

THE EVENING GROSBEAK IN THE EAST.

The past winter has been a memorable one for our bird-lovers through the presence in large numbers of that rare visitant, the Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona Vespertina*). This beautiful bird with its strikingly variegated costume of yellow, white, brown and black, attracted much attention in our streets. Comparatively few had ever seen or heard of such a bird. One listening to the comments from a group watching a flock feeding in the trees on the street, would hear references to "wild canaries," "winter goldfinches," "yellow robins," etc.

Like its relative, the Crossbill, the Evening Grosbeak is somewhat erratic in its movements. Nesting in the far Northwest, it usually migrates in Autumn to the plains of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and of the states immediately to the south. Occasionally, however, it continues its way far down into the western Mississippi Valley, and at infrequent intervals extends its range as far east as the province of Quebec and the North Atlantic States.

The first great recorded migration into the east occurred in the winter of 1889-90. I remember counting at least forty on a bitterly cold winter morning, twittering contentedly in the trees just in front of the McGill Arts' Building. Since that date, I know of no record of its appearance here, although Dionne reports it in numbers at Quebec in the winter of 1903-4. It has been occasionally seen in Ottawa, at Guelph, Parry Sound, and at other points in Western Ontario. There was a visitation of the eastern states in 1910.11.

This year the Evening Grosbeaks appeared in numbers towards the end of February and were reported from time to time in almost every part of the city and its suburbs. They were seen in St. Lambert, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Morin Heights, Ste. Agathe, Grand'Mere, and doubtless at many other points in the province. They remained here for nearly two months, being observed on