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LAKE-SHORE BIRD MIGRATION AT BEAMSVILLE, ONTARIO.

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The following field notes were gathered during the summer and autumn of 1918. While in the service of the Royal Air Force the writer was stationed upon the south shore of Lake Ontario almost due north of the town of Beamsville. Here in checking the aerial gunnery practice six or seven hours were spent daily up in a fifty-foot tower at the water's edge. Periods on duty ranged from daylight until dark. As every day was spent largely out-of-doors and duty commenced on alternate mornings at dawn, excellent opportunity for observation was afforded. A rough bird census was taken daily and new migrants and disappearances thus noted.

The country surrounding the tower and within range of the field glasses consisted of the open lake northward, and to the south stretched a flat typically peninsular farming land of fields and orchards interspersed with remnant wood lots. Most of the notes were gathered from the tower; unless otherwise stated, each record following may be so taken. A few birds were noted in the woods to southward that did not show themselves close to the water.

The course of migration here was from east to west. A great many birds followed the shore and it was plain very early in the season that this was a pathway. Many expected species, however, notably the hawks, were disappointments, and the following gleanings may be as noteworthy for their omissions as their records. Nearly all migrants chose the fine days for moving and almost invariably passed during the early morning hours, or before 9 a.m. There was little movement in the afternoon. The bobolinks, bluebirds, blackbirds, snowflakes, horned larks, waxwings, pipits and swallows made a procession of it here; other species were more retiring and veiled their movements. Birds not mentioned in the following list were not seen in the autumn. No specimens were taken. Where any doubt existed in the mind of the writer, the record is marked so (?). The number in italics after the date gives the number of birds seen. The last notes were made November 26.

Colymbus auritus, Horned Grebe. Oct. 5, first noted; small company. Oct. 13, hundreds occupying waters near shore for several miles. They became quite callous to machine-gun fire and were very numerous till the end of the month. Only on rare occasions was one of these divers noted in flight. Numbers declined as follows: Nov. 6 (50); Nov. 8 (50); Nov. 16 (1); Nov. 18 (few); Nov. 26 (1).

Gavia imber, Loon. Aug. 10 (1); Aug. 20 (1); Sept. 30 (1). During October seen almost daily and often in flight. Nov. 1 (2 in flight); Nov. 6 (young); Nov. 11 (1); Nov. 19 (one flying high south-east across the peninsula).

Larus argentatus, Herring Gull. Aug. 17 (6)? Owing to the difficulty in distinguishing this from the next species, no exact record could be kept.

Argentatus was noted in September and October but very sparingly, and in November the numbers rose and fell apparently with the weather. Nov. 4 (numerous); Nov. 7 (beautiful adult picked up on shore); Nov. 20 (numerous); Nov. 26 (adult and young).

Larus delawarensis, Ring-billed Gull. Much more common than the preceding species up till November. July 21, July 28, Sept. 26, Oct. 13, Oct. 17, Oct. 19 (young); Oct. 23, 26 and 29 (numerous); Nov. 10.

Larus philadelphia, Bonaparte's Gull. Oct. 13 (flock); Oct. 17, Oct. 31, Nov. 1 (flock). Observed also Nov. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 18. Unlike the larger gulls, this bird almost invariably was posting west close to shore.

Sterna caspia, Caspian Tern. Sept. 4 (3); Sept. 25 (2). One of these birds in the first instance and both in the second were travelling east fairly close to shore.

Sterna hirundo, Common Tern. Aug. 19 (12); Aug. 22 (3); Aug. 25 (2); Sept. 6 (flock); Sept. 17 (11); Oct. 1 (20); Oct. 2 (three flocks). In nearly all cases moving westward, low.

Phalacrocorax dilophus, Double-crested Cormorant. On Nov. 21, 23 and 24, a lone bird, doubt-

less this species, took perch on one of the floating targets. Machine-gun fire from the air did not seem to interfere with his fishing.

Merganser americanus, American Merganser. Suspected in the distance more than once, but none of the mergansers were positively identified in the autumn.

Anas obscura, Black Duck. The commonest duck noted on this shore. Noted plentifully from first appearance July 26, until November. Large flocks on the lake Sept. 15. Last noted Nov. 4.

