

## A DISASTROUS TRIP.

W. F. HENNINGER.

For several years it had been the desire of the writer to visit the famous Port Clinton (Ottawa County, O.) marshes to explore the bird world at the same place where Dr. Langdon had been so fortunate in 1880. The afternoon of June 1st found me at Port Clinton, in a terrible rain and wind storm. Early the next morning found me out on the Portage River exploring the marshes for miles, then in the afternoon out on the Lake Erie waters. June 3rd, and 4th, on which day I was joined by Rev. W. Leon Dawson of Columbus, found me on Sandusky Bay, on the grounds of the Portage Gun Club and the Wynous Point Shooting Club. It was the same scene everywhere. The storm had carried the water higher inland than for the last eighteen years, and everything had been flooded. The only birds that had escaped destruction of their nests were the Red-winged Blackbird and the Long-billed Marsh Wren. All our searching was in vain. Not a Grebe, not a Least Bittern were seen, but few Coots and Gallinules heard. On Friday, Brother Dawson ascended the dizzy height of the water works tower at Sandusky, but as far as the eye could see, the waters spread over the Sandusky marshes. Under these conditions it was a wonder that any birds had escaped, and our record of sixty-six species noted during our three days' stay will still compare favorably with Langdon's ninety, as seen in 1880.

Of interest were only a troop of five Bonaparte Gulls and four Semi-palmated Sandpipers on June 3rd, several Black Terns and sixteen Turnstones, seen on June 4th on Sandusky Bay. The Turnstones were found on a newly planted corn-field, and it was a pretty sight to watch them turning over the clods and catching their prey. It was in the club house of the Wynous Point Shooting Club that we found the most interesting things, stored away in the collection of birds, and enabling Brother Dawson and myself to bring home at least a few noteworthy records from this disastrous trip.

The first was a specimen (sex unknown) of *Chen hyperborea nivalis*, shot in the fall of 1886.

2. Trumpeter Swan 1877 and White-fronted Goose, shot in the fall of 1868.

3. White-winged Scoter, shot in fall of 1881.

4. Peregrine Falcon, shot in fall of 1882, by Colonel E. A. Scoville.

5. A Hybrid, between *Anas obscura* and *Anas boschas*, killed in the fall of 1878, by Judge E. B. Sadler.

6. A pure Albino Redhead, killed in fall of 1880.

7. A partial Albino Coot, and

8. A partial Albino Wilson's Snipe, both killed in the fall of 1881, by C. J. Clark.

The Coot has many white feathers on the head and neck, also smaller white feathers on various parts of the body. The Wilson's Snipe has the upper part of both wings almost entirely white.

9. A Snowy Owl, shot in fall of 1881.

All of the Ohio Ducks were represented in this collection, among them the rare Gadwall in several specimens.

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### AN IMPROVIDENT KINGBIRD.

LYNDS JONES.

One of the Oberlin public school teachers has given me a Kingbird's nest which a pupil of hers found and preserved. The nest is normally made of strings, rags, weeds, hair, twigs and rootlets. It was built in an apple tree in no usual manner, except that the birds failed to notice that they had built into one side of the nest a fertile apple bud. In the natural course of growth the apple had to have room, and soon began to disarrange the side of the nest. When completely grown the apple was fully two inches in diameter, and since the inside diameter of the nest is only a half-inch larger, there was little left of the nest cavity. No doubt the young had left the nest before the apple had attained much size, but probably not before it began to encroach upon the space intended for the young birds. I have heard of growing apples in bottles and other fanciful receptacles, but never heard of the use of a bird's nest before.