

fast motion), and watch for the dim brown shapes beneath. Then, without a preliminary movement except a slight turning of the head, it would make a lightning dart and get a fish two feet under water at any point in three-quarters of a circle and without shifting the body position, even taking a fish far back under its feet! But more commonly it immersed the head and, getting the course of a fish's darting shape, would strike with the head and entire neck under water. Again, it swam swiftly round to frighten the fish into a better light, and rarely ever missed a strike, taking its food just back of the gills or sometimes near the tail. It never seemed able to take munnie-chubs at night with the room in darkness. To my knowledge, the bird never swallowed a fish under water, but their size may have had something to do with this. Some necessitated much worming of the head up and down and the neck backward and forward before the fish went down. It took dead fish without partiality, either from the water or the hand, treating them in the same way as a living one. Live fish were treated in one of two ways:—by severe crunches of the mandibles on the head until subdued, or by severe shaking. Then it would be tossed around until the head pointed down the bird's throat, or else manoeuvred by quick opening and closing of the bill to a position where it could be swallowed, while still alive. Fish were always taken head first.

At times the Grebe made efforts to exercise on the water, standing up straight, clear of the water to the heel, and paddling very swiftly, beating the wings, while the neck was partially straightened and the bill pointed at about a forty-five degree angle. This manoeuvre carried the bird forward speedily over the water. It was unable to shed water as a perfectly healthy bird should do and rarely had recourse to preening its feathers.

When apparently fully restored to active health, the day before it was to have been liberated on the lake, the Grebe escaped over an eighteen inch partition, and going down a long flight of stairs crawled into a wood-pile where it died. There seems to have been a flight of these birds in the interior of New Hampshire this winter as I have ten records from four towns and others have been reported.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

**A Flight of Holboell's Grebes (*Colymbus holboelli*) at Toronto.**—On the night of December 12 (1929), during a heavy sleet storm which glazed the pavements and snow-covered landscape of the Toronto region, an extensive flight of Holboell's Grebes took place. These birds were probably passing over southern Ontario from upper Lake Huron and Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario, Lake Erie and southward. Upon striking the storm area of the lower Great Lakes some of them came to grief, either permanently or temporarily, while others apparently made the open waters of the lakes.

Late in the evening of the twelfth, a call was sent in to the office of the Toronto Humane Society from the western part of the city stating that a Loon-like bird had been picked up alive from the street. Shortly after, another call from the eastern part of the city referred to a similar find. By mid-afternoon of the thirteenth, twenty-six more live birds had been gathered in by the Inspectors or brought in by citizens from various parts of the city. Also two had been reported killed by motor cars and one other was found dead, the cause of death not being reported. By December 15, six more live birds had been gathered in, making a total of thirty-seven found at Toronto.

One can but conjecture as to the number of Grebes in the flight but it is evident that it was wide-spread and that numbers passed safely over the city. Several individuals were noted along the Toronto water-front, on December 14, by local observers and a specimen was reported in a local paper as having been captured at Brantford, fifty-five miles southwest of Toronto.

It would seem evident from the number of birds picked up alive and uninjured in Toronto that the birds came to rest on the city streets voluntarily. Only two were reported as being found in "back yards". Such circumstances give rise to the theory that the Grebes, travelling in a loose company, over a wide area, were perhaps attracted by the lights of the city and from their elevation mistook the icy pavements below for water. Having alighted they were unable to take wing because of their well known handicap on solid surfaces.

Twenty-seven of these birds were banded on the afternoon of December 16 and were liberated on the open water of Toronto Bay. They swam away contentedly from their liberators, preening themselves and otherwise behaving in a normal way. Only one Holboell's Grebe has since been seen (to December 31) on Toronto Bay and it is presumed that the liberated birds and those which reached the open water on the night of the flight have survived and left the vicinity.—L. L. SNYDER, *Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto.*

**Holboell's Grebe in Pennsylvania.**—On February 26, 1930, during a storm with strong northeast winds, a Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus holboelli*) visited the Maiden creek Dam near Reading. It remained until the following day and was studied at leisure by Byron Nunemacher and myself. Most of the time it rode the choppy waters with its bill buried in the feathers of its back, but would occasionally raise its head and look about in the reptilian manner peculiar to its kind. This is the second definite county record, the last having been noted March 21, 1923.

Pine Grosbeaks were also seen locally on January 1 (2), January 2 (9), January 12 (12), and February 2 (2), and Evening Grosbeaks on January 1, January 5, January 25 and February 9, (one on each occasion), and a Red-bellied Woodpecker was found near Friedensburg on January 10.—EARL L. POOLE, *Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pa.*