Mareca americana, Baldpate. Sept. 26?

Spatula clypeata, Shoveller. Sept. 19 (2).

Dafila acuta, Pintail. Sept. 20 (3); Oct. 18 (flock); Nov. 1 (1).

Aythya marila, Scaup. Sept. 27 (flock)?

Clangula clangula americana, American Golden-eye. Oct. 26 (flock); Nov. 4, Nov. 5, Nov. 10 (flock); Nov. 26 (3).

Charitonetta albeola, Buffalo-head. Nov. 7 (3); Nov. 10 (several).

Harelda hyemalis, Old Squaw. Nov. 4 (flock of 35); Nov. 10 (several).

Oidemia deglandi, White-winged Scoter. One of the common ducks. Oct. 8 (flock); Oct. 17, Oct. 18, Oct. 23 (small flock); Nov. 4, Nov. 10 (2); Nov. 21 (6); Nov. 26 (1).

Branta canadensis, Canada Goose. Oct. 7 (20); Oct. 18 (43); Nov. 2 (small flock); Nov. 5 (14); Nov. 8 (6). Three of these flocks when observed were in migration and followed a south-easterly course toward Niagara.

Ardea herodias, Great Blue Heron. July 22 (2); July 23 (2). During August seen singly almost daily, usually going west, low over the water. Not noted between Aug. 22 and Oct. 15. Oct. 15 (1); Oct. 27 (1). None were seen to stop here.

Butorides virescens, Green Heron. July 27 (2); Aug. 13 (2); Aug. 16 (1);. These two birds were noted at their fishing along the little creek that flowed by the foot of the lower tower.

Nycticorax nycticorax naevius, Black-crowned Night Heron. Aug. 10 (1); Aug. 31 (1). These followed the shore in the evening.

Arenaria morinella, Ruddy Turnstone. Aug. 13 (1). Noted resting on the gravelly beach.

Numenius hudsonicus, Hudsonian Curlew. July 31 (15); Aug. 5 (1); Aug. 6 (small flock); Aug. 7 (4); Aug. 10 (15); Sept. 8 (3); Oct. 1 (2)? Those noted Sept. 8 were travelling east; the others were going west; none were seen to stop on this shore.

Bartramia longicauda, Bartramian Sandpiper. July 25, Aug. 9 (2); Aug. 10 (2). This species bred locally not far from the tower. The bird observed July 25 either came across the lake or made

a wide circuit over the water, as he was noted coming inland several hundred yards. The others were high in air and travelling westward.

Actitis macularia, Spotted Sandpiper. The commonest shore bird in this section. Bred plentifully; very numerous through July and August, the numbers dwindling early in September and by the 11th of the month was gone. A doubtful record Sept. 19. This bird gave no hint of his manner of leave-taking; it simply disappeared.

Calidris arenaria, Sanderling. Aug 1 (3)? In flight low over water, west-going.

Squatarola squatarola, Black-bellied Plover. Aug. 10 (2); Aug. 23 (flock); Aug. 29 (1). On Aug. 2, the two plover were noted in company with eleven curlews. These plover did not rest here; all were observed west-going.

Oxyechus vociferus, Kildeer. July 23 (7); July 30 (several); Aug. 5 (1); Aug. 7 (2); Oct. 6 (1). The seven observed on July 23 were most probably a family. They were out over the water a considerable distance (300 yards) and were winging off westerly, evidently on a mission.

Aegialitis semipalmata, Semipalmated Plover. Aug. 7 (7); Aug. 12 (5). The first group noted were old and young. They did not use this shore as a stopping-place, but went by low as the other shore birds did.

Totanus melanoleucus, Greater Yellowlegs. Aug. 1 (1)? Only a fleeting glimpse of this bird was secured though his notes were heard. No other Yellowlegs were observed throughout the season.

Bonasa umbellus togata, Ruffed Grouse. Observed in woods back on rocky ridge. During the "mad" season in October a bird of this species was reported in the orchard near the tower. It was not seen by the writer.

