

- HELLO FROM QUINCY POND

APRIL  
2008

I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW RARE OR UNUSUAL SUCH A BIRD STORY IS OR ISN'T BUT NONE THE LESS I FEEL THAT SINCE MY RECENT NEWSLETTERS ARE GETTIN' KIND OF BLEAK I OUGHT TO BALANCE SUCH TALK OF STRUGGLE WITH A TALE OF HUGE SUCCESS.



I'VE BEEN FAITHFULLY FEEDING THE WILD SONG BIRDS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR A LONG WHILE NOW AND EVERYDAY DELIGHT IN THE NORMAL ABUNDANCE OF AVIAN LIFE HERE - DEEP IN THE WOODS, NOT EVERY YEAR BUT CERTAINLY - NOT UNUSUALLY - A SMALL FLOCK OF 6-8 EVENING GROSBEAKS WOULD LIGHT UPON MY PORCH RAILING WILLING TO TRADE SONG AND BEAUTY FOR SUNFLOWER SEEDS. FOR FOLKS UNFAMILIAR WITH THIS SPECIES - WELL IT'S A BIG-BOLD-NOISY FINCH YOU WOULD THINK FLEW IN FROM SOUTHERN JUNGLES YET IT IS PRETTY MUCH A CANADIAN BIRD. MATURE MALES HAVE STRIKING YELLOW-WHITE AND BLACK COLORS - YOUNG AND OLD HAVE STRONG SEED CRUSHING BEAKS. THE FEMALES GET THIS LIME COLOR GLOW TO THEM - COOL BIRDS...

JUST AS LAST DECEMBERS' WEEKLY BLIZZARDS WERE SWEEPING ACROSS SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE A HANDFUL OF A FLOCK OF GROSBEAKS FOUND ME AND MUST HAVE FLEW OFF WITH SUNFLOWER SEED BREATH FOR WITHIN A DAY OR SO ANOTHER HANDFUL THEN ANOTHER - ANOTHER UNTIL I WAS SHOVELING SEED OUT OF 50LB FEED BAGS TO FILL MY 32 FOOT LONG 8 INCH WIDE PORCH RAILING AS IF IT WAS A COMMERCIAL CHICKEN FEED GIT - (EXCEPT - NEVER A POOP! NOT ALL BIRDS ARE THAT POLITE...) WELL AS I WASH THE MORNING DISHES I WATCH THE ODD SEMI-PECKING ORDER SONG AND DANCE AS THEY BICKER POINTS OF VIEW BEFORE SETTLING DOWN TO SERIOUS MUNCHING. PACKED IN TIGHT I OFTEN COUNTED BETWEEN 160-180. WEEKS OF THIS WONDER CONTINUED UNTIL I NOTED THAT THEY WEREN'T SETTLING LIKE BEFORE AND I

