

112. *Icterus audubonii*. AUDUBON'S ORIOLE.—This species may perhaps most properly be described as a *rare winter wanderer*. I first observed it on March 27, 1890, when I secured a fine male among the tall pecan timber on the San Antonio River just south of the city. I was attracted by the bird's note. I did not observe it again till 1891, when I obtained three specimens out of a flock of about eight or ten at the same place on February 13. The next day they were all gone, and I have never come across any since. Mr. Toudouze described some birds, which were new to him, and which he noticed on the Medina River about the same time, which from his description were no doubt this species.

113. *Icterus spurius*. ORCHARD ORIOLE.—Abundant summer resident.

114. *Icterus bullocki*. BULLOCK'S ORIOLE.—Common summer resident.

115. *Scolecophagus cyanocephalus*. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. — Common migrant and winter resident. It is possible that some do not go far north to breed, as I have observed them in the latter part of April at a ranch on the hills twenty miles west of San Antonio, but I have never found any nest.

116. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*. BRONZED GRACKLE. — Abundant migrant and common summer resident, breeding in colonies among the huisache trees in the city. They do not remain all winter, but appear first about the end of January or early in February.

117. *Quiscalus macrourus*. GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE. — Common summer resident. A few remain all winter around the irrigating ditches in the market gardens of the city.

(To be concluded.)

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## SOME NOTES CONCERNING THE EVENING GROSBK.

BY AMOS W. BUTLER.

THE EVENING GROSBK is pre-eminently and typically a bird of the coniferous forests of the Northwest. The first specimen known was taken by Schoolcraft in 1823 near Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, from which William Cooper described the species in the Ann. N. Y. Lyc. N. H., Jan. 10, 1825. Bonaparte figured it in 1828, and noted two other specimens that had been taken near Lake Athabasca. Sir John Richardson refers to specimens from Carlton House, British America.



Dr. Coues, in 'Birds of the Northwest,' 1874, gives its range as "Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, United States. North to the Saskatchewan (Richardson). Eastward along the northern tier of States to Lake Superior regularly, to Ohio, Canada, and New York City, casually. South to the table-lands of Mexico." Dr. Coues said in 1879, "Notes concerning its distribution will long continue to be acceptable contributions."

The A. O. U. Check-List, 1886, says: "Western North America east to Lake Superior, and casually to Ohio and Ontario; from the Fur Countries south into Mexico "

The British Museum Catalogue of Birds, Vol. XII, gives records from places as far apart as Oregon, New Mexico, and Vera Cruz, Mexico. Sumichrast noted it in the Valley of Mexico in 1857, and Prof. A. L. Herrera in 'La Naturaleza,' second series, Vol. I, No. 4, 1888, also notes it there, with the remark: "They come into the Valley of Mexico in small flocks in October, and leave in February."

While from these statements one gets some idea of its range, yet the knowledge is but approximate, as we are just beginning to understand anything at all of its distribution. The Valley of Mexico appears to be as far south as it has been found. There it spends its summers among the mountains and descends to the Valley to winter. It has been taken at intervals from there north, throughout the coniferous region, from the deserts of Arizona to the Barren Grounds of Arctic America. It spends the summer in the northwestern United States and western British America, from just east of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific. From there it migrates very irregularly in autumn to the eastward, casually reaching over a greater or less part of the eastern United States, north of a line drawn from the mouth of the Ohio east to the Atlantic. Dr. Kirtland, in the 'Ohio Farmer', March 24, 1860, mentioned that the previous week on a certain day a female of this species was secured by a gentleman, and the following day he saw several others (near Cleveland). He said it had never before been taken east of Lake Michigan, but notes that Dr. Hoy has occasionally found it near Racine, Wisconsin. Dr. J. M. Wheaton, in his 'Catalogue of Ohio Birds,' 1860 [1861], mentioned the capture of a specimen at Columbus in 1847, which he became satisfied was an error and afterwards corrected.

