

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.

On Jan. 10, 1890, Mr. D. W. Fenton observed a flock of nine Evening Grosbeaks in our City Park, and on the following day with his assistance I was able to secure three specimens, two females and one immature male. The birds were very tame, and were feeding on the seeds of the maple.

On the 18th of January, 1890, Mr. Geo. Harris of West Seneca, Erie County, received a fine male of this species, which had been shot at West Seneca. He was informed that the bird was in full song on a low bush when shot, and that no more were seen at the time.

These facts, excepting the Harris record, are also embodied in a report to 'Forest and Stream' (Vol. XXXIV, 1890, pp. 64, 65,) by Dr. A. K. Fisher.—W. H. BERGTOLD, M. D., *Buffalo, N. Y.*

Evening Grosbeaks in Vermont.—During the last few weeks, there has been around my house here, a flock of Evening Grosbeaks (*Coccothraustes vespertina*), consisting of about a dozen individuals, more than half males in the most brilliant plumage. They seem especially fond of the seeds still hanging on a box elder tree.—W. W. COOKE, *Burlington, Vermont, Feb. 20, 1890.*

Coccothraustes vespertina at Amherst, Massachusetts.—On January 8, 1890, I was visited by a farmer from the southern part of Amherst, who had with him a bird he desired me to name for him. I recognized it at once as a male *Coccothraustes vespertina* in fine adult plumage. The man said his boy had shot it a day or two before as it was perched on the top of a cherry tree near his house. There were two together but the other escaped. The one that he shot he said was singing finely at the time, and seemed much brighter colored than the other. We have had very mild weather this year and no snow at all.

I had no difficulty in obtaining a good skin, and soon it will grace the collection of Amherst birds in the Amherst College cabinet.—HUBERT L. CLARK, *Amherst, Mass.*

Evening Grosbeaks in Hampden County, Massachusetts.—A few days since Mr. Rufus E. Bond brought into the Museum of the Worcester Natural History Society an Evening Grosbeak which was killed by Mr. Louis James in East Brimfield, Mass., on February 1. Neither of these gentlemen knew the bird, but thinking it might be something of interest to the Museum Mr. Bond, who is a member of the school board of Fishdale, at once brought it to us. A small flock of the birds, perhaps a dozen in all, had been seen about the house for several days. The bird is an adult male in fine plumage. I have preserved it for our collection.

Some of the cyclonic storms of the past month have been followed by strong west winds. This may account for the presence of the birds so far to the east of their usual habitat.—E. H. FORBUSH, *Worcester, Mass.*