

WILSON'S PHALAROPE, *Phalaropus tricolor*.—However common this bird may be in other parts of the state, it is certainly a rather rare species here. Four specimens only, all taken on April 26, 1895, while feeding on the mud flats of the mill-pond.

BALD EAGLE, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.—A beautiful male taken by myself at Delavan Lake, October 25, 1895. I was well out of sight in my duck blind, far out on a point, when I first saw this grand bird sailing up the lake, high above the water. I remained perfectly quiet and it flew almost directly over the blind and was almost motionless in the air, with eyes looking down, watching the decoys, when shot. Falling some twelve or fifteen rods out in the water, it only reached shore after a vigorous flapping of the wings, which it at once commenced.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, *Sphyrapicus varius*.—I had always looked upon this species as a rather uncommon bird, and was therefore much surprised to find on April 11, 1896, that they had literally "taken" the town. There were "Sapsuckers" everywhere, hundreds and hundreds of them, and the strange part of it was I had not seen one before this season. On taking a walk into the country at evening I found them here also in almost as great numbers as in town. Some shade trees, which would have from fifteen to twenty birds in them, were fairly dripping with sap and covered with the sticking insects, mostly small flies and a species of winged ant. Although their notes are not loud, yet owing to their abundance they were, at times, very noisy. The next day (April 12), I did not see a bird in town during the forenoon, but found them fairly common in the country in the afternoon. They seemed to have given place to the Flickers, which were exceptionally abundant this day, both in town and through the surrounding country. Saw a few of the Yellow-bellied, however, on the 19th, and the last pair of the "wave" on the 10th.

EVENING GROSBEEK, *Coccythraustes vespertinus*.—Very common last winter—seen from January 21 to March 30—the first occurrence here to my knowledge.

One of the most noticeable things about last season's bird life (1895), was the especial abundance of the Baltimore Oriole and Kingbird. Both species have already appeared in large numbers this season. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak is also on the increase, but my old favorite, the Brown Thrasher, does not seem to hold its own.—N. HOLLISTER, *Delavan, Wis.*

NOTES FROM OBERLIN, OHIO.—*Ducks found on the Water-works Pond*.—A new water-works pond of several acres extent was completed

during the early spring (1896), lying well within the limits of the village. It lies within a stone's throw of the pumping station and one of the principal streets, and can be seen from about twenty dwelling houses. In spite of its exposed position and the lateness of its completion, at least five species of ducks visited it. Two pairs each of Redhead and Pintail were seen on April 4. Five male Buffleheads spent the greater part of the day of April 12 on the pond, and the same day and in company with them, a solitary Pied-billed Grebe and one male Lesser Scaup. Lesser Scaups were seen on the 14th, 22d, and 24th. The last date four males and five females. On April 12, two American Mergansers visited the pond.

A FORCED PARTNERSHIP.—A pair of Robins had made their nest on the horizontal branch of an evergreen tree which stood near a dwelling house, and the four young had hatched when a pair of English Sparrows selected the same part of the same branch for their nest. When the Robins refused to vacate their nest, the Sparrows proceeded to build theirs upon the outside of the Robin's nest. To this the Robins made no objection, so both families lived and thrived together on the same branch, with nests touching. The young of both species developed normally, and in due time left their nest. The branch bearing both nests is now preserved in the college museum.

ENTERPRISING HOUSE WRENS.—A pair of House Wrens which had been in the habit of nesting in buildings, discovered a hole in the window screen of our neighbor's house, entered the kitchen through this hole, and took possession of a tin steamer which had not been in use for some days. With their characteristic enterprise, the steamer was soon nearly full of sticks. When deprived of this nesting place, they moved to a knot hole in the outside of the house.—LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

THE BRONZED GRACKLE.—*A Change of Nesting Sites.*—On the second day of May an old apple orchard was explored for its nests. Besides the nests of English Sparrows, House Wrens, and Mourning Doves, seventeen Bronzed Grackles' nests were found, almost all in the same position and nearly every one containing four eggs. The birds were quiet about their work. It is a new move for these birds to occupy this orchard. Last year they were found in a grove of evergreen not far away, but none in this orchard. Now the evergreen grove is deserted in favor of the orchard. The conditions prevailing in previous years do not seem to have changed, and no cause can be assigned sufficient to account for this change of nesting sites.—H. C. TRACY, *Oberlin, Ohio.*