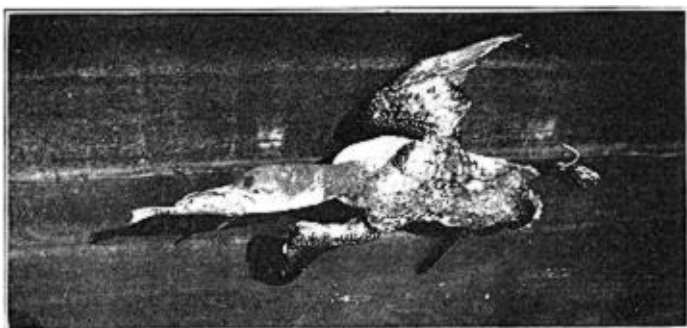


since the early days.—OWEN J. GROMME, *Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wis.*

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.

Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*).—An adult was taken in one of the traps on October 19, 1924.

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla ruficapilla*).—This species was first found here in summer on June 29, 1924, when one was found feeding a young Cowbird. A male sang from a spruce tree several times. On the following July 11, seven adults and three young were seen. The swamp was visited July 5, 1926, when an adult male and two immature birds were collected. The specimens have been deposited in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. The birds are found only in the spruces of this one swamp. Barrows in his *Michigan Bird Life* states that it is not known in the southern four tiers of counties. Undoubtedly it is attracted by the spruces.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Lanivireo flavifrons*).—A specimen of this vireo was taken on June 27, 1926. This bird, an adult male, was found in a large piece of lowland timber composed mainly of oak, ash and hard maple. Although no nest was found it was apparently breeding. Barrows in his *Michigan Bird Life* says that it has been found nesting in the state occasionally. The feet and tarsi were of a very light blue color. This skin has been deposited in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan. It is the only summer specimen in the collection.—LEONARD W., GEORGE S., HAROLD and MAURICE WING, *Jackson, Mich.*

Notes on the Varying Abundance of the Evening Grosbeak in Michigan.—The December, 1925, number of the WILSON BULLETIN, p. 223, contained some notes of mine on the Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona v. vespertina*) in Michigan, concerning which I desire to make it clear that the Evening Grosbeaks there mentioned were not observed at the feeding station. On a preceding page (213) of the same issue, Mr. Bayard H. Christy states that a pair was observed by him at Huron Mountain, Michigan, on May 31, 1925, in the woods on the shore of an inland lake, and he holds the opinion that they were probably belated winter visitants. Since much has been written of this species, and the taking of them for winter residents, I am giving below, some notes which I think will be of interest to those who have not found them in summer.

I often heard and saw these birds as they passed overhead in small bands during the first summer that I was in Luce County, Michigan (1913), but at the time I did not know what kind of birds they were. However, as they are one of the most common birds, and were seen nearly every month of each year, they were not forgotten. On May 22, 1920, I identified these birds as the Evening Grosbeak. Since that time I have kept records of them, which are as follows:

In the year 1921, the first one was seen on January 3, and others were seen until about the last of November or the first of December. However, it appeared as if none of these birds remained in that locality through the winter of 1921-22, for the first ones were not seen in 1922 until on May 9. It also appears that none were there through the mid-winter following (1922-23), as the first record for 1923 was February 1. The winter next following (1923-24) appeared to be about the same, the first ones seen in 1924 being on February 11.

On August 13, 1924, I began keeping records of the number of birds seen each day, which, by the way, is the only way to get the real benefit of the migration and abundance of our birds. On going over by "Bird Roll Book" I find that the Evening Grosbeaks were present in numbers of from one to one hundred during the remainder of August, and were seen on every one of those days except one (August 15), a total of eighteen days. In September (1924) they