Zenaidura macroura, Mourning Dove. Common through July, August and September. Noted also Oct. 4 and Oct. 13. The latter observation was peculiar for at this date a fledgling barely able to fly was discovered.

Pandion haliaetus carolinensis, American Osprey. Sept. 20, a beautiful adult hunted near the shore during the afternoon and disappeared to eastward.

Circus hudsonicus, Marsh Hawk. An old male in grey plumage came occasionally to hunt in a nearby field. Noted July 25, July 30, Aug. 29, Sept. 10. Doubtless always the same bird. One young bird was seen here also, but the date was not recorded.

Accipiter velox, Sharp-shinned Hawk. Nov. 23 (1)?

Accipiter cooperi, Cooper's Hawk. Sept. 17 (1)?; Oct. 12 (1); Nov. 30 (1).

Buteo borealis, Red-tailed Hawk. Sept. 18 (1)?.

Falco sparverius, American Sparrow Hawk. Bred locally, but no birds were observed in migration along the shore.

Buteo swainsoni, Swainson's Hawk. Sept. 2 (1)? Possibly a Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus lineatus*. Field description reads: "Yellowish below; darker towards breast; little brown marking on under parts."

Megascops asio, Screech Owl. Oct. 9, heard hooting in the orchard close to the tower at night.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus, Black-billed Cuckoo. One of these birds evidently nested near the tower as it was observed carrying food over a regular beat. Disappeared July 22 and none seen later.

Ceryle alcyon, Belted Kingfisher. Aug. 17, Aug. 30, Oct. 3, Oct. 13. Always noted singly; never in migration.

Dryobates pubescens medianus, Downy Woodpecker. Sept. 14, Sept. 20.

Dryobates villosus, Hairy Woodpecker. Nov. 2, heard his loud call in the woods a mile south of the lake. Not noted on the shore.

Colaptes auratus luteus, Northern Flicker. Sept. 20 (1).

Melanerpes erythrocephalus, Red-headed Woodpecker. Aug. 26. This bird like the flicker, though breeding locally close at hand, did not appear on the shore more than once in migration.

Sphyrapicus varius, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Sept. 29. On this date a young bird was noted in the woods back of the ridge. Not noted on the shore.

Chordeiles virginianus, Night Hawk. Aug 21 (3); Aug. 24 (8); Aug. 27 (2); Aug. 31 (2); Sept. 3 (1); Sept. 6 (1); Sept. 9 (1); Sept. 23 (1). These followed the usual westerly course.

Chaetura pelagica, Chimney Swift. July 28 (4); July 31 (4); Aug. 17 (15); Aug. 29 (numerous); Sept. 1 (2); Sept. 2 (2); Sept. 3 (1); Sept. 4 (1); Sept. 5 (3); Sept. 7 (5); Sept. 9 (2); Sept. 17 (3); Sept. 25 (2); Sept. 27 (several). Their destination was westward.

Trochilus colubris, Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Sept. 14 (1). Female or young.

Tyrannus tyrannus, Kingbird. In greatest numbers about Aug. 22. Numbers thinned by Aug. 28. Sept. 2 disclosed a family, and Sept. 4 a single bird.

Myiarchus crinitus, Crested Flycatcher. Sept. 14. A young bird noted in the timber. Not seen on the shore.

Sayornis phoebe, Phoebe. Sept. 1 (family); Sept. 2 (heard calling); Sept. 12 (2, old and young); Sept. 17 (1); Sept. 26 (1); Sept. 29 (heard).

Contopus virens, Wood Pewee. July 30, Aug. 22, Aug. 28, Sept. 1 (heard); Sept. 6 (heard); Sept. 11 (heard); Sept. 14, 17 and 18.

Empidonax minimus, Least Flycatcher. Aug. 28 (1).

Empidonax flaviventris, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Sept. 2 (2). These were noted in the timber back from the shore.

Otocoris alpestris praticola, Prairie Horned Lark. Horned larks bred in the adjoining fields, but migrants supposedly this species followed the shore regularly in small parties throughout October and November. Oct. 2 (10); Oct. 10 (numerous); Oct. 26 (flock); Oct. 30 (flock); Nov. 3 (flock); Nov. 6 (flock).

