

which we crossed a shallow brook. One side of the stream was the dense woods, the other a tangle of bushes about ten feet high and the ground rather swampy. Sitting down on an old log my friend and myself held our field glasses in readiness for anything. We could hear the Grosbeak still singing, and the bushes seemed alive with Warbler songs.

Soon a loud splash, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was bathing not ten feet from us. He splashed around well then flew up in a low tree and went to pruning his feathers. In a moment a Chickadee went through the same performance, then two Blackburnian Warblers made their appearance a little further on, and they bathed repeatedly and then sat on a tree in plain sight and made their toilet.

Then came a pair of Chestnut-sided Warblers followed by two Black-throated Green Warblers and all the time the concert was going on. Finally we had to leave and the birds were still bathing. The next week, I went alone, to the same spot, and sat down, in a second a Chipping Sparrow came to the bathing place, then a Chickadee, then several Chestnut-sided Warblers, then followed a Parula Warbler, the first one I had ever seen, then a Black and White Creeper and several Red-eyed Vireos. The concert was something bewildering. A Catbird sang just back of me, and the Grosbeaks and Red-eyed Vireos kept up a perpetual singing. In a distance the flute-like song of a Thrush reached me and over all was the call of *Teacher Teacher Teacher*.

I did wish every bird lover could see this beautiful spot. Our Northern woods seem very rich in birds. So many species that the bird books pronounce rare we see very often.

E. S. G., *Antigo, Wis.*

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### NOTES ON THE MERGANSER SUB-FAMILY.

In the latter part of February the ice in Cuyahoga river breaks up and the first northbound migrants are American Mergansers. First comes the drakes in gaudy white and black dress, and by the first week in March they are gone and the dun-colored females and immature males come in with the Mal-

lards and Black Ducks. I have never seen males and females on the same day. Totally unfit for food, they are not molested by the hunters and are only useful to the taxidermist. They are wonderful divers and will swallow fish so large that they have to keep them in their throats until the heads are digested by the stomach. A female killed March 7th, 1898, had a shiner ten inches long in her throat and gullet. The tail of the fish protruded from the bill of the duck which was flying when shot.

I killed a large male on Feb. 22, on the river that had several small fish and one seven inch sucker in his throat. The head of the sucker was partially digested.

These Mergansers are unable to take wing against the current and always rise down streams as the current is very swift and they cannot get the resistance of the water against their feet when trying to fly up streams and I have seen them flop along the water for fifty feet against the current in a vain attempt to rise when danger threatened below them.

The Red-breasted Merganser is a more common species and makes its appearance on the lakes about the last week of March.

Traveling in larger companies than the foregoing species it comes well to decoys. Their food consists of fish of the smaller varieties and I have never found any large fish in their gullets. After the ducks season is over they become very tame and associate with the tame ducks on the lakes.

The Hooded Merganser is the smallest of the Mergansers and the only one that is seen here in the fall to any extent. It appears on the lakes in October in small companies, mostly females although a few males are seen. This Merganser is a very fair table duck and compares favorably with Widgeon and Bluebill. The rarest of the three Mergansers with us and the last to arrive in spring this species first appears on the lakes in the first week of April.

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## THE FIRST 20th CENTURY HORIZON AT OBERLIN, OHIO.

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According to my established custom, the first day of the new century found me a-field starting the list of species for