Mr. Thomas McIlwraith informs us of the first four records of the occurrence of these birds within the Province of Ontario, —



the first at Woodstock in May, 1856, where a flock was seen and one or two shot by Dr. T. J. Cottle; the second in 1871 near London, when several specimens were taken; the third March 17, 1883, near Hamilton, when two were seen and killed; the fourth he gives on account of a female having been obtained in Toronto, Dec. 25, 1854. Mr. E. W. Nelson (Bull. Essex Inst. Vol. VIII, 1877, p. 104), speaking of it in northern Illinois says: "A winter visitor occurring at irregular intervals. The winter of 1871 they were quite common throughout the northern portion of the State. The following winter they were much rarer, and since then but very few have been seen. I am told that formerly it was of much more regular occurrence."

Dr. Morris Gibbs has very kindly furnished me extracts from his records concerning the occurrence of the species in Michigan. He notes them at Kalamazoo, March 22, 1869; March 30, 1873; Nov. 25, 1878, common. He gives several dates from March 18 to May 3, 1879, during which time they appear to have been common. April 28 and 29 he notes that "the males appear to have gone; all here are females." May 3 he records seeing the Evening and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks together in a grove, to him a remarkable sight. Dr. Gibbs reports it from Grand Rapids in 1869, in the spring of 1874, and common there March 23, 1879. He also reports them upon the authority of J. D. Allen from Paw Paw, Michigan, in 1872. Dr. Gibbs notes that they feed principally on the buds of the sugar maple (*Acer saccharinum*). He says they are "very unsuspicious until April, and then very shy."

Prof. O. P. Hay in a paper published in the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, July, 1881, says these birds were found at Freeport, Illinois, in the winter of 1870-71, and at Waukegan during January, 1873, and then mentions his finding a flock, from which he killed six, at Eureka, Woodford Co., Illinois, in the autumn, about the year 1872.

There is a specimen in the collection of Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, of which Prof. C. R. Barnes, now of the University of Wisconsin, but at the time he wrote a member of the faculty in the first-named University, said: "It is a male; was shot at Lafayette in November, 1878." This is the first Indiana record.

Mr. H. K. Coale notes in his records two females Dec. 20, 1883, and says, upon the authority of Mr. Geo. L. Toppan,



“Five specimens shot at Whiting Station, Indiana.” Mr. S. W. Willard in ‘The Auk’, Oct., 1886, notes this species from De Pere, Wisconsin, Nov. 28, 1885, and gives it as the first record for that locality. Mr. Geo. A. Coleman records eight from London, Nebraska, March 12, 1886. There is a specimen in the collection of Mrs. A. W. Brayton, Indianapolis, Indiana, which she informs me was brought to her in the summer of 1886, having been taken near Allisonville, twelve miles north of Indianapolis.

Mr. C. R. Keyes has reported them present at Iowa City, Iowa, at different times from December, 1886, to April 30, 1887, but he had previously noted them from the same locality, in February, 1884, and from Charles City, Iowa, in March, 1879, and they have been reported by the same authority from Grinnell and Burlington. Mr. W. E. Saunders has reported them from London, Ontario, December, 1886, and has also noted their occurrence at Chatham and St. Thomas, Ontario. The winter of 1886-87 they were quite common in the vicinity of Chicago; several of my friends sent very full notes of their observations. In the collection of Mr. G. Frean Morcom at Chicago are two males and two females taken at Lake George, Indiana, December 5, 1886. Messrs. Coale and Toppa report seeing two Jan. 1, 1887, in Lake County, Indiana. Jan. 14, Mr. Toppa reported two males near Chicago. Jan. 20, 1887, a single male was taken by the late Mr. C. H. Bollman at Bloomington, Indiana, of which he wrote: “This is the first specimen that was ever taken in this vicinity and, as far as I know, in the State.” On the same day Cal. Meredith and another high school student at Frankfort, Indiana, shot five from a flock of twelve. These were identified by Mr. C. E. Newlin, then the principal of the high school.

