

NOTES ON THE EVENING GROSBEAK  
(*HESPERIPHONA VESPERTINA*).

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As about this time of the year, ornithologists are on the lookout as to the probability of the Evening Grosbeak visiting this district, a few notes I have made upon the species may not prove altogether uninteresting, and go to show that we cannot depend upon its reappearance year after year.

January 7th, 1910.—A flock of Evening Grosbeaks numbering twenty birds have been around town for a week, or more, spending a good part of their time in the mountain ash trees in our grounds, and feeding upon the seeds thereof. The branches of one of these trees coming within five feet of some of our windows, gives us a good chance to study them. They are very handsome, tame, and interesting.

December, 1914.—The Evening Grosbeaks are with us again.

December 15th, 1916.—A flock of seventeen birds of this species put in an appearance to-day, and are gorging themselves on the Rowan and Barberry seeds. This flock remained with us all winter, and had increased by April to forty-two specimens, which were doubtless congregating for their flight westward. Any hour of the day they were to be seen in the Rowan trees, on the ground, or adjacent trees, and made a beautiful sight. They became exceedingly tame and fed within four feet of us, helping themselves occasionally to grit from the ash pile. As the snow disappeared they would feed upon the seeds laid bare.

May 2nd, 1917.—A flock of some twenty birds are still with us, now feeding upon the seeds of the Manitoba maple, and other seeds they find amongst the grass.

May 9th, 1917.—Two males still around in the garden. This was the last date they were seen by us.

December 27th, 1917.—At present date have not as yet put in an appearance. An abundance of their favorite food exists.

Children in various parts of Great Britain have been busily collecting the horse chestnuts required for the manufacture of war munitions. The nuts ripened more quickly in some districts than in others. Indications are that at least 25,000 tons of nuts will reach the Ministry of Munitions, but this is only about one eighth of the estimated crop for the country.