

I could, in all likelihood, have taken it in an entomological net. The intricate underworld of thick grass is its home; there it may skulk or pause to scold the passing stranger in safety, or rise from his very feet to drop into the green sea but a few rods distant. Out of its grassy element this sparrow is as uncomfortable as a fish out of water. For this reason it is easier to hear his high-pitched strain than to catch a glimpse of him.

Late in July of a heavily-clouded evening at about 9 o'clock and consequently almost dark, I passed the haunt of a Henslow Sparrow, and promptly the shrill "tis-zeek!-tis-zeek!-tip-see-tis-zeek!" greeted my approach and followed me quite out of ear-shot.

WINTER NOTES FROM DETROIT, MICHIGAN AND VICINITY.

B. H. SWALES.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax dilophus*).

On January 8, 1908, I watched a cormorant swimming near my place on Grosse Isle. Upon seeing me it rose heavily from the river, and flew slowly, with repeated flappings, down the river. To date there had been practically no ice on the river.

CANVAS-BACK (*Aythya vallisneria*).

During the winter of 1905-1906 a small flock of some twenty Canvas-backs remained throughout the winter near the mouth of the Detroit river. These fed generally in a large air hole, and from time to time one was shot by residents. During the winter of 1907-1908 a much larger body remained, feeding well out into Lake Erie, as there was no ice to speak of until about the first of February. This flock was estimated as high as three hundred birds.

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*).

On May 8, 1907, I watched for some little time a flock of forty-two Geese that flew over Grosse Isle, going eastward. These Geese were honking loudly and flying extremely low. My previous latest spring record was April 30, 1905. During

the winter of 1905-1906, a resident of Hickory Island, in the lower Detroit River, told me that a flock of ninety Geese remained all winter. They kept well out into Lake Erie, were very wary, and none were secured by the gunners.

AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*).

Albert Gardner wrote me at various times during the winter of 1906-1907 of a Bittern that wintered at Pt. Pelee, Ont., and which he saw on nearly all his visits to the marsh. The bird could fly, and appeared to be uninjured.

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*).

L. J. Eppinger, the Detroit taxidermist, received a bird of this species in February, 1903, which a friend had shot near Lake St. Clair, Macomb Co. He had been out rabbit hunting, the ground was deeply covered with snow, and the day so cold that the bird was frozen stiff before the hunter reached his home. The winter of 1902-1903 was the most severe one in this section in many years; the snow fell in November and remained until March. It is a mystery as to how this bird could eke out an existence until as late as February in the frozen marshes. It was, of course, extremely poor and emaciated.

KING RAIL (*Rallus elegans*).

The occurrence of this species in winter is certainly exceptional. On February 6, 1907, Taverner and I examined one that came into L. J. Eppinger's shop, which had been taken recently near Detroit. The bird was in extremely poor condition, as might be expected. A second occurrence is reported by Albert Gardner, of Pt. Pelee, Essex County, Ont., who wrote me at different times during the winter of 1906-1907 that he had seen one of these birds in the extensive marsh there. He said that it was apparently in good condition, as it readily took flight when closely pressed. The winter up to February was generally a mild one, the mean temperature for December (Detroit, Mich.) being 29°, January 26, and February 21.

KILLDEER (*Oryechus vocifera*).

Mr. Jas. B. Purdy wrote me that he saw a Killdeer on his

farm near Plymouth, Wayne County, from December 25, 1907, where it was first noticed, throughout the month of January, after which he failed to notice it. I have no other records of this species' occurrence in winter.

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Ceryle alcyon*).

One was reported to me by Jas. B. Purdy on January 6, 1907, near Plymouth, which remained in the vicinity for several days.

EVENING GROSBEAK (*Coccythraustes vespertinus*).

One was taken December 30, 1905, by A. J. Long near Detroit, and came into Champion's shop, where I saw it. I know of no others being seen during the winter of 1905-1906.

TOWHEE (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*).

Jas. B. Purdy saw a female at Plymouth on January 29, 1905. I believe this is the first bird of this species that I can recall that has wintered in Wayne County.

CORRECTION.

Historical articles like those of Mr. Burns in recent numbers of the WILSON BULLETIN are always interesting reading and therefore ever welcome. In historical articles more than anywhere else, perhaps, accuracy in details is to be desired, and yet nowhere else do we more easily fall into unintentional misstatements. In the interests of accuracy, therefore, I beg to correct a few errors in "The Mystery of the Small-headed Flycatcher."*

Mr. Burns states that the unique specimen of Townsend's Bunting was taken by Dr. Ezra Michener. He was, it is true, the subsequent owner of the specimen, but it was secured by J. K. Townsend after whom it was named (cf. Baird, Cassin & Lawrence, Birds of N. A. p. 496.)

Mr. Burns includes the occurrence of the Summer Tanager in southern New Jersey among "conditions well recognized today." The bird has only been reported "seen" in southern

* Wilson Bulletin, June, 1908, pp. 63-99.