Corvus americanus, American Crow. Bred locally, but no flocks passed this way in migration. Sept. 23 (family); Sept. 29 (small party); Oct. 1 (4); Oct. 7, Oct. 17, Nov. 9 (2).

Cyanocitta cristata, Blue Jay. Observed back in the timber, but not on the shore.

Quiscalus quiscula aeneus, Bronzed Grackle. Bred locally. The flock of locals after gathering up to about fifty strong on July 20, left and was seen no more.

Scolecophagus carolinus, Rusty Blackbird. Sept. 30 (flock, males and females); Oct. 1 (flock); Oct. 4 (flock).

Agelaius phoeniceus, Red-winged Blackbird. July 22 (15); Sept 1 (small party, males and females); Sept. 18 (12); Sept. 25 (small flock); Oct. 4 (flock). With the exception of the July flock, all the rest were migrants, like the other birds, headed westward.

Molothrus ater, Cowbird. This bird furnished surprises. Bred locally and during July the young were under observation almost daily. On July 31 a female and two young were noted after which the species disappeared entirely until Oct. 4, when a whole flock of males, females and young in company with Rusty Blackbirds, one morning surrounded the tower and spent an hour before moving off westward. A few more followed over the same course Oct 6 and on Oct. 15 a male was noted.

Icterus galbula, Baltimore Oriole. Aug. 3 (2, young); Aug. 11 (male in song); Aug. 24, Aug. 30 (2); Sept. 1 (1); Sept. 2 (2). These birds probably were locals. On Aug. 24 two were seen to fly out over the lake a distance as though restless and ready to move; and their disappearance a week later followed.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus, Bobolink. Bred locally, but it was also one of the most interesting migrants. July 20 ("chinking" restlessly); July 22 (flock of fifty, only one faded male in evidence); Aug 6 (two small flocks); Aug 11 (30); Aug. 15 (flock);

Aug. 17 (flock); Aug. 22 (several flocks); Aug. 24 (several flocks); Aug. 26 (several flocks); Aug. 28 (flock); Aug. 31 (flock heard in the night, 10 o'clock); Sept. 2 (several flocks); Sept. 3 (flock); Sept. 7 (heard passing over). All these later flocks with the exception of one or two on Aug. 22, moved westward. They picked fair mornings and flew low. Usually they followed a course out over the water, aiming at the points on the shore and cutting the bays, and though they were often disconcerted by the aeroplanes, could not be shaken from their course. The height of their migration passed on Aug. 24. All these flocks were small, suggesting families, from five to eight being the rule. None were observed en route in the afternoon.

Sturnella magna, Meadowlark. Bred locally. Observed a small flock of about a dozen almost daily from Aug. 12 till Oct. 17. Only once (Oct. 6) did they show any evidence of migration, when a number of them flew off westward over the orchards as though in farewell.

Astragalinus tristis, American Goldfinch. Sept. 2 (several); Sept. 18 (common); Oct. 29 (five or six flocks heard); Nov. 16 (flock heard). It will be seen that this bird here was somewhat erratic. Only on Oct. 29 when several flocks passed overhead toward the west did it give a clue to its course.

Carpodacus purpureus, Purple Finch. This bird was never definitely identified though the clucking notes thought to belong to this species were heard Aug. 12, Sept. 2 and Oct. 6. A male, probably nesting, sang all summer in the ravine behind the main camp to southward.

Poescetes gramineus, Vesper Sparrow, Sept. 14, Sept. 26, Sept. 29 (4); Oct. 2 (1); Oct. 4 (1); Oct. 12. This was a common summer resident about the tower, but like the song sparrow gave no hint of its manner of leave-taking. It merely disappeared.

Passerculus sandwichensis savanna, Savanna Sparrow. Bred locally. Sept. 2 (1); Sept. 2 (in song); Sept. 8 (in song). This was the last definite record; there was mystery about this bird. What was probably his migration began Sept. 9. On the morning of this date fully fifty sparrows answering to the Savanna's markings, size and notes, came close by the tower. They took perch in the top of the walnut and locust trees and gave excellent view in the field-glasses. In threes and fours they broke away at short intervals and went dodging off westward, plainly on a mission. On Sept. 14 and Sept. 25 they repeated these field manœuvres. A single bird of the same was noted Sept. 28. To all appearances these were Savannas, but the trait did not seem to ring true.

