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## A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE BIRDS OF LINCOLN AND WELLAND COUNTIES, ONTARIO

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ALTHOUGH both Lincoln and Welland were among the first counties to be settled in old Ontario, and much has been written regarding their human histories, there would appear to be a remarkable absence of available literature dealing with the natural history of this region. This being the case, the writers are of the opinion that some of the ornithology of these two border counties, presented in the form of a preliminary and annotated list, would be not unacceptable at the present time.

The observations, although covering, more or less, the entire area of the counties under discussion, have been carried out chiefly within the vicinities of Vineland in Lincoln County and Niagara Falls in Welland County and have, in general, been made within the past ten or twelve years; in one or two instances, a few older records have been incorporated.

Roughly, the combined counties of Lincoln and Welland form the more easterly half of the Niagara Peninsula. They are bounded on the north by Lake Ontario; on the east by the Niagara River; on the south by Lake Erie and the somewhat rough, wild country of the old Indian Line, and on the west by the mixed farming lands of Wentworth and Haldimand Counties.

The entire area is drained by the Welland River and by several small creeks which run into Lake Ontario and the Niagara River.

Welland County is largely given over to mixed farming with here and there considerable acreages of land still covered with hardwood trees, forming patches of a type of environment common in southern Ontario.

The highest elevation in the county occurs at Ridgeville, in Pelham township, where the hills reach a height of about 825 feet; whereas the rest of the county averages only about 575 to 600, or a few feet higher than the high-water level of Lake Erie.

In the southern part of the county, there are still one or two fairly extensive marsh or peat bog areas which, however, are gradually being drained and so are diminishing in size as time goes on.

The Lake Erie shore line is largely composed of fine sandy beaches or hardened, rock-like, mud flats, backed by low sand hills which are covered by natural growth, or reafforested with pine and poplar, and much given over to summer home colonies.

The Welland county boundary, on the east, extends the entire length of the upper Niagara River and along the greater part of the deep gorge between Niagara Falls and Queenston Heights, and, without a great deal of interference with natural conditions, has been planted and otherwise developed along its entire length by the Niagara Falls Park Commission.

The county of Lincoln is divided into two sharply defined areas; that which is situated below the escarpment and is largely devoted to the growing of soft and tender fruits, and that which is above the escarpment and varies little in character from the mixed farming and wooded lands of Welland County.

The low-lying sections of the county, which are bounded on the north by Lake Ontario and on the east by the lower Niagara River, average between 275 and 325 feet in elevation, or, roughly, 25 to 50 feet above the high-water level of the lake, while the higher ground approximates the average elevation given for the County of Welland.

The escarpment, or mountain, as it is locally called, is a wooded slope or ridge, some 200 to 300 feet in height, which extends the entire length of Lincoln County. The woods vary somewhat in density and in character; those at the extreme eastern end of the ridge being of a somewhat open nature, with the Red Juniper (*Juniper virginianus*) and the White Cedar



(*Thuja occidentalis*) predominating; while, toward the west, there are many patches, or considerable areas, of dense, tangled deciduous growths, this condition being especially accentuated along the steep slopes of one or two streams or creeks which intersect the ridge in the vicinity of Jordan.

The greater part of the Lake Ontario shoreline consists of narrow, pebbly beaches backed by low crumbling cliffs of clay or sand; but in one or two spots, such as Niagara-on-the-Lake, there are some fairly extensive sandy beaches; while in other places, notably at Jordan Harbour, the creeks flowing into the lake have widened out at their mouths into large shallow ponds or marsh-like areas.

The entire district, although presenting certain interesting physical features, is, nevertheless, perhaps more interesting from a zoö-geographical point of view, for here, somewhere within or close to the Niagara Peninsula, is the probable meeting place of the Upper Austral and Transition life zones.

In compiling this list the nomenclature of the A.O.U. Check-list (1931) has been rigidly adhered to throughout. For many of the older references and for much helpful criticism and advice, the thanks of the authors are due to James L. Baillie, Jr., of the Royal Ontario Museum, to P. A. Taverner of the National Museum, of Canada, and to Dr. Harrison F. Lewis of the Department of the Interior.

*Gavia immer immer* (Brünnich). COMMON LOON. — The Loon or Great Northern Diver is not at all an uncommon bird in the upper Niagara River during both migration seasons and, at these times, is also occasionally to be seen in the wide expanse of river immediately below the two falls.

*Gavia stellata* (Pontoppidan). RED-THROATED LOON. — This Diver has been reported from the Niagara River on several occasions by members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society; but we have no personal observations to report and no definite information regarding its occurrence in what might be termed strictly Canadian waters.

