

## NOTES.

## BOBOLINKS INCREASING AT BOULDER, COLORADO.

Bobolinks, once supposed to be rare in Colorado, are common in at least three localities in Boulder county this year, and their songs have been much enjoyed by the writer and others. Last year I saw one east of Boulder and Dr. J. R. Brockett reported one on the University campus at Boulder, and the year before Mr. L. C. Bragg took one near town, but this year I have seen about a dozen every day that I have visited one locality. Popularly our Lark Bunting has been oftencalled "Bobolink," though there is no good reason for the confusion, as they are readily distinguished.

JUNIUS HENDERSON.

## A JANUARY KINGFISHER.

On January 19th of this year I observed a Belted Kingfisher about two miles below this place on the bank of the Hudson river. The mercury stood at 2 degrees below zero and the river was frozen solid from shore to shore.

I also recorded a Sparrow Hawk the same day, but this is not unusual as I have seen several during the past winter.

Ossining, N. Y., May 6, '04.

FREDERICK C. HUBEL.

## NOTES ON THE NESTING OF THE BLACK TERN.

On June 27, of this year, Mr. Karl Heilmann and the writer found a nest of the Black Tern with three fresh eggs in the Sandusky Bay marshes. The eggs were placed on a few broken fragments of old flags on what seemed to be a pancake of muck. After I had photographed the nest and eggs and put the dripping camera into the boat, I examined the foundation. The pancake of muck rested on some floating vegetation. This in turn was resting on an old sunken muskrat house, probably three or four years old, which had formed a kind of a submarine decayed island. This would indicate that both Langdon as well as Jones and Dawson were right in their respective statements which seem to be at variance; it is the combination of both which gives us the correct fact at least in this one particular instance. New muskrat houses or those a year or so old were not used, though in abundance.

We also saw a pair of Belted Piping Plovers on this date, the nest had probably been destroyed by a recent storm, which had driven the waves of Lake Erie into the bay clear over the sand-dunes of the Cedar Point peninsula.

W. F. HENNINGER.

## NORTHERN OHIO NOTES.

Roseate Tern, (*Sterna dougalli*), was found in a company of Common Terns which were flying above Big Chicken island, lake Erie, August 26, 1904. While this island lies in Canada it is so near the border of Ohio that the occurrence of this rare Ohio tern here should not

be allowed to pass unnoticed. The bird was in full breeding dress, and gave evidence by its actions, of belonging to the island. Many of the other birds were in molt, but this specimen gave no evidence of molt.

Black Tern, (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinemensis*.) No birds were to be seen at their regular breeding places in the Sandusky marshes, August 24 to 27, but they were found in numbers at the Chicken islands with the Common Terns, most of them in transition molting plumage. Some had almost completed the molt, while others had scarcely more than begun. A few Black Terns were also found with small companies of Common Terns roosting on the sand spits among the Bass islands.

It may be interesting to note that North Harbor island, which was a favorite breeding place for the Common Terns in 1901, gave little evidence of having been inhabited by more than a handful of birds the past season. Likewise, Chick island, which was a low reef supporting a considerable growth of Smart-weed (*Polygonum*) and numerous nesting terns in 1901, was reduced to a wave washed reef entirely devoid of either vegetation or tern nests on the day of our visit, August 26. However, roosting terns of both species, Herring and Bonaparte Gulls, were numerous enough to almost completely cover the rocks. The gulls were also in molting plumage.

The lagoon of Middle Bass island, which yielded such rich bird life in 1901, was full to the brim, and surrounded by three feet of water on all sides. Consequently there were no mud flats, and no shore birds. A flock of Shoveller—decoys gave me palpitation of the heart until their true structure was revealed, when three small boys in a boat rowed through their midst. A single Least Bittern made an additional record for the lagoon. Black Terns were also in evidence here. Numerous Pied billed Grebes seemed entirely at home, and probably bred here during the summer, with the King Rails and Florida Gallinules. both of which were feeding everywhere.

The only shore birds recorded among these islands were Sanderlings, Turnstones, Spotted Sandpipers and Killdeers. This was disappointing, in view of the records of others at Oberlin earlier in the month. I have noticed, however, that many of the shore birds seem to prefer inland ponds and mud flats during their southward journey.

LYNDS JONES.