

I have, I presume, some 3000 individuals in the pond. I first observed this evidence of destruction early in May last, and it was not until late in July that I detected the cause of it.

Large flocks of *Quiscalus g. vaneus* make their home annually from early spring till late every fall, in the pine, spruce and hemlock groves which belong to my grounds; as I do not raise cereals, and devote my land to fruit culture, I regard these birds as the most valuable of their kind to me, and never have permitted them to be shot at or disturbed on my premises. Going down to my pond, as usual, in quest of Kingfishers, I happened to take notice of a Crow Blackbird in the act of striking quickly with its bill into the water at the edge of the bank. Wondering what it found there for food, I cautiously approached, sneaking behind the shelter of an evergreen and bed of flowering shrubs. This bird had struck a small goldfish as it came up to the water's edge—struck it in the centre of its head with the sharp point of its bill. This blow only stunned the fish, but rendered it unable to dart away, although it could still squirm and wriggle; the Blackbird was earnestly trying to land its prey by repeatedly striking the fish so as to get a beak hold, which it finally did after many failures. Catching sight of me, it at once flew away, leaving the writhing and mortally wounded victim upon the earth. The mystery of that peculiar destruction of my goldfish was thus solved.

The habit of goldfish whereby they suck and bore at and into the grassy and mossy edges of a pond as they feed, renders them a comparatively shining mark for *Quiscalus*.—HENRY W. ELLIOTT, near Cleveland, Ohio.

The Evening Grosbeak at Montreal.—Mr. William Brewster in a note to 'Forest and Stream,' Feb. 6, 1890, records the occurrence of the Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertina*) in eastern New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and Dr. A. K. Fisher of Washington, D. C., also Mr. J. Alden Loring of Oswego, N. Y., and Mr. J. L. Davison of Lockport, N. Y., records its occurrence in New York State, between the dates of Dec. 14, 1889, and Feb. 1, 1890. My attention was drawn to its occurrence here by Mr. Caulfield, taxidermist, one having been shot in this city by Mr. John H. R. Molson's gardener in the last week in January, 1890, and four at Laprairie, on the south side of the St. Lawrence River about nine miles above Montreal, on Feb. 5. I saw two of these birds after they were stuffed. I believe this is the first record of their occurrence in this district.—ERNEST D. WINTLE, Montreal, Canada.

Coccothraustes vespertina in Erie County, N. Y.—On the 15th of April, 1887, Mr. B. W. Fenton of Buffalo shot a pair (male and female) of Evening Grosbeaks at Brant, Erie County, N. Y., and brought the male's head to the late Charles Linden for identification. This observation was published by Prof. Linden in the 'Forest and Stream,' Vol. XXVIII, 1887, p. 367. This is, I believe, the first record from New York State which is backed by a specimen: the above-mentioned head is now in the collection of Mr. A. H. Alberger of Buffalo, and places the record beyond cavil.