Zonotrichia albicollis, White-throated Sparrow. Sept. 25 (heard); Oct. 4 (heard in song); Oct. 7 (several seen).

Spizella monticola, Tree Sparrow. Oct. 18 (1); Nov. 6 (5); Nov. 8 (several); Nov. 16 (flock of 12). Never observed en route; always in the shrubbery.

Passer domesticus, House Sparrow. During the late autumn several densely crowded small flocks of these adjustable gamins passed the tower. They were mostly west-bound and suggested a local migration.

Melospiza melodia, Song Sparrow. Perhaps the commonest bird of the locality. Very numerous during September, thinning out in mid-October. Observed also Oct. 31 and Nov. 6 (2).

Passerella iliaca, Fox Sparrow. Oct. 12 (1). Observed in the woods half a mile from the shore.

Junco hyemalis, Slate-colored Junco. Oct. 6 (several); Oct. 12 (numerous); Oct. 13, Oct. 14. As usual, these birds were not noted on the march; they merely came, increased and diminished.

Passerina nivalis, Snowflake. Oct. 15 (2); Oct. 29 (2 flocks); Nov. 3 (4 flocks); Nov. 5 (flock); Nov. 6 (6 flocks); Nov. 9 (flock); Nov. 10 (4); Nov. 16 (flock); Nov. 21 (large flock); Nov. 26 (flock). For the Snowflakes this shore seemed a direct pathway; they never on any occasion showed inclination to come down to the nearby fields.

Acanthis linaria, Redpoll. Oct. 18 (1); Oct. 19 (3); Oct. 20 (several); Oct. 29 (5 flocks); Oct. 30 (numerous); Nov. 3 (flock); Nov. 5 (flock); Nov. 6 (flock). These tiny sprites behaved like the Snowflakes, except that they invariably flew higher. Their chattering notes were the only means to identification.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus, Towhee. Bred locally. Observed in timber Sept. 14 (1); Sept. 29 (1); Oct. 7 (1). Not observed at all on the shore.

Calcarius lapponicus, Lapland Longspur. Noted only once (Nov. 9) when three went clicking overhead.

Petrochelidon lunifrons, Cliff Swallow. Aug. 5 (a few small parties); Sept. 8 (1); Sept. 19 (1)? It was rather hard to definitely identify the swallows as they posted by the tower on rapid wings. Several "doubtfuls" were recorded. The bird on Sept. 9 was with barn swallows and chimney swifts; the one noted Sept. 19 was alone. All were moving westward post-haste.

Hirundo erythrogaster, Barn Swallow. The commonest swallow here in migration. July 19 (family); July 22 (80 counted, passing a given point in 5 minutes, west-going); Aug. 10 (flock); Aug. 24 (2 families); Sept. 5 (1); Sept. 9 (12);

Sept. 12 (1); Oct. 4 (1).

Iridoprocne bicolor, Tree Swallow. Aug. 10 (1 young in a flock of barn swallows); Sept. 12 (3)?.

Riparia riparia, Bank Swallow. During the summer the commonest swallow species here; several colonies nested in the perpendicular clay banks. Latest appearances, Aug 26 (2); Sept. 1 (2)?; Sept. 12 (5).

Progne subis, Purple Martin. Only one martin was seen on this shore. This was late in August; the date of appearance was neglected.

Ampelis cedrorum, Cedar Waxwing. In very large numbers along the shore by Aug. 10. The height of migration passed about Aug 28, in small parties they moved off along the shore almost exactly as the bobolinks had done. They travelled low, seldom over two hundred feet. Later dates gave Sept. 4 (1); Sept. 5 (1); Sept. 7 (3); Sept. 10 (2); Sept. 11 (1).

Lanius ludovicianus migrans, Migrant Shrike. Bred locally. Old and young, the former with a fledgling house sparrow in its clutches, observed on the range by the tower Aug. 4. Not seen later.

