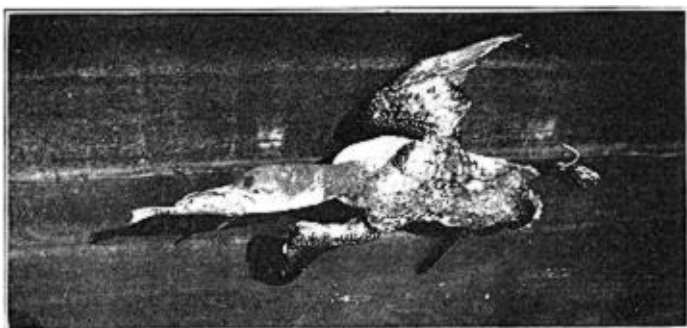


since the early days.—OWEN J. GROMME, *Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wis.*

**A Loon Strangled by Its Fish Food.**—The writer is aware of several instances of the strangulation of the Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) caused by attempts to swallow a fish the greatest girth of which was larger than the extreme capacity of the opened mouth or oesophagus. In at least two cases the inability of the bird to eject the fish was due to the catching of the fins on the inside of the throat, and in one case the lower mandible of the merganser had passed through and under the skin of the fish so tightly as to make it impossible for the bird to extricate it.



It is only recently, however, that an instance of the strangulation of a Loon (*Gavia immer immer*) in this manner has been brought to the writer's attention. On November 27, 1926, Mr. L. M. Nagle, of Erie, Erie County, Pennsylvania, found a Loon dead along the beach at Water Works Park with a fifteen inch Pike Perch (*Stizostedion vitreum*) firmly fastened in its throat. Mr. E. L. Gorenflo, the taxidermist who prepared the specimen, states that the fins were so caught in the throat that it was almost impossible to disengage the fish. The Loon, according to Mr. Gorenflo, weighed approximately fifteen pounds; the fish weighed over one and three-quarters pounds. The weight of the Loon, according to the writer's experience, is somewhat over-stated.

The serrate mandibles of the merganser would tend to make ejecting such a fish a very difficult matter; it seems somewhat surprising, however, that a Loon would not be able to toss the fish up. The photograph is excellent evidence, apparently, that fish are always swallowed whole by these birds. Were the Loon to break its prey into smaller portions, a not impossible feat it would seem, such difficulties as the present one would not be encountered.—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Game Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.*

**Some New Bird Records from Jackson County, Michigan.**—European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*).—A single specimen of this duck was observed April 4, 1925, at Portage Lake. The observers were working in pairs, and made two observations independently and without knowledge of each other.

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus grammacus*).—A pair of these birds was seen in an old orchard, June 29, 1924. The pair had been seen here a short time before by Mr. Wm. G. Fargo. In company with the Van Tyne Brothers, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, one was taken at this spot on July 4, 1926.