocks all month at *Weston*. In CONNECTICUT grosbeaks were noted in varying numbers at *Chester*, *Greenwich*, *Hartford*, *Lakeville*, and *West Hartford*, with departure dates for *Clinton*, March 19th, and for *Windsor*, the 9th. In New YORK STATE the distribution was about the same as in February but with a very great increase to about 200 birds at *Amsterdam* on the 14th and about 100 at *New-*

field in mid-March. Only *Pequannock*, NEW JERSEY and *Williamsport* and *Kempton*, PENNSYLVANIA reported in March with the 20th the last date grosbeaks were seen in the latter locality. At *Laurel*, MARYLAND a single flight was seen in March. In VIRGINIA at *Vienna* only a few birds were noted with none after mid-March; at *Warrenton* and *Sterling* a few were seen all month; and at *Alexandria* a few with females predominant were noted to March 29th. IN NORTH CAROLINA at *Rocky Mount* one male came to the feeder March 4th through 8th; at *Henderson* one bird at the feeder March 7th and 8th. Mrs. Ben P. Clark wrote from ALABAMA in the March 1961 issue of *Alabama Birdlife* it was reported that "one Evening Grosbeak was 'salvaged' after being shot in *Birmingham* by a small boy with a BB gun". At *Marquette*, MICHIGAN varying numbers were seen off and on with 84 birds on the 19th and 106 on the 25th. Grosbeaks were still present at *St. Croix Falls* and *Stevens Point*, WISCONSIN through the month.

April

At *Wolfville*, NOVA SCOTIA flocks of 40-50 birds with males predominating 5:3 were noted during the month with the last date April 29th. At *Pimisi Bay*, *Rutherglen*, ONTARIO daily flocks in April ranged from 4 to 90 birds with decline at the end of the month. Fewer MAINE localities reported during April with a gradual decline and only a few localities had birds at the end of the month, exceptions being 75-100 birds on the 30th at *Bridgton*, an increase toward the end of the month in the breeding area at *Patten*, and 50 birds on the 16th at *Westbrook*. April departure dates for NEW HAMPSHIRE were: *Concord*, the 30th; *Durham*, the 7th; *Hanover*, the 20th; *Lakeport*, the 18th; *Lisbon*, the first; and *Manchester*, the second. In VERMONT last dates grosbeaks were seen were: *Chester*, the 20th; *Montpelier*, the 28th; and *Randolph*, the 10th. At *South Londonderry* grosbeaks were present off and on all month as they nested in this area. In MASSACHUSETTS the situation was quite unique with appreciable build-up in some areas: in *Adams*, 70 to 100 birds until the last week of April; in *Lexington* large numbers all month; in *Lee*, 500 on the first; in *Pittsfield* 100 daily April first to third. Departure dates for MASSACHUSETTS were: *Great Barrington*, and *Lee* the third week of April; *Middleboro*, the 29th; *Northampton*, the 22nd; *Princeton*, the 19th; and *Ware*, the 30th. Departure dates for CONNECTICUT included *Greenwich*, the 18th; *Hartford*, the 3rd; and *Lakeville*, the 21st. In NEW YORK STATE large flocks remained at *Amsterdam* during the month with the departure date April 28th. Last dates in this state also included: *Gallupville*, the 27th; *Glens Falls*, late April; *McGraw*, the third; *Painted Post*, the 11th, and *Piseco*, the 12th. In PENNSYLVANIA grosbeaks were noted during the month at *Williamsport* and *Holidaysburg* in small numbers. In MARYLAND the species was seen on the 20th in *Anne Arundel County* and on the 21st at *Beltsville*. Last grosbeaks to be seen in VIRGINIA were at *Alexandria* on the 18th, and *Warrenton*, early in the month. At *Marquette*, MICHIGAN the birds were noted all month with a maximum of 96 on the

second. At *Stevens Point*, WISCONSIN the last individual was seen on the second but the birds were present all month at *St. Croix Falls* in gradually diminishing numbers.

