

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

BASS GUARDING NEST KILLS INTRUDER.—It is generally known that the male Small-mouthed Black Bass guards its nest for some time after the deposition of the eggs, driving away other fishes which come too close to the vicinity of the nest, but the killing of an intruding fish may not have been often observed. I had the good fortune to make such an observation and believing that a record of it would be of some interest I have described the occurrence as I saw it.

This observation was made on June 13, 1926, in a pool in the Saugeen River near the town of Walkerton, Ontario. The nest, which I had had under observation for some time previous to the date of the occurrence described here, was situated in a depression on a sort of shelf along the river bank. This shelf was of clay covered with fine stones and gravel. The water on this shelf was about two feet in depth, but beyond it in the river itself the depth was about eight feet. The depression on the shelf in which the nest was situated was separated from the deeper water of the main channel by a ridge of clay.

On the day in question I sat for some time on the river bank watching the bass hovering over his nest. After a time I caught sight of a red horse (*Moxostoma*) slowly approaching the site of the nest. The Red Horse was about eighteen inches in length and two and one-half pounds in weight, the bass was about twelve inches long. When the Red Horse had come within about fifteen feet of the nest the bass moved slowly towards it, and the Red Horse swam slowly into deep water. In about two minutes the Red Horse again came upstream and again the bass drove it away. The same thing was repeated four or five times in fairly quick succession.

I was curious to see what would happen if the bass were absent from the nest. Accordingly I threw small pebbles into the water near the spot where the bass was lying. In a few minutes the bass became suspicious and slowly moved out into deep water. No sooner had the bass abandoned his spawn than the Red Horse again came upstream. Not seeing the bass the intruder gradually approached nearer and nearer to the nest. Finally, it swam straight towards the nest and began to devour the eggs. For a moment I felt disposed to frighten the intruder away, but contented myself with hoping for the return of the bass.

Soon the bass did return from deep water, very slowly at first, but when it was within thirty feet of the Red Horse it shot towards it like a dart. When about two feet away it wheeled round and

shot under the Red Horse. As the bass wheeled round, the Red Horse made a dart for the deep water. Then the bass remained motionless on his nest as before.

The movement of the Red Horse did not appear normal. He kept very near the surface and when he reached midstream (the river is about seventy-five yards wide at this point) he came up to the surface to the water with his white belly showing, and began to drift helplessly downstream. I was able to catch the fish farther downstream, and on examining it I discovered that the lateral and ventral portion of the abdominal wall on the right side had a large incision in it, at a distance midway between the pectoral and pelvic fins. The peritoneum was also torn open and the intestines hung out from the body. The fish was bleeding profusely from its wound, but was not dead when taken out of the water.

When I returned to the scene of action the faithful bass, with his deadly spines spread and standing erect, was diligently guarding his precious remaining spawn.—H. L. YACK.

A GREATER REDPOLL AT TORONTO.—On February 17, 1930, at Mount Denis, near Toronto, a flock of twelve redpolls was examined and a specimen secured by the writer which was noticeably larger than the others. The plumage was darker and the bill heavier and more wedge-shaped than the common redpoll. These indications suggested a Greater Redpoll (*Acanthis linaria rostrata*) and Mr. J. H. Fleming has kindly identified it as such. The measurements of the bird, which is a male, are as follows: Length, 146 mm.; wing, 79 mm.; bill, 10 mm. and wing expanse, 226 mm.

The Greater Redpoll, I believe, is of rare occurrence at Toronto. Mr. J. H. Fleming (*Auk*, 24: 79, 1907) says "Occurs among flocks of *linaria* but is rare; I have seen about a dozen well-marked local specimens taken between November 9 and February 10". There is a specimen in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology taken at Toronto on March 14, 1890, by Mr. James R. Thurston, which is evidently the latest record.—CLIFFORD E. HOPE.

ALBINO GRACKLES.—On July 22, 1930, the writer, and Mr. J. L. Baillie Jr., saw an albino Bronzed Grackle in a flock of about twenty-five normal individuals of this species in a field on the bank of the River St. Lawrence about five miles east of Kingston, Ontario. The bird was entirely white, or dusty pale gray. On July 24, (when Mr. Baillie unfortunately was not with us)



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