Mr. E. L. Mosely informs me that he noted twelve at Grand Rapids, Michigan, Feb. 22, 1887. In February, 1887, they were noted for the first time at Barron, Wisconsin. May 25, 1887, Oscar Vaught shot two out of a flock of eight or ten near Mace, six miles from Crawfordsville, Indiana. He notes “they were in the centre of a dense wood, feeding upon elm buds. They were very gentle, but after I had fired twice they flew and I was unable to find them again.” These specimens are in the collection of Prof. O. P. Jenkins, now of Leland Stanford, Jr., University, Palo Alto, Cal. In the collection of Mr. Morcom I saw six males and two females, marked Berry Lake, Indiana,



April 3, 1887, also four males from the same locality, dated April 18, 1887. Mr. G. G. Williamson was successful in adding three other records from the vicinity of Bloomington, Indiana, the same spring. April 27, 1887, he noted one; April 29, two; and again April 30. Mr. C. A. Stockbridge, Fort Wayne, Indiana, has a specimen in his collection which was taken near that city and brought to him by a friend about May 6, 1887. It was taken near that place, and was said to have been one of eight or nine. Mr. R. Turtle, a taxidermist of Chicago, showed me a number of specimens of these birds of which he said he killed ten May 8, 1887, at Berry Lake, Indiana, and thirteen May 10, at Whiting, Indiana. In Mr. Morcom's collection are also two specimens, a male and a female labelled Berry Lake, Ind., May 10, 1887. In March, 1887, they seem to have appeared in some numbers in Fulton County, Kentucky. Mr. L. O. Pindar, in 'The Auk' for July, 1887, notes them March 18, 22, and 25. This is the only record from south of the Ohio River.

April 2, 1887, Mr. E. E. Thompson noted about thirty near Toronto, Ontario. April 5, 1887, Dr. Bergtold records the capture of two near Brant, Erie Co., New York.

Their distribution appeared to be not so extensive in 1888 and the early part of 1889. Mr. Edward P. Carlton, Madison, Wisconsin, says: "During the winter of 1888-89, at Wauwatosa, Wis., I saw only one flock of about eighteen, and they were very wary and kept well to the tops of the trees. This was on the 11th or 12th of November, 1888." Mr. Stewart E. White of Grand Rapids, Mich., notes that in the former year a few were seen in that city in January and February, and in the latter year he says they were first seen April 10, and occasionally from that time to May 13. Mr. Jerome Trombley, Petersburg, Mich., notes that two or three flocks were seen at that place for the first time in the winter of 1888-89. My friend, Mr. Otto Widmann, has very kindly informed me that he saw in the collection of Mr. Louis Fuchs, Belleville, Illinois, two male Evening Grosbeaks that were taken in St. Clair County, Illinois, one of them Feb. 2, 1889. This is the most southern Illinois record and, save Mr. Pindar's, the most southern extension of their range east of the Rocky Mountains.

Concerning the extensive dispersal of this bird in the winter of 889-90, I offer the following notes some of which have not been



presented heretofore. Prof. C. R. Barnes of Madison, Wisconsin, has kindly furnished me the following from that locality. "The birds were first seen here Nov. 20, 1889,—two or three only. Later, but just when I am unable to say, they appeared in numbers, a flock of about fifty staying through the winter. They ate the buds of the elm and maple trees and the seed of the box elder (*Negundo aceroides*). They also ate the buds of the latter tree to some extent, but chiefly the seeds which they neatly extracted from the samaras. The flock was last noted on March 29, but a pair was seen late in May." Mr. Edward P. Carlton gives the following notes from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. "Nov. 9, 1889, I saw a flock of fifteen Evening Grosbeaks, in a row of box elders, feeding upon the seeds. Nov. 13, a large flock near the Public Square. Jan. 10, 1890, I saw three, and throughout the month they were frequently seen, last on the 29th. They were next seen Feb. 23; on that date it was snowing very hard. Feb. 25 I saw a flock of fifteen flying about apparently blinded by the storm. Feb. 26 I saw a single Evening Grosbeak apparently much excited; it uttered continually a loud call note. March 1, thermometer zero this morning; I saw a single female. They were seen occasionally throughout the month, and were last noted April 2. During their stay with us they were exceedingly tame as a rule, and boys could easily get them with slings. The only thing they fed on, as far as I could see, was the seeds of the box elder, and in stripping them from the trees they reminded me of a lot of clumsy Crossbills. Cold did not seem to have the slightest effect on them, while during a snow storm they would move around a good deal. Males in full plumage, that is fine ones, were not common, even in a flock of twenty or thirty." Mr. O. G. Libby informs me a few were seen at Barron, Wisconsin, Nov. 20, 1889. In a week twenty or thirty appeared and remained all winter eating the buds of the elms and maples. They remained until March 29, 1890, though in smaller numbers. The same gentleman says: "A flock of fifteen or twenty was noted by me the past winter and spring (1889-90) at Patch Grove, Grant Co., Wisconsin, also at Boscobil, Grant Co., and at Bloomington. Prof. F. Cramer, Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin, says: "Last winter (1889-90) I became very much interested in a flock of Evening Grosbeaks that made a crab apple tree in my yard their headquarters for some time. The tree



