

which she held by the neck, with its body and yellow legs hanging down—one of her own chicks apparently. It seemed hardly possible that a living bird could be carried in such fashion, yet she appeared to be careful in her movements and created the impression that she was moving a live bird. Her actions earlier had led to the question as to whether there were young birds near where she disappeared.

Later in the day, Oscar Baynard told us that twice while employed at Orange Lake he had seen a Purple Gallinule move her young in this way from one place to another. On one occasion he found two large water moccasins on the tiny island from which the chicks were moved. The second time he could find no reason but believed that in that case also they were moved for greater safety.—BERYL T. MOUNTS, *Macon, Ga.*

On the Nidification of the Acadian Flycatcher Again.—I have been greatly pleased with the friendly criticism of my identification of the Acadian Flycatcher, as described on pages 43 and 44 of the March, 1926, number of the WILSON BULLETIN. As I read further about the Acadian and Alder Flycatchers, admittedly difficult to differentiate, I am not certain which one I had. I now have ten nests of whichever species it is, that have been found, some in upright crotches, some in slanting branches, some from deep woods but most from edges of thickets, some thin enough to see through a wall and some thick; one with triangular rim, one perfectly round and the others elliptical; one with paper and one with cotton in large quantities in the makeup; one with a second story over a Cowbird egg. I am not ready yet to concede I have had the Alder Flycatcher though I am wavering. After another season with the species, I will give a detailed report of my findings and venture another opinion.—SAMUEL ELLIOTT PERKINS, III, *Indianapolis, Ind.*

An Unusual Flight of Snow Geese in the Lake Winnebago Area.—For the past few years both varieties of the Snow Goose (*Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus* and *C. h. nivalis*) have been uncommon during migrations on Lake Winnebago. In the spring and fall, flocks seldom numbering more than one hundred birds have been observed to remain for a brief period, but those vast hordes spoken of by early writers seemed to have disappeared, until recently,

On November 1, 1926, the writer, while hunting ducks on Lake Winnebago during a severe northeast snowstorm, was attracted to a great swarm of birds coming in from the north. They at first appeared to be ducks, but closer approach enabled their identification as Snow Geese. Driven by the gale, they maintained no particular formation, and they appeared as a part of the drifting snowstorm itself. The darker immature birds gave the flock a peculiar speckled appearance, and great bunches of the birds fairly filled the sky from the limit of vision down almost to the waters' edge.

There seemed to be countless numbers of them, and only one flock was observed to alight on the lake—all of the other flocks maintained a straight course to the south, and in half an hour all were gone.

It was impossible to determine whether they were the Greater or Lesser subspecies, but one specimen shot by a hunter and examined by the writer proved to be the Lesser Snow Goose (*Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus*).

Many of the old time hunters of the vicinity who were questioned as to their estimate of the number of birds, stated that they had seen nothing to equal it

since the early days.—OWEN J. GROMME, *Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wis.*

A Loon Strangled by Its Fish Food.—The writer is aware of several instances of the strangulation of the Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) caused by attempts to swallow a fish the greatest girth of which was larger than the extreme capacity of the opened mouth or oesophagus. In at least two cases the inability of the bird to eject the fish was due to the catching of the fins on the inside of the throat, and in one case the lower mandible of the merganser had passed through and under the skin of the fish so tightly as to make it impossible for the bird to extricate it.



It is only recently, however, that an instance of the strangulation of a Loon (*Gavia immer immer*) in this manner has been brought to the writer's attention. On November 27, 1926, Mr. L. M. Nagle, of Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania, found a Loon dead along the beach at Water Works Park with a fifteen inch Pike Perch (*Stizostedion vitreum*) firmly fastened in its throat. Mr. E. L. Gorenflo, the taxidermist who prepared the specimen, states that the fins were so caught in the throat that it was almost impossible to disengage the fish. The Loon, according to Mr. Gorenflo, weighed approximately fifteen pounds; the fish weighed over one and three-quarters pounds. The weight of the Loon, according to the writer's experience, is somewhat over-stated.

The serrate mandibles of the merganser would tend to make ejecting such a fish a very difficult matter; it seems somewhat surprising, however, that a Loon would not be able to toss the fish up. The photograph is excellent evidence, apparently, that fish are always swallowed whole by these birds. Were the Loon to break its prey into smaller portions, a not impossible feat it would seem, such difficulties as the present one would not be encountered.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

Some New Bird Records from Jackson County, Michigan.—European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*).—A single specimen of this duck was observed April 4, 1925, at Portage Lake. The observers were working in pairs, and made two observations independently and without knowledge of each other.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus grammacus*).—A pair of these birds was seen in an old orchard, June 29, 1924. The pair had been seen here a short time before by Mr. Wm. G. Fargo. In company with the Van Tyne Brothers, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, one was taken at this spot on July 4, 1926.