*Colymbus grisegena holboelli* (Reinhardt). HOLBOELL'S GREBE. — We have only one personal record of this species, a lone individual which was observed by the senior author at Niagara Falls in the autumn of 1926. There is an earlier record given by Blain<sup>1</sup> of an adult male which was picked up on the Canadian side of the river, opposite the American Falls, on September 29, 1903.

*Colymbus auritus* Linnaeus. HORNED GREBE. — The Horned Grebe is frequently seen, during the spring and autumn migration seasons, in the wide expanse of water below the Horseshoe and American Falls. It is especially noticeable in the late autumn, at which time individuals or small scattered parties can be seen almost any day, keeping close in shore, around the bays and back-waters of this section of the lower river. H. M. Laing<sup>2</sup> writes of seeing hundreds in Lake Ontario, near Beamsville, in Lincoln County, during October, 1918.

*Podilymbus podiceps podiceps* (Linnaeus). FIED-BILLED GREBE. — This Grebe cannot be considered a common bird within the territory under discussion; but it is known to occur fairly regularly in the vicinity of Jordan and Vine-land, during the migration seasons.

*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Gmelin. WHITE PELICAN. — We are in some doubt as to whether we should include this species in our list, for the only known record for the vicinity belongs more properly to Erie County, N.Y., than to Welland County, Ontario. James Savage<sup>3</sup> has given an account of a White Pelican shot near the International Bridge, Niagara River, on October 5th, 1894, and from this account it would seem highly probable that the bird in question was over Canadian waters shortly before it was shot on the New York side of the river.

*Morus bassana* (Linnaeus). GANNET. — H. D. Mitchell<sup>4</sup> reports an immature bird of this species observed on the Niagara River near the Peace Bridge, on October 29, 1933, and in his notes mentions a previous record for this general region (apparently referring to J. H. Fleming's *Ontario Bird Notes*<sup>5</sup>) of a specimen taken at Wainfleet, Welland County, in November, 1907.

*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus* (Lesson). DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. — Apparently a rare visitor to the Niagara district, for we have only three personal records of this species; a single bird having been seen on the 11th of May, 1924, and watched for a considerable time as it rested on some rocks in the river between the Maid of the Mist landing and the Horseshoe Falls, and two others, apparently immature birds, seen in exactly the same place, one on October 2nd, 1932, and the other on October 29th, 1933. We have a report of one other record for this district, that of a dead one pick-

2. *Can. Field-Nat.* 34: 21, 1920.

3. *Auk*, 12: 313, 1895.

4. *Auk*, 51: 392, 1934.

5. *Auk*. 25: 486, 1908.

1. *Auk*, 21: 276, 1904.



ed up by George Dickson, Jr., on the lake shore near Vineland, on the 23rd of October, 1931, and later sent to the Royal Ontario Museum for preservation. Laing<sup>6</sup> records seeing a lone Cormorant, which he took to be of this species, at Beamsville, in November, 1918.

*Ardea herodias herodias* Linnaeus. GREAT BLUE HERON. — The Great Blue Heron is quite frequently observed during the summer months along the Niagara River, the Welland River, and the feeder canals in Welland County. It is also of common occurrence within the County of Lincoln and, near the southern boundaries of that county, in the vicinity of Caistorville, near the Old Indian Line, there is a large heronry situated in the midst of an immense area of wild, swampy, wooded land. This colony was visited several times during 1931 and 1932 and as many as 45 nests were counted; nearly all of them being built in tall elm trees. We have reason to believe that herons (locally reported as cranes) nest on Navy Island in the Niagara River, but it is probable that most of the Herons seen along the river bank come from the very large heronry on Grand Island, N.Y., which has been so interestingly reported upon by A. R. Shadle<sup>7</sup>.

*Casmerodius albus egretta* (Gmelin). AMERICAN EGRET. — Two were closely observed on August 8th, 1933, as they fed in reedy shallows along the Niagara River bank about 15 miles down the river from Fort Erie. One bird remained in the vicinity until August 18th and afforded many excellent opportunities for observation. There was, apparently, quite an extensive influx of Egrets into southern Ontario during the summer of 1933, for several reports were received of these large white birds being seen in different parts of the district. W. E. Hurlburt<sup>8</sup> reports an American Egret observed in the Wainfleet marshes of Welland County on August 15, 1928. In addition to these sight records, it may be of interest to mention here that there is a mounted specimen of this Egret in the Vineland Station school, with no information except the donor's name, N. P. Moyer.