May

At *Rutherglen*, ONTARIO during May daily flocks of 3 to 26 birds were seen courting and pairing preparatory to summer nesting in this area. At *Ellsworth*, MAINE grosbeaks came to feeders until the 23rd and then again on June 30th as they nested in this area. The same was noted at *Patten* where pairing began early in May and birds were present at feeders all month. At other MAINE localities departure dates were: *Augusta*, the 7th; *Bar Harbor*, the 18th; *Camden*, the 24th; *Hallowell*, the 8th; *Kingfield*, the 29th; *Lewiston*, the 10th; *Monhegan*, the 14th; *Orrington*, the 8th; *Salisbury Cove* (Mt. Desert Island), the 18th; *Warren*, the 7th; *Westbrook*, the 7th; *Wilton*, the 11th. Grosbeaks departed from *Campton*, NEW HAMPSHIRE, on the 5th, from *New Hampton*, NEW HAMPSHIRE on the 9th, and from *South Royalton*, VERMONT on the 16th. Last dates that grosbeaks were seen in MASSACHUSETTS were: *Adams*, the 19th; *Barre*, the 8th; *Easthampton*, the 18th; *Greenfield*, the 19th; *Northfield*, the 16th; *Lexington*, the 17th; *Orange*, the 21st; *Newburyport*, the 6th; *Pittsfield*, the 9th; *Shelburne Falls*, the 13th; *Turners Falls*, the 29th; *Worcester*, the first; *Weston*, the 13th; *Williamstown*, the 6th; and *Pelham*, June 9th. Departure dates for CONNECTICUT were *Canton* the first week of May and *West Hartford* May 7th. Grosbeaks last seen in NEW YORK STATE were at *East Chatham*, the 10th; at *East Moriches*, the 15th; at *Etna*, the third; and at *Putnam Valley*, the 4th. At *Sterling*, VIRGINIA the last grosbeaks of the season were on May 8th and in MARYLAND departure dates were *Denton*, the 5th and *Talbot County*, the 6th. At *Marquette*, MICHIGAN the last grosbeak was noted on June 7th and at *St. Croix Falls*, WISCONSIN the departure date was May 31st.

A total of 2,977 grosbeaks was banded by 18 cooperators.

General Conclusions

1. The incursion of 1958-59 was fairly widespread extending from *Fredericton*, NEW BRUNSWICK to *St. Croix Falls*, WISCONSIN and south to *Gadsden*, ALABAMA. The earliest arrival date was September 12th at *Pittsburg*, NEW HAMPSHIRE and the times of departure were normal, most in the first two weeks of May with a few stragglers: *Brunswick*, MAINE, on the 24th; *Durham*, NEW HAMPSHIRE, on the 20th; *New Hampton*, NEW HAMPSHIRE, on the 19th; *Hingham*, MASSACHUSETTS, on the 24th; *Moravia*, NEW YORK, on the 31st; *Christmas*, MICHIGAN, on the 27th; *Hale*, MICHIGAN, on the 30th; and *Columbia County*, WISCONSIN, on the 24th. Color marking with red circles on the wing was done by only one station, *Etna*, NEW YORK, by Mrs. J. S. Y. Hoyt and these marked birds were reported to her from ten localities most of which were within 12 miles of *Etna*, the exceptions

being one bird observed at Marathon, 17 miles distant, and at Morrisville, about 42 miles to the northeast. 32 banders reported a total of 6,471 birds banded, but undoubtedly more banding records were filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service; yet this total is a measure of the activity and reflects an incursion of only average size. Where noted the males generally predominated in the northern parts of the winter range. Many of the native foods were abundant in the north and yet the grosbeaks had reached Gadsden, ALABAMA by January 6th, with the surprising observation that during the winter only a few were seen in the Washington, D. C. area, only a few in MARYLAND and VIRGINIA and none in the CAROLINAS or GEORGIA.

