

The Evening Grosbeak in Eastern Texas.—The Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*), usually described as an irregular migrant, has never been reported for Nacogdoches County, Texas or for most of east Texas. This species was present in large numbers in east Texas and western Louisiana during the winter and spring of 1968-69. The first Evening Grosbeaks in Nacogdoches County were reported on 20 November, 1968. The numbers gradually increased until an estimated 850-1100 were present in the City of Nacogdoches. This estimate was based on volunteer observations, all made the same morning at feeding stations, and from a "road-side" census through the city. Numbers remained at this level through January, February and March and then rapidly declined. The last birds were reported on May 23. During their visit to Nacogdoches 132 grosbeaks were banded, 40 males and 92 females. This proportion of male to female is representative of the sex ratio of flocks which were observed.

The food habits of the Evening Grosbeaks underwent a prominent change during the latter part of their stay in Nacogdoches. During January and February they fed almost entirely at feeding stations, where sunflower seeds seemed to be preferred. This characteristic feeding habit changed rather abruptly during the latter part of March when they began feeding on native foods and ignored for the most part the window feeders. This may have been due in part to the failure of feeder owners to provide sunflower seeds but I do not feel this was the main reason.

Grosbeaks began feeding primarily on the ground where they consumed seeds of cherry laurel (*Prunus caroliniana*), privet (*Ligustrum* spp.), and hackberry (*Celtis* spp.). They did not eat those seeds having a fleshy coat but only those from which the fleshy coat had been removed previously by other birds; Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), primarily. During the time when grosbeaks were observed feeding on native seeds they also spent considerable time in trees. Most of this time was spent preening and loafing but they were observed eating seeds which they removed from the trees. The only tree species for which this was recorded were hackberry and elm (*Ulmus* spp.).—Edwin D. Michael, Biology Department, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas.

Trail's Flycatcher, a Transient in Peninsular Florida.—The Trail's Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) has been considered to be absent as a transient in peninsular Florida (Sprunt, 1954; Florida Bird Life p. 297; Phillips, Howe & Lanyon, 1966, *Bird-Banding* 37: 163). However, during recent years an October mist-netting program, and selective collecting carried out near Homestead, Dade County, Florida, have revealed that *E. traillii* occur regularly as uncommon fall transients, at least in extreme southern Florida. Two specimens, one by Fisk at Homestead, 21 October 1967, and the other by Ogden 13 miles southwest of Homestead, in Everglades National Park, 11 September 1968, are deposited in the Everglades Park reference collection. A. R. Phillips examined the October 1967 specimen and strongly suspected that it represented the northern ("fee-bee-o") form. Three other *traillii*, two adult, one HY, have been netted, banded and released by Fisk at Homestead on 1 October (2), and 2 October (1), 1969. Measurements taken include wing and wingtip, Formula B, tarsus, length and width of culmen. There have also been field sight records in Everglades National Park by Ogden of birds considered to be *traillii*, on 28 and 30 September, 1965, and 4 September 1967 (2).

The records of *E. traillii* presented here apparently represent the first fall observations for peninsular Florida. We presume *traillii* has been previously overlooked due to the similarity to *E. minimus*, the latter a fairly common fall transient in south Florida.—John C. Ogden, Box 279, Everglades National Park, Homestead, and Erma J. Fisk, 17101 S. W. 284th Street, Homestead.

The Turning Down of Marked Eggs by Great Tits.—Holcomb (1969, *Bird-Banding* 40: 105-113) marked the eggs of 28 species of North American land birds with a bold orange or red number and reported that at least 9 of 12 species tended to turn the number downwards by the following day. In 1948, in England, I marked 143 eggs in 24 incomplete clutches of the Great Tit, *Parus major*, with a small, lightly-written number in black ink. Each egg was marked the day after it was laid and each was replaced in the nest regardless of the position of the number. On one morning when the positions of the numbers were specially recorded (because I had previously noticed that they were often turned down),