*Butorides virescens virescens* (Linnaeus). EASTERN GREEN HERON. — This small heron is not uncommon in Welland County and has been met with a number of times within the vicinity of the Niagara River. The junction of Lyon's Creek and the Welland River was at one time a favoured haunt of this species; while, in recent years, they have been found during the breeding

season at Dufferin Islands, a semi-artificial backwater of the Niagara River about one mile above the Horseshoe Falls. This species does not appear to be so commonly met with in Lincoln County; but we have at least two definite records from Culp's reservoir, near Vineland.

*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli* (Gmelin). BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. — Of late years this bird has been observed on a number of occasions feeding, after sunset, in the shallows along the Niagara River bank between Niagara Falls and Fort Erie. Shadle<sup>9</sup> writes of counting over a hundred nests which he believed to belong to this species in the Grand Island heronry; but, curiously enough, the Night Herons which we have observed on the Canadian shore have, on more than one occasion, been seen flying toward the river from some inland point, in Welland County, a circumstance which would tend to indicate that the island heronry is not the only nesting area in this vicinity. Laing<sup>10</sup> observed two Night Herons, in August, 1918, at Beamsville, in Lincoln County, while a number of more recent observations have been made at other points along the Lake Ontario shore line of that county.

*Botaurus lentiginosus* (Montagu). AMERICAN BITTERN. — A reasonably common bird among the reed beds along the banks of the upper Niagara River. Also, it has been met with along the banks of Lyon's Creek and the Welland River, near Chippawa, as well as in various other parts of Welland County. Within the County of Lincoln, this species is quite common around the Jordan ponds and is occasionally met with elsewhere within the county limits.

*Ixobrychus exilis exilis* (Gmelin). EASTERN LEAST BITTERN. — A bird of this species, apparently moulting, for its wings were very bare of feathers, was caught alive in the Jordan Marshes, Lincoln County, on September 2, 1935.

*Cygnus columbianus*. (Ord). WHISTLING SWAN. — Nearly every spring, considerable numbers of Swans appear on the Niagara River and in some seasons more or less serious mortality occurs, due, apparently, to the sleeping or resting birds, drifting down the upper river, being caught in the swirling rapids and dashed over the Horseshoe Falls. In general, we are inclined to believe that many reports of the mortality of Swans at Niagara have been grossly exaggerated, for actually only a very small proportion of the migrating Swans, which appear

6. *Can. Field-Nat.* 34: 21, 1920.

7. *Auk*, 48: 567, 1931.

8. *Can. Field-Nat.* 42: 210, 1928.

9. *Auk*, 48: 567, 1931.

10. *Can. Field-Nat.* 34: 22, 1920.



almost annually in the vicinity of the Falls, meet with either death or injury. Perhaps the most serious Swan catastrophe, within recent years, occurred during the night of March 24th to 25th, 1928, when several hundred Swans were apparently swept over the Horseshoe Falls; but even on this occasion the numbers of live and apparently uninjured birds, which were found congregated, on the morning of the 25th, in the river below the Falls, undoubtedly exceeded by five to one the numbers of those found dead or maimed. On this particular day, by actual count, two hundred and twenty Swans, apparently quite capable of continuing their migration, were observed in the wide expanse of river immediately below the American and Horseshoe Falls; while many others were noted flying up and down the lower river, within the gorge, as though seeking those killed or injured companions which had been carried down through the whirlpool rapids. Apparently Niagara has taken its toll of Swans periodically over a number of years, and various accounts of former catastrophes have been given from time to time. The most important of these accounts is to be found in an article entitled "The Niagara Swan Trap" which was published in 1912 by J. H. Fleming<sup>11</sup>. Apart from the large numbers seen in the vicinity of Niagara Falls, records of Swans in other parts of the territory under discussion are comparatively scarce; however, two individuals were observed on Lake Ontario, near Vineland, on April 1st, 1928, and one solitary bird, possibly slightly injured, stayed on the Jordan ponds and was fed by the local residents for two weeks or more during the latter part of April, in that same year. Within the past few years, we have one late autumn and many early spring records of Swans on the Niagara River, and several reports, or observations, from the Port Colborne area of Welland County, and the Jordan district of Lincoln County.

