

lards and Black Ducks. I have never seen males and females on the same day. Totally unfit for food, they are not molested by the hunters and are only useful to the taxidermist. They are wonderful divers and will swallow fish so large that they have to keep them in their throats until the heads are digested by the stomach. A female killed March 7th, 1898, had a shiner ten inches long in her throat and gullet. The tail of the fish protruded from the bill of the duck which was flying when shot.

I killed a large male on Feb. 22, on the river that had several small fish and one seven inch sucker in his throat. The head of the sucker was partially digested.

These Mergansers are unable to take wing against the current and always rise down streams as the current is very swift and they cannot get the resistance of the water against their feet when trying to fly up streams and I have seen them flop along the water for fifty feet against the current in a vain attempt to rise when danger threatened below them.

The Red-breasted Merganser is a more common species and makes its appearance on the lakes about the last week of March.

Traveling in larger companies than the foregoing species it comes well to decoys. Their food consists of fish of the smaller varieties and I have never found any large fish in their gullets. After the ducks season is over they become very tame and associate with the tame ducks on the lakes.

The Hooded Merganser is the smallest of the Mergansers and the only one that is seen here in the fall to any extent. It appears on the lakes in October in small companies, mostly females although a few males are seen. This Merganser is a very fair table duck and compares favorably with Widgeon and Bluebill. The rarest of the three Mergansers with us and the last to arrive in spring this species first appears on the lakes in the first week of April.

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THE FIRST 20th CENTURY HORIZON AT OBERLIN, OHIO.

According to my established custom, the first day of the new century found me a-field starting the list of species for

the year. The course taken was a little out of the ordinary for this all day winter horizon, yet intended to cover as varied a landscape as the country affords.

Two small woods, a weed grown thicket and several open fields yielded but four species on the way to the head waters of the Beaver Creek. This was partly due to the early hour of the morning, partly to the sharp and brisk south-west wind, partly to the temperature of 18°. The clouds made the twilight linger until nearly eight o'clock, when they partly lifted and did not return until four in the afternoon,

The course led me down the stream to within two miles of Lake Erie, when a mile across country to the west gave me the birds which can be found only in the dense thickets which surrounded and cover the sand-stone knobs so characteristic of the northern part of our county. Where these have not been quarried, or at one time quarried and later abandoned, the thicket loving birds find a paradise.

From this series of woods and thickets one emerges upon the lake shore or the lake swamps as he prefers. I chose to visit the swamps first where disappointment awaited me in the entire absence of Cardinal, which had failed to put in an appearance along the course of the stream. Song Sparrows were numerous here, but Junco and Tree Sparrow were absent.

The three mile walk along the lake front treated me to a disappointment and two surprises. No American Herring Gulls could be seen anywhere even there was little or no ice beyond the shore pack ice. An approaching train started an American Merganser from the water just beyond the shore pack ice. A happy company of seven Snowflakes played hide and seek with me over the rail-road embankment. Why do their voices and every action bespeak the frozen North?

It seems a little strange that but a single Sparrow Hawk and a single Prairie Horned Lark should have been seen during the whole day. The solitary American Herring Gull was beating its way over the Lorain Harbor toward the lake while I waited for the trolley car. The two Crows and two companies of Meadowlarks were somewhat of a surprise. They are more often absent than present during the first weeks of the year.

I have little doubt that Bluebirds, and possibly Robins, were somewhere about also.

A glance at the summary will show that of the 21 species recorded the Tree Sparrows were by far the most numerous in individuals, yet they were far less in evidence during the day than the Nuthatches, Downy Woodpeckers and Tufted Tits, because they were always in considerable flocks while the other occurred in companies of two to four.

It is worth while to spend a day in the wind and snow when you can meet 310 birds in their own reception halls!

THE HORIZON.

Am. Herring Gull, 1.	Am. Goldfinch, 2.
Am. Merganser, 1.	Junco, 12.
Bob-white, 12.	Tree Sparrow, 160.
Red-shouldered Hawk, 1.	Song Sparrow, 11.
Sparrow Hawks, 1.	Snowflakes, 7.
Hairy Woodpecker, 3.	Tufted Titmouse, 12.
Downy Woodpecker, 11.	Chickadee, 8.
Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3.	White-breasted Nuthatch, 18
Flicker, 6.	Prairie Horned, Lark, 1.
Blue Jay, 14.	Am. Crow, 2.
Meadowlark, 24.	Total 21 species, 310 individuals.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

A SUGGESTION.

It is generally recognized, as is believed that the modern trend of investigating thought lies more and more directly in the line of specialized effort. This is true with at least several branches of the natural sciences and of late years also seems to be holding good in the work produced by many of our best ornithologists. Our own chapter publications, for example, have contributed several noteworthy efforts in that direction, and of which, more recently, the Flicker Bulletin might be favorably mentioned in this connection.

Though Prof. Jones' "Warbler Songs" should certainly