

times in southern Florida, the West Indies, and Trinidad and Tobago. This makes the sixth occurrence for the species in New York, all records being from Long Island (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 365). No tropical disturbance prior to the observation might account for this bird's presence here, although Hurricane "Belle" had occurred several weeks before.

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Adult Evening Grosbeak and young—Limestone, New York, Cattaraugus County
Photograph by Regina M. VanScoy *July 8, 1976*

Probable nesting of Evening Grosbeak in Cattaraugus County: On June 21, 1976 at 2 p.m. I was surprised to see an adult male Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) picking up grit on a dirt road adjacent to my house. The bird appeared to be in excellent health and had the bluish-green colored bill associated with breeding condition. On June 11, 1976, Dr. S. W. Eaton observed adult female Evening Grosbeaks in the Quaker Run area of Allegany State Park and with these observations the members of the newly formed Cattaraugus County Bird Club were alerted to the possibility of nesting Evening Grosbeaks in our county.

Unfortunately no one was able to locate an active nest but on July 1, 1976, at 2:15 p.m., an adult female and two fledged young came to my feeder. The female immediately began feeding on sunflower seeds while the two young remained in the large sugar maple trees that surround our feeders. The young came down out of the trees at 3:05 p.m. and drank from a small stream. The female fed them while they were on the ground. They in turn followed her and begged for food by crouching and fluttering their wings. On July 2, 1976, the female and two young remained in the yard nearly all day where they were observed and photographed by Dr. S. W. Eaton. The female fed voraciously on sunflower seeds while the young remained high up in the trees, sunning themselves and begging for food whenever the female came up to feed them. They were never observed feeding themselves. On July 3, 1976, at 7 a.m. one of the juvenals flew into a window and was killed instantly. The female and the surviving juvenal stayed in the vicinity most of the day and were observed daily until July 11, 1976.

The juvenal was collected and placed in a freezer until August 5, 1976, when Dr. S. W. Eaton of St. Bonaventure University prepared it as a study skin. The specimen weighed 50.75 grams but had probably lost several grams as a result of desiccation. Due to the black wing and tail, and the golden yellow on the tail coverts, head, wings and breast, the bird was believed to be a young male and on dissection this was found to be true. The crop was empty but the gizzard contained the following vegetable matter—% by volume: 75%—sunflower seeds, 25%—1 Red Maple bud (*Acer rubrum*), 2 Chokecherry pits (*Prunus virginiana*). Bent (1968, p. 216) notes that the most important vegetable food for the juvenal is the pit of the Pin Cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*). This species is closely related to *Prunus virginiana*. No animal matter was present in either the crop or the gizzard. This specimen is now part of the permanent ornithological collection of St. Bonaventure University.

On July 8, 1976, at 10:45 a.m. an adult female with one juvenal was at the feeder and they suddenly flew off. Within seconds another female arrived with 3 young and she began feeding on sunflower seeds. The young stayed in the trees and the female periodically fed them there. They remained in the area until 2 p.m.; however, this group was never seen again. During the month of July, adult female Evening Grosbeaks with young were observed in at least one other location in Cattaraugus County and also in neighboring Allegany County.

John Bull (1974) notes that in New York State the Evening Grosbeak nests consistently only in the Adirondack region. The closest nesting sites to Cattaraugus County are in Pittsford (Monroe County) and Ithaca (Tompkins County); both of these nestings occurred in 1962. Other than these two sites there have been no recorded cases of the Evening Grosbeak nesting anywhere in western New York State.

One possible reason for this sudden extension of its range may be the cankerworm infestation that southwestern New York and northwestern Pennsylvania have been experiencing in the past few years. Bent (1968, p. 215) notes that "... the birds often appear for the first time or in unusual numbers wherever there is an outbreak of spruce budworm during the breeding season." Since the spruce budworm is one of the major insect foods of nestlings, the cankerworm may have been its replacement in this area. Maurice Broun notes their feeding on cankerworms (in Bent, 1968, p. 224): "Last May, from the 10th to the 15th, from 20 to 40 evening grosbeaks, remnants of large flocks that visited us during the winter, were observed in voracious day-long feedings on cankerworms in the tops of large oaks in front of the Sanctuary headquarters. The grosbeaks spent more time helping to clean up cankerworms than they did at the feeders, where sunflower seeds became a minor attraction."

Of course, it is always possible that the birds moved into this area after completing their nesting but we feel fairly certain that they nested here this year. It remains to be seen whether active nests will be found next year or if this was a one time only nesting.

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LITERATURE CITED

- Bent, Arthur Cleveland, 1968. *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies*. Part I. Smithsonian Institution, United States National Museum Bulletin 237.
- Bull, John, 1974. *Birds of New York State*. Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, New York.

CORRIGENDA

Refer to the *Contents* page of Volume XXVI No. 2. Walter Benning was incorrectly listed as the author of "Veery in December in Ontario County." The author's name should have been listed as Paris Trail, as correctly credited in the body of the publication on page 92.