

GENERAL NOTES.

A Day with the Birds.—Hillsboro, Ohio, August 17, 1903.—

Weather, forenoon, clear with a light breeze from the east; afternoon, clear with a brisk breeze from the north. Start, 7:45 a. m. Temperature 70°. Return 12 m. Temperature 85°. Start in afternoon at 1:45. Temperature 85°. Return 6:00 p. m. Temperature 82°. The excursion was along and near Rocky Fork Creek, within a radius of two miles south of Hillsboro. Distance traveled during observation, seven miles. Saw the first twenty birds in the forenoon. The birds are given in the order in which they were seen. Nearly every species was seen a number of times. Crow, Wood Pewee, Wood Thrush, Turkey Vulture, American Goldfinch, Vesper Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Green Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Phebe, Towhee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Catbird, Oven-bird (uncertain), Least Flycatcher, Flicker, Mourning Dove, Brown Thrasher, Barn Swallow, Baltimore Oriole, Meadowlark, Killdeer, Rusty Blackbird, Summer Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Indigo Bunting, Cardinal, Swamp Sparrow, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Chimney Swift, Whippoorwill, Blue Jay, Kingbird, Robin, Hairy Woodpecker, Bluebird, House Wren, Song Sparrow, Purple Martin. Species 41.

Verified by a friend.

ARTHUR EDGINGTON.

CLARENCE A. MORROW.

Some unusual Oberlin records. Canadian Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator leucura*). On November 20 a flock of a dozen of these rare birds made their appearance at Oberlin. The following morning one was found feeding on the ground in a field where weeds had sprung up among the wheat stubble. While the bird was watched at a range of less than ten feet, it ate nothing but Stick-tights (*Bidens frondosa*). It was no more timid than a common chicken. This is the second record for Lorain county. This flock is another indication of a considerable southward flight of these rare northern birds. Everybody should be on the lookout for these birds and the Crossbills this winter. Their unwariness makes of them real friends in feathers. As specimens they should not be considered a success except by the favored few.

American Crossbill, (*Loxia curvirostra minor*). After an absence of nearly eighteen months this Crossbill has again made its appearance among us. It is not yet found in any considerable numbers, but it is present and seen nearly every day. Reports from various places indicate that this species promises to be more than unusually numerous the coming winter.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). With the first sug-

gestion of winter the ducks began to drop into the Oberlin water-works reservoir. For the first time in the history of the reservoir Hooded Merganser has stopped in the southward migration. On November 19, a flock of four males and three females arrived about the middle of the forenoon and were gone shortly after dinner. Two females came and remained all day on the 21st. The males were in full dress. They seemed to be feeding upon the vegetation at the water's edge, and were not seen to catch any of the very numerous fish.

American Golden-eye (*Clangula clangula americana*). One in immature plumage appeared on November 19, and remained for several days, feeding upon the Cara at the edges of the reservoir. It has never before been seen during the fall.

Earlier in the season **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Coots** were unusually numerous at the reservoir for two or three weeks. A dozen grebes on the reservoir at one time was not unusual. One Coot, scarcely larger than a grebe, fed constantly at the edge of the water, with no apparent fear of persons standing within a few feet of him, watching him dive down to the bed of Cara, bring up a large mouth-full, and proceed to swallow as much as he could before it sank out of reach. The clear water permitted a perfect study of his motions while under water.

LYNDS JONES.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Birds of Ohio. By Rev. W. Leon Dawson, A.M. Published by the Wheaton Publishing Company, 1216 The Hayden, Columbus, Ohio. Sold only by subscription.

This is the most notable book upon popular scientific ornithology which has appeared since Nehrling's "Our Native Birds of Song and Beauty." While it treats only the 320 odd birds which have been found in Ohio, its treatment of these species is so thorough that little remains to be said about them. The species are among the most common which will be found in any locality east of the Great Plains, and the book will therefore find a ready sale outside the state where it will prove as useful as within the state. The book is an imperial quarto of about 720 pages exclusive of 80 colored plates, printed on fine paper, and with some 200 cuts of birds and nests in the text. These cuts are almost wholly from photographs from nature, and are therefore new—made expressly for this book. The author has combined accuracy of statement with good literary style, making facts interesting to the casual reader. The brief, but accurate descriptions of the birds have been taken directly from Ohio specimens of each species, and are therefore not rehearsals of other descriptions. A brief statement of the range of the species at large is followed by its range in Ohio. A concise description of the nest and eggs is also given for such species