bore a large number of little yellow crab apples that were worth nothing to us. Most of them remained hanging on the tree until the visit of these birds. They came in a flock of about twenty-five, and remained in the neighborhood at least ten days. They spent much of their time on our tree, and stripped it of its apples before they disappeared. Sometimes a few of them fed on apples which had fallen on the snow. They were lively and made a little music sometimes, but their principal business seemed to be eating. They were here not far from Christmas. They appeared again for a day or two in the spring, but there were only a few of them."

Prof. Charles A. Davis, Alma, Michigan, informs me one of his students brought him some specimens about Jan. 15, 1890. "They had then been in the city only a few days. Their favorite haunt was a small grove of maples and beeches directly opposite our college buildings. They remained until well along into May except for a time in April. The flock returned to the grove where they made their home, again and again, notwithstanding the fact that boys shot a considerable number at each return." They were also noted at Saginaw the same winter. Prof. F. M. McFarland, Olivet, Michigan, says: "The only Evening Grosbeaks seen here for many years were taken April 14, 1890. A day or two previous they were seen in the neighborhood of Battle Creek, nineteen miles west of here. During the next ten or twelve days I saw many of them in flocks of not more than twenty or twenty-five. They frequented the orchards about the village, and were not at all shy." Mr. Charles B. Cook, Agricultural College, Michigan, informs me that these birds were quite common for the first time all of the winter of 1888-89, in flocks. They all left by the first of May.

Mr. Stewart E. White has generously placed his notes upon the species, for the year 1890, at my disposal, and from them I take the following. They appeared at Grand Rapids, Michigan, that year March 5, and were last seen May 14.

"March 5, hearing a sharp, metallic cry, often repeated, I started to investigate and was pleased to find a flock of about thirty Evening Grosbeaks. They were feeding on the ground and hearing me approach flew into the trees. The birds were very shy, their behavior being in marked contrast with that of other flocks I have seen. The males have a single metallic cry like



the note of a trumpet, the females a loud chattering like the large Cherry Birds (*Ampelis garrulus*). Their flight through the woods is very swift, reminding one, by the dexterity with which they avoid the branches, of a Pigeon; when in the open, however, it is more after the manner of a Blackbird. March 6 I tried to find this flock, but did not succeed. I, however, found four males feeding along a fence row.

“March 18.—When on the ground feeding they are quite silent. A flock lit in a tree very close to me, and I noticed that they have a chirping note like the sound of a distant flock of English Sparrows. When on the ground they progress by hopping, holding themselves like Robins. They turn over the leaves with great dexterity picking up the seeds found under them. When wounded, they are very handy with their large beaks; I carried one some distance by inducing him to seize a stick. They were loth to leave the woods. They did not leave until I had fired several shots, and even then they circled around several times. This reluctance was caused by the abundance of maple ‘mast.’

“May 3.—The Grosbeaks have left the maples and have gone to the pines.

“May 14.—The Evening Grosbeaks have appeared in large numbers. They are in the tops of the tallest pines, and are very shy. Their song is a wandering, jerky warble, beginning low, suddenly increasing in power, and as suddenly ceasing, as though the singer were out of breath.”

Mr. James Savage, Ann Arbor, Michigan, notes that Mr. E. W. Owen saw Evening Grosbeaks at Ypsilanti, Michigan, in January, 1890, and they remained common until the last week of April. April 12, Mr. Savage saw two flocks at Geddes, Michigan. Mr. Wm. Lambie also reports them from Ypsilanti, Jan. 31. Mr. Jerome Trombley, at Petersburg, Mich., Jan. 18, 1890, saw a flock of fifteen. They were the first for the year. These birds remained until Feb. 10.