*Branta canadensis canadensis* (Linnaeus). COMMON CANADA GOOSE. — Frequently observed in Welland County. First noticed, at Niagara Falls, as a passing migrant in the spring of 1920, when a flock of twenty-two were seen, on April 1st, flying in a northeasterly direction. One year, two Canada Geese were observed passing over Montrose, in an easterly direction, as early as March 9th; while in 1932, a flock, containing a hundred or more individuals, was seen, on March 26th, flying north over Stamford township and making a tremendous noise as it went.

Smaller numbers of these birds have occasionally been seen resting on the waters of the upper Niagara River.

*Chen hyperborea hyperborea* (Pallas). LESSER SNOW GOOSE. — A comparatively small number of Snow Geese, doubtless all referable to the Lesser Snow Goose, accompanied the immense flocks of Blue Geese which appeared in this area during the period October 26 to 31, 1935. According to James Savage, who is quoted by Clarence Cottam<sup>12</sup> in his interesting article on *Blue and Snow Geese in United States*, a Snow Goose was shot on the Canadian side of the Niagara River near Fort Erie on November 1st, 1934.

*Chen caerulescens* (Linnaeus). BLUE GOOSE. — Great flocks of Blue Geese, variously estimated to contain from 5,000 to 10,000 birds, visited the Niagara River and the Lincoln County shore line of Lake Ontario during the last few days of October, 1935. On the night of October 27th many were swept to their death over Niagara Falls and from among these casualties several specimens of both adult and immature birds were secured for preservation in the Royal Ontario Museum at Toronto, and the National Museum of Canada in Ottawa. There would appear to be no previous record of the occurrence of this species at the eastern end of the Niagara Peninsula.

*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* Linnaeus. COMMON MALLARD. — This cosmopolitan species is not uncommon on the upper river during autumn, winter, and early spring and at that time individuals or small parties can almost always be seen frequenting the shallows above Goat Island, N.Y. The deeper waters on the Canadian side of Niagara River are not much favoured by this duck; although, at times, it makes an appearance in the vicinity of what used to be the mouth of the Welland River, near Chippawa.

*Anas rubripes tristis* Brewster. COMMON BLACK DUCK. — Associating, more or less, with the preceding species and vastly outnumbering it, the Black Duck is a regular winter visitor to the shallows above Goat Island, N.Y. Sometimes, at this point, in mid-winter, this species can be seen, in large numbers, resting on the ice far out in the river. This species does not appear to favour the Canadian side of the river to any great extent, but odd individuals or small parties have occasionally been observed near the Canadian shore, both above and below the Falls. Although our observations on the Black Duck have

11. *Auk*, 29: 445-8, 1912.

12. *Auk*, 52: 435, 1935.



been placed under the title of Common Black Duck, it is almost certain that both sub-species occur and that many of the overwintering birds at Niagara should be referred to as the Red-legged Black Duck *A. rubripes rubripes*.

*Chaulelasmus streperus* (Linnaeus). GADWALL. — This somewhat rare duck has been reported by the Buffalo Ornithological Society on several occasions from the shallow waters around Goat Island at Niagara Falls, N.Y., and although it probably occurs on the Ontario side there would appear to be some uncertainty regarding its status in adjacent Canadian waters.

*Mareca penelope* (Linnaeus). EUROPEAN WIDGEON. — No personal observations to record, but James Savage of Buffalo has informed us of a bird of this species seen near Port Colborne on March 26, 1935, while others have been reported as occurring in Lake Erie, off the Welland County shore, by members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

*Mareca americana* (Gmelin). BALDPATE. — We have no personal observations to record on this duck, but it has been reported in some numbers off the Welland County shore of Lake Erie by the Buffalo Ornithological Society in their mimeographed journal, *The Prothonotary*, while Laing<sup>13</sup> in his account of Lake Shore Bird Migration at Beamsville records this species, on September 26th, 1918, under a question mark.

*Dafila acuta tzitzihua* (Vieillot). AMERICAN PINTAIL. — Apparently of not very common occurrence within the area. The senior author saw a pair of these beautiful ducks on the sandy beach at Niagara-on-the-Lake on May 1, 1935, and this species has been reported by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, in their "Spring Duck Census", as occurring along the Welland County shore line of Lake Erie. There is a mounted specimen in the possession of Mrs. Emerson Culp, of Vineland, which we understand was shot by the late Mr. Culp on his farm, about two miles south of the village. Laing<sup>14</sup> at Beamsville, in 1918, saw 3 on September 30th, a flock on October 18th, and 1 on November 12th.

*Nettion carolinense* (Gmelin). GREEN-WINGED TEAL. — This small duck has been reported on a number of occasions from the Niagara River but an apparent absence of definite records from the Ontario side leaves us in some doubt as to its status within the limits of our territory.

