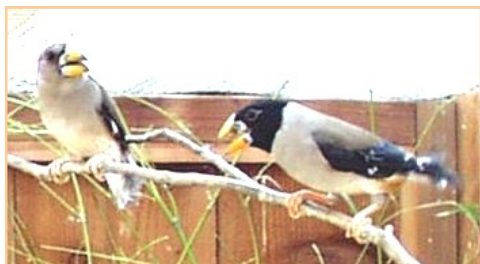


THE COLOURFUL GROSBEAKS

#2 THE EAST ASIAN GROSBEAKS

CHINESE GROSBEAK



Male on right. Hen on left.

The Chinese or Yellow-billed Grosbeak, *Eophona migratoria*, is a species of finch in the Fringillidae family. It is wide-spread through the Asian region, where it is found in temperate forest areas of: China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar (Burma), Russian Federation, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Little has been published about the avicultural requirements of these birds, but Roy Beckham, writing on his website eFinch.com, offers the following information on their care: “*These birds are real safflower pigs. They will eat lots and lots of safflower and small black sunflower. I also offer milo, parakeet mix, wheat, oats and gamebird crumbles. They will take thawed frozen peas with great gusto. I have offered them my egg food, but they never ate very much of it. Because of that and the fact that I supply vitamins in my egg food, I provide vitamins in their water. The only other food that they REALLY like is waxworms. They would eat 10 -20 a day. They would have probably eaten more, but that's all I gave them. These will likely be key to getting them into condition to begin breeding and essential to success should they decide to sit and raise any young. The number that they will likely eat at that point is sure to be phenomenal.*”

JAPANESE GROSBEAK

The Japanese Grosbeak, *Eophona personata*, is native to East Asia, and is often referred to as the Japanese Hawfinch.

This species is not widely kept in aviculture anywhere in the world. However, in the late 1970s, when visiting the late Emilé Sirca in Melbourne, I saw several of these birds. I was amazed at their size, they were about twice the size of a Java Sparrow, *Padda oryzivora*, and were uncannily like a huge Masked Finch, *Poephila personata*, in appearance, as the accompanying photo shows.



Series to be continued