Mr. F. C. Test of Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, writes me that Mr. H. W. McCoy shot a male from a flock of between twenty and thirty in an extensive tract of woods about two miles west of that city, Feb. 1, 1890. They became very timid after this shot. Mr. L. T. Meyer reports them from Whiting, Lake Co., Indiana, in January and February. Dr.



A. W. Brayton of Indianapolis told me of the capture of a specimen near that city in the winter of 1889-90. Mr. Chas. A. Stockbridge, Fort Wayne, Indiana, reports having seen two males Feb. 15. They were seen again the next day, when they became common. This is the only season they have ever been common there. The other specimen, of which Mr. Widmann wrote, in the collection of Mr. Fuchs at Belleville, Illinois, was taken in St. Clair County, April 19, 1890.

As we note these, our minds recall some of the many places to which these birds of the Northwest chanced to stray in their wanderings that winter. Mr. E. E. Thompson reports them from Kingston, Toronto, Peel County, and Hamilton, Ontario; Mr. William B. Marshall from Wayland, Steuben Co., New York, in February; Mr. J. A. Loring from Owego, New York, Mr. J. L. Davison from Lockport, New York, Mr. E. D. Wintle from Montreal, Quebec, in January and February; Dr. Bergtold from Buffalo, New York, Jan. 10 and 18; Prof. W. W. Cooke from Burlington, Vermont, in February; Mr. H. L. Clark from Amherst, Massachusetts, Jan. 8; Mr. E. H. Forbush from Hampden Co, Massachusetts, Feb. 1; Mr. A. C. Bent, March 8, from Taunton, Massachusetts; Mr. R. O. Morris, March 21, about twenty from Springfield, Massachusetts. Mr. Wm. Brewster from eastern New Hampshire and Massachusetts; Mr. John H. Sage from Portland, Conn., in February and March; Mr. C. K. Averill, Gaylordsville, Connecticut, March 10. Dr. B. H. Warren ('Birds of Pennsylvania,' Revised Edition, 1890, p. 225) says of their occurrence in that State: "It appears these birds were quite common in many of the western, northern and central parts of the State, but rare, or not seen at least, in some of the eastern counties, from the date of their first appearance (December, 1889) to the present time (May 15, 1890)." It is not every winter that these birds cross the Mississippi, and it is unusual when we note their wide distribution east of that river. Michigan appears to be more often visited than any other State noted here. As has been observed, its first recorded extension of range east of Lake Superior was at Toronto, Ontario, in 1854; next it was noted from Ohio in 1860; from Ontario again in 1866; and from Michigan in 1869. Doubtless, had there been the number of observers at those times there are now, we should have learned more of the extent of those dispersals.



The first extensive wanderings of the Evening Grosbeaks, as far as we know, appear to have occurred in 1871, when they extended south into Illinois and east into Ontario. In 1879 they were found in localities as far apart as Charles City, Iowa, and Grand Rapids, Michigan. In the winter of 1886-87 they were reported from Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, New York, and Ontario. That year they appear to have been most common in the States of Iowa, Indiana and Illinois, and the area of eastern North America covered was the greatest known up to that time, but this was very much exceeded by the wide distribution of the species in the winter of 1889-90, when, although they do not appear to have been as numerous in some localities as in the last preceding dispersal, they reached nearly to the Atlantic coast at several localities. It will be noted, however, that we lack information concerning their movements that winter west of the Mississippi. Now that the number of observers is sufficient to note the movements of these birds with reasonable accuracy, it seems probable that much more may be learned of their winter range. In conclusion I beg to express my appreciation of the kindness of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, in affording me valuable assistance in preparing this paper.

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## A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE BIRDS OF SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA.

BY GEORGE K. CHERRIE.

(Continued from p. 27.)

58. *Euetheia pusilla*.—Common resident. Found on both Atlantic and Pacific sides of the Cordillera, but not lower down than 2000 feet altitude. The preceding and the present species are frequently kept in cages; the song is short, without variation, yet rather pleasant.

59. *Passerina cyanea*.—Rarely met with about San José, and then only immature birds during the months of October and November. Adult birds are tolerably common in the low country on both coasts until as late as the twentieth of March.





Butler, Amos W. 1892. "Some Notes concerning the Evening Grosbeak." *The Auk* 9, 238–247. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4067775>.

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