2. The incursion of 1959-60 was marked by first winter records of Evening Grosbeaks in LABRADOR and by the southern extension of the winter range to include Oxford, MISSISSIPPI where a pair was seen by B. O. Freeman on March 20th and 26th. The flight began early in September in ONTARIO, had spread to WEST VIRGINIA by October 13th and was quite general in NORTH CAROLINA by the end of November. As in the previous winter, the range extended westward to St. Croix Falls, WISCONSIN. Although the species was widely distributed southward, the birds remained in large numbers in NOVA SCOTIA throughout the winter. Numbers declined in early April and the departure in May was extended to include the whole month. Banding was reported to us from 23 banders with a total of 11,167 Evening Grosbeaks. Outstanding was the total of 4,933 banded by Miss Dorothy L. Bordner of State College, PENNSYLVANIA.

3. The incursion of 1960-61 was characterized by the absence of grosbeaks in NEWFOUNDLAND, a very heavy and widespread incursion of the species in New England, especially MASSACHUSETTS, and in NEW YORK STATE, with very few birds in the CAROLINAS and one report from Birmingham, ALABAMA in March. The winter range extended from Wolfville, NOVA SCOTIA and Fredericton, NEW BRUNSWICK west to St. Croix Falls, WISCONSIN and south to Raleigh, NORTH CAROLINA and Birmingham, ALABAMA. It was surprising that reports did not come to us from OHIO, INDIANA, ILLINOIS, KENTUCKY and TENNESSEE, indicating perhaps that the birds that did penetrate the south did so by way of the Appalachians. The movement north in May was completed in most sections by about the middle of the month with a few stragglers leaving Turners Falls, MASSACHUSETTS and Kingfield, MAINE on the 29th. Reports of banding came from 18 cooperators with a total of 2977 grosbeaks banded, an unusually small number.

4. Inasmuch as the Eastern Evening Grosbeak's winter range has become fairly well established, it appears that further compilation of winter records will not produce data of sufficient significance to warrant their annual publication. However, the extension of the summer range is of general interest and summer records will continue to be compiled and published by the author.

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**SOME NOTES ON A TRIP TO AN EVENING GROSBEEK
NESTING AREA**

BY G. HAPGOOD PARKS AND HAZEL C. PARKS

Introduction:—

Chances are very good that if you have banded a significant number of Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) within the past decade your records show that one or more of those birds met an untimely end in Rimouski county of Canada's Quebec Province. Benjamin M. Shaub (1960) described this Quebec situation in his paper: "The Destruction of Nearly One Hundred Evening Grosbeaks at St. Leon le Grand, Quebec". In this enlightening story Mr. Shaub introduced to his readers Monsieur Thomas Brousseau, the bilingual French-Canadian who had reported so many of the band numbers to the U. S. Bird-Banding Office.

For more than a year prior to the publication of Mr. Shaub's paper we had been corresponding with M. Brousseau. This interesting correspondence had started when he reported the first of a series of five Evening Grosbeaks, which we had banded at Hartford, Conn., as having been "killed" on the West Branch of the Patapedia River in Rimouski county, P. Q. A warm intimacy developed as this correspondence continued and we decided to visit the region in order to discover what sort of men were killing these birds, and why.

Although Mr. Shaub's paper answered some of our questions it failed to deter us from our plan. When we decided to combine with our visit a banding study of the Evening Grosbeak population in that locale we found that the Canadian Wildlife Service was interested and most cooperative. We received permission to work in the region from the president of the Meadow Brook Fishing Club which organization controls trespass rights along the Patapedia River through governmental lease.

Excepting the intermittent spring showers which we encountered, the 800 miles from Hartford, Conn., to Amqui, P. Q., were covered without incident and we arrived there on June 12, 1962. The remaining 40 miles to M. Brousseau's camp at the 39-mile point on the Patapedia River is not recommended for the ladies even under