

Golden-eye. On my way back, as I neared the bridge that crosses the pond, a flock of twelve ducks lit in close to shore on the other side, so I hurried for the bridge to see from there what species they were. I had no more than distinguished that they were Baldpates when they were in the air again. I found another observer on the bridge, who said he thought there was a Red-head among them. The ducks circled about a few times and finally settled into a shallow pond of small size that lies among the button bushes at the edge of a swampy woods. As I had on boots, and nothing better to do, I decided to see if I could stalk near enough to them for close observation. So through the woods I went, in water six inches deep, and a thin skim of ice in places. Soon I could see them through a thin fringe of button bushes, and about the first thing noticed was a red-head, but it wasn't the right red for a Red-head, and then I "tumbled" as to what it *might* prove to be. Right then I did the stalking of my life—six inches at a time—and plenty of time for every six inches, but I reached the fringe of button bushes without alarming a bird. Every now and then a male whistled and all were tipping up for food and having a glorious time. I soon found the one with the red head, and sure enough, his pate was "bald," and then, one by one, his other distinguishing marks disclosed themselves,—the black throat, the vinaceous breast, and sides that looked gray in comparison with the vinaceous sides of the Baldpates. He stood on his head in the water like the others, and the white belly, surmounted by the black under tail coverts, made an attractive picture. To cap the climax he, with a few of the Baldpates, came to my side of the little pond, so close that I could see that the gray sides were really white, with little wavy lines of black that blended into a uniform gray when mixed with distance; and there they stood for a full half hour and fed, while I stood like a frozen statue on the other side of the button bushes and feasted my eyes on *Marcca penelope*.

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NOTES FROM LAKE COUNTY.

VISITATION OF PINE GROSBREAKS:—From all reports these birds seem to be the most common of all the erratic visitors from the north for this winter—especially in the eastern states. On December 8 and 11, 1918, I found a small company of them feeding in sumac, four brilliant males and four females. Visiting the vicinity on December 23 I was rewarded by finding ten in female plumage, but no adult males. Repeated searches through January failed to disclose any at all.

BELATED OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH—On December 11, 1918, after watching the Grosbeaks mentioned above for some time, I moved on a ways and was greatly surprised to flush an Olive-backed Thrush, which also flew to a sumac and began to feed. The bird was carefully examined to make sure it was neither a Hermit nor a Grey-cheeked, and its unusual reluctance to leave the small cluster of sumac gave me full opportunity for positive identification. Have been unable to find it since that date.

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AVAILABLE MAPS.

Not infrequently one is tempted to extend his observations and collecting into a region with which he is unfamiliar and for the lack of a good map he hesitates, or if he goes, is handicapped in his work. It is not widely known that a large area of the United States has been carefully and minutely mapped by the government and that map sheets about twenty inches square are available at the small cost of ten cents each. All rivers, streams, lakes, marshes, towns, roads, trails, county lines, houses (in some cases), are shown, and the hills and valleys are denoted by contour lines. Most of the maps cover an area about thirty miles square, though some are drawn up to double this scale. Key maps are sent out, gratis, covering each state and on these key maps are shown the areas which have been mapped to date. Communications should be addressed to "The Director, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C."

In addition to the above, hundreds of counties have been mapped by the Bureau of Soil Surveys and by the Postoffice Department, but are not so complete as those made by the Geological Survey.

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ANNUAL MEETING

The announcement by the American Association for the Advancement of Science that the 1919 meeting will be held at St. Louis, Mo., during the holiday season, settles for us the place and approximate time of our next meeting. We should keep this in mind and plan to attend this meeting.