

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Pine Grosbeak Eating at Feeder: My home is located in the town of Pompey, in southeastern Onondaga County. Much of the town is still farmland, but the area near me has been planted with acres of evergreens. It is a good location for migrating birds.

On Thursday, January 29, 1981, at 8:10 a.m., I heard Evening Grosbeaks at the feeder. In other winters, I have fed huge flocks of these birds, but this year they have been rather scarce around the feeders. I went to the window and saw 12 Evening Grosbeaks, and in with them, one female Pine Grosbeak.

I have seen Pine Grosbeaks in the yard before, but they never before came near the feeders. This individual sat on one small feeder eating snow. Then she flew a few feet to a honeysuckle bush and started eating buds. Shortly she left there and flew around the corner of the house. I went to another window and saw that she had landed on the picnic table. In the winter, I spread a mixture called chick grains on this table for the birds. The mixture contains finely cracked corn, three kinds of millet, wheat, oat groats and milo. I also add some niger seed and sunflower seeds.

The Pine Grosbeak fed from this mixture for five minutes. I never saw her take a sunflower seed, she seemed to prefer the fine cracked grain. Then she flew off and did not return. Although I have discussed this with many people over the years, I have never known of anyone who knew of a Pine Grosbeak actually eating at a feeder.

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