Lanius borealis, Northern Shrike. Nov. 11. Shrike noted on a high perch in the field; doubtless this species.

Vireo olivaceus, Red-eyed Vireo. Aug. 15 (1); Sept. 2 (several); Sept. 8 (1); Sept. 14 (2); Sept. 24 (1); Sept. 29 (2).

Vireo flavifrons, Yellow-throated Vireo. Sept. 8 (1)?.

Mniotilta varia, Black and White Warbler. Sept. 8 (1). Observed in timber half a mile from shore.

Helminthophila peregrina, Tennessee Warbler. Sept. 2 (in song)?.

Dendroica tigrina, Cape May Warbler. Sept. 24 (1 male).

Dendroica aestiva, Yellow Warbler. Bred plentifully. Last young noted July 28. Aug. 6 (2); Aug. 11 (6); Aug. 22 (2). Neither this warbler nor any of the others were observed to make any bold flights. They merely darted from one cover to another.

Dendroica caerulescens, Black-throated Blue Warbler. Sept. 5 (adult male); Oct. 12 (adult male). The second bird was noted back from the shore in the timber.

Dendroica coronata, Myrtle Warbler. Sept. 23 (1); Sept. 25 (heard); Sept. 29 (7); Oct. 1 (1); Oct. 12 (numerous). Observed also Oct. 13, 15, 16 and 17. On Oct. 16 several of these fine warblers were in company with the bluebirds and as they worked below the tower there was a stiff contest between the two over the capture of a species of large insect prey coming from over the water. Often a bluebird and a warbler went after

the same victim. Seen from above it was a beautiful picture indeed.

Dendroica maculosa, Magnolia Warbler. Sept. 6, Sept. 14 (family); Sept. 24 (adult male).

Dendroica striata, Black-poll Warbler. The warbler most commonly observed on the shore. Sept. 5, 6, 15, 17. Sept. 19 (2); Sept. 23 (1); Sept. 24 (2); Sept. 25 (2).

Dendroica virens, Black-throated Green Warbler. Oct. 13 (1); Oct. 14 (1). Neither of these birds were on the shore; both were back in the timber.

Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla, Northern Yellow-throat. Aug. 29 (1); Sept. 17 (1). The first was an adult; the second young.

Wilsonia canadensis, Canadian Warbler. Sept. 8 (family). These were observed back in the woods.

Setophaga ruticilla, American Redstart. Sept. 2 (young).

Anthus pensylvanicus, American Pipit. Sept. 13 (3); Sept. 23 (1); Oct. 31 (several). All these birds went by westward above the tower and showed no inclination to stop here.

Troglodytes aedon, House Wren. Sept. 25 (1).

Olbiorchilus hiemalis, Winter Wren. Oct. 7 (heard)?; Oct. 13 (1); Oct. 14 (1). All these birds were in the woods back from the shore.

Toxostoma rufum, Brown Thrasher. Bred locally, but not observed near the shore.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis, Catbird. Aug. 9 (2); Aug. 11 (1).

Sitta canadensis, Red-breasted Nuthatch. Sept. 2 (2); Sept. 8 (2); Oct. 4 (1). The September birds were noted in the timber to southward.

Sitta carolinensis, White-breasted Nuthatch. Oct. 6 (1); Oct. 17, Oct. 31, Nov. 11 (1); Nov. 6 (1). This species followed the shore more closely than the preceding.

Parus atricapillus, Black-capped Chickadee. Sept. 14 (2); Sept. 24 (family); Nov. 1 (numerous); Nov. 6, 7, 11, 26. These little sprites were most numerous during the first week in November. They plainly were working westward. On Nov. 1, during a strong south-westerly wind, four were observed to spring up from a nearby walnut and fight it out with the wind for several minutes. They made two or three trials and then gave it up. They were more numerous at this time than circumstances other than migration could warrant.

Regulus satrapa, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Oct. 12, 13, 14, 30 and Nov. 7. On the last two dates only, the birds were in the apple trees along shore. The earlier records were back in the timber. These birds were always in small companies.

Regulus calendula, Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Oct.

