

[March

again. A passing car caused it to go a little farther and soon after, by a careful sneak, I got another shot, this time with success. In a moment or two the duck revived and began to swim vigorously for the shore. When it lagged, I dropped a bullet from a smokeless cartridge just outside of the duck, which then made a fresh start for the shore, which after several such spurts was reached, and my prey hid among the irregular sods at edge of the water, out of my sight. To kill it was then the problem, but after carefully searching the shore from several points, I managed so badly as to appear right above it and it started for mid stream in hot haste. Before long it was dead, but the wind being almost directly up stream refused to bring it within reach, nor would the current, but the latter, on the contrary, neutralized the effect of bullet after bullet, which I dropped carefully from the rifle, just beyond the dead bird. Eventually the wind drifted it up stream past a point which was my last hope, and from which, standing barefooted in the icy water, I was unable to reach it with a long stick, and I realized that I must get it from the other shore. This meant walking three-quarters of a mile to the bridge, and then back again. By the time this was accomplished the duck had nearly reached the shore and in a few minutes I had the pleasure of handling an unknown specimen which I guessed was a Scoter. Without staying to plug its mouth, I started in hot haste for business, the time being about 9.30, and in a few minutes was disgusted to notice that the old adage, "more haste and less speed" was being proved once more by the numerous splashes of blood on my trousers. This necessitated a stop to wash them in the river, and once more I started for town, this time without further mishap.

On examining the bird with the aid of Ridgway's Manual it was easily seen to be the American Scoter (*Oidemia Americana*), a bird not hitherto recorded for the county although it is a regular visitant, probably in restricted numbers, to the great lakes.