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Evening Grosbeaks in Citrus County, Florida

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On 9 June 1970 (Ogden 1970) at Perry, Taylor County, I found six Orchard Orioles barely south of the breeding range depicted by Howell (1932:429), but single singing males in Marion County on 3 July 1974 (west of Fellowship; at south edge of Orange Lake) were 20-30 mi. (33-50 km) south of Gainesville (Ogden 1974). Although this species begins to migrate southward by late June, the fact that these latter two males were in full song led me to believe that they were breeding birds. On 18 June 1977 (Ogden 1977), at a latitude similar to that of the breeding birds of 1978, I found another male in full song at the Marion-Sumter County line north of Oxford, and Gail Menk (pers. comm.) counted six in northern Levy County on 10 June 1977.

Two of my previous early-summer records of single male Orchard Orioles were much farther south—Moore Haven, Glades County, 20 June 1960 (Stevenson 1960), and Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, 8 July 1966 (Stevenson 1966)—but I now believe these birds were early fall migrants.

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Evening Grosbeaks in Citrus County, Florida.—On the morning of 5 January 1978, 2.5 miles southeast of Rutland in Citrus County, Florida, John and Kenneth Backen sighted nine Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) feeding on the unfallen cones of the bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). After feeding for approximately one hour the birds flew to a nearby cypress without cones where they perched and preened. After 10 minutes they departed east across the Withlacoochee River.

My wife, Phyllis, and I observed almost the identical behavior at the same location on the morning of 9 January. We determined that there were two males and seven females present.

John and Kenneth Backen reported that over the next ten days the flock increased until 30-40 Evening Grosbeaks could be sighted in the vicinity daily, following the same pattern of behavior. Early in March the number of birds began to drop. By 16 March the number was down again to eight or nine and they were not seen in the area after this date.

This Citrus County flock may well be the southernmost record of Evening Grosbeaks in Florida. In other winter invasions of this species, Gainesville, Alachua County (Stevenson 1969, Aud. Field Notes 23:761-765; Woolfenden 1973, Amer. Birds 27: 603-607; Kale 1973, Amer. Birds 27: 761-765; Stevenson 1978, Amer. Birds 32: 339-342), 80 km (50 mi.) to the north, has been the southern limit of their recorded penetration into Florida.—HENRY ROBERTSON, 206 Forest Park Ave., Temple Terrace, Florida 33617.