1 (1); Oct. 4 (1); Oct. 6 (3); Oct. 7 (4); Oct. 14 (2). With the exception of the last record when both species were found in company back in the woods, all the ruby-crowns were noted in the orchard below the tower.

Hylocichla aliciae, Grey-cheeked Thrush. Oct. 7 (1)?

Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni, Olive-backed Thrush. Sept. 2 (several); Sept. 8, Oct. 7 (20); Oct. 12 (50); Oct. 13 (3). Not one bird of these numbers was observed at the tower; all clung to the woods to southward. Owing to the extreme difficulty in distinguishing the grey-cheek from the olive-back in the field, it is possible that numbers of the former may have been overlooked.

Hylocichla guttata pallasii, Hermit Thrush. Oct. 11 (1). On this date a thrush with a reddish tail was observed for a few moments almost directly

below the tower. It was doubtless a hermit. Not seen elsewhere.

Merula migratoria, Robin. Sept. 2 (several); Sept. 7 and 8 and Oct. 4, heard in song; Oct. 13 (12); Oct. 18 (3); Oct. 31 (1); Nov. 1 (small flock).

Sialia sialis, Bluebird. Sept. (family); Sept. 14 (family); Sept. 29 (family); Oct. 4 (flock of 30); Oct. 6 (several); Oct. 8 (flock); Oct. 9 (several); Oct. 16 (several); Oct. 17 (several); Oct. 18 (several). The September records probably were all local birds; they were seen remote from the tower. But on Oct. 4 the birds were en route westward. They stormed into the locusts nearby—a beautiful blue blizzard—and after a short council they swirled away again over the orchards. On Oct. 8 a large flock went over without stopping to pay their respects. The later birds were in small numbers and taking their time.

THE FLORA OF WARRENS LANDING, LAKE WINNIPEG, MAN.

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Warrens Landing is at the extreme north of Lake Winnipeg and at the source of the Nelson river which carries all the waters of the lake to the Hudson Bay. It is north of the fifty-second parallel and is, therefore, in that territory which has been recently added to the Province of Manitoba.

The source of the Nelson river is about 2½ miles wide and is almost blocked by an island which is nearly 2 miles across with approximately 8 miles of coast line. The eastern channel is narrow and comparatively little water flows through it. The western channel is the important one. Here, the only signs or marks of civilization are four lighthouses, two on the mainland and two on the island, and two fishing stations, one on the mainland and one on the island. It was during a visit on the first eleven days in August, 1918, to the fishing station on the island that I made the observations recorded here.

Travelling northwards up Lake Winnipeg one cannot help noticing a number of natural features and I think the most conspicuous is the difference between the eastern and western shores. The eastern shore is strewn with large red rocks of Laurentian granite, whilst the western shore is littered with grey Cambro-Silurian limestone boulders. This feature is alone sufficient to make a study of the flora surrounding the lake of great interest. On the eastern side many species typical of Ontario reach their western limits and on the western shore are

found the first of many prairie forms not found in the east.

Another conspicuous feature travelling northwards is the gradual ascendancy of coniferous trees over the deciduous ones. The coniferous trees are not frequent at the southern end of the lake and the deciduous trees are comparatively few around the northern shores. The prevailing conifer is the white spruce, *Picea alba*, in the more southern parts, and the bog spruce, *Picea mariana*, in the swampy regions of the north. The deciduous trees in the northern parts around the lake are comparatively small and restricted to poplars, willows, and a few birches.

The island at Warrens Landing is practically all muskeg. It appears to be, for the greater part a deposit of mud on the top of granite and covered with from one to two feet of *Sphagnum*. Only in a few places is the rocky substratum exposed. It is thickly treed with the bog spruce. The shore on the south and west is littered with uprooted trees and shrubs. This is the result of rapid coast erosion and is due to the violence of lake storms, the strong and fast current carrying great masses of ice through the very shallow and comparatively narrow channel, and to heavy rain storms. During the eleven days I was there it rained every day and nearly every night and caused frequent landslides along the shore. Water slowly soaking through the *Sphagnum* washes out the loose muddy soil underneath and when a



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