*Spatula clypeata* (Linnaeus). SHOVELLER. — No recent, or personal records. Two were observed by Laing<sup>15</sup> at Beamsville on September 19th, 1918.

*Aix sponsa* (Linnaeus). WOOD DUCK. — An observation of this duck in the swampy woodlands near Warner in Lincoln County has been reported by the Buffalo Ornithological Society in their journal *The Prothonotary* for June, 1935. About midsummer, 1934, a glimpse of a duck, believed to be referable to this species, was obtained by the senior author as it flew up from the surface of a small pool by the side of a patch of woodland near St. Davids in Lincoln County.

*Nyroca americana* (Eyton). REDHEAD. — Apparently a rare visitor to the Niagara district for we have only two personal records of this species; a fine adult male having been seen on the river, below the Falls, on February 7th, 1925, and another one, in the same place, on November 12th, 1933. Recorded from the Welland County shore line of Lake Erie by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, in their "Spring Duck Census" of 1935.

*Nyroca collaris* (Donovan). RING-NECKED DUCK. — This duck has been recently reported by the Buffalo Ornithological Society as occurring in April on Lake Erie off the Welland County shore, and there is an old record by Eaton<sup>16</sup> of a Ring-necked Duck near Niagara Falls in February, 1899.

*Nyroca valisineria* (Wilson). CANVAS-BACK. — The Canvas-back is not an uncommon duck on the Niagara River in winter and during the early part of the spring and at this time it is apt to appear, either above or below the Falls, in small parties of half a dozen or more individuals. There is a mounted specimen of this duck, in the possession of Mr. N. H. Culp, of Vineland Station, which was picked up injured at the Falls, on March 26, 1928.

*Nyroca marila* (Linnaeus). GREATER SCAUP DUCK. — Odd individuals, pairs, or small parties of this duck appear occasionally, during very late autumn or early winter, in the river immediately below Niagara Falls. At one time we were under the impression that this was a reasonably common duck at Niagara, but recent very careful observations have tended to indicate that many of our earlier records should have been referred to the next species.

*Nyroca affinis* (Eyton). LESSER SCAUP DUCK. — Although long in doubt, we are now quite

13. *Can. Field-Nat.* 34: 22, 1920.

14. *Can. Field-Nat.* 34: 22, 1920.

15. *Can. Field-Nat.* 34: 22, 1920.

16. *Birds N.Y.* 1: 208, 1910.



sure that this is much the commoner of the two Scaups occurring on the Niagara River. Early in the autumn, this species appears to be the only one present, but in late autumn, or early winter, the two species are not infrequently seen together, the smaller bird, almost invariably, outnumbering the larger.

*Glaucionetta clangula americana* (Bonaparte). AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE.—The commonest winter duck on the Niagara River. Sometimes, during mid-winter, hundreds can be counted on the river between Niagara Falls and Fort Erie. This bird is frequently to be seen in the strong currents and rapids above the Falls and its swimming and diving powers must be remarkable, for on two occasions during the month of January, 1926, a dozen or more individuals of this species, most females, were observed diving and disporting themselves, in open water among the ice, on the very brink of the American Falls. These birds were closely watched for some considerable time, on each occasion, and apparently not one was swept over, although they were diving so close to the edge that it appeared nothing short of miraculous that they were able to prevent themselves from being hurled over the edge of the cataract by the rushing, curving waters.

*Charitonetta albeola* (Linnaeus). BUFFLE-HEAD.—Formerly of fairly frequent occurrence on the Niagara River, during the migration periods; but the comparative scarcity of recent records would indicate that the Buffle-head is becoming a somewhat rare duck in this particular area.

*Clangula hyemalis* (Linnaeus). OLD-SQUAW.—Of common occurrence in the vicinity of Niagara Falls, during both spring and autumn migration seasons, while it is also occasionally observed in mid-winter. Sometimes, during the spring migration, large flocks of this species gather in the Niagara River, usually keeping well out from the shore lines; but we have, on one memorable occasion, seen this splendid duck make its spectacular dive from the air within a few yards of the river bank, near the village of Chippawa.

*Histrionicus histrionicus histrionicus* (Linnaeus). EASTERN HARLEQUIN DUCK. — Mitchell<sup>17</sup> records three female or immature duck of this species, seen in the Canadian rapids above the Niagara Falls on December 23, 1933. This is the only record which we know of on the Ontario side of the river; but the Harlequin has been reported on several occasions by observers on the New York side of the Niagara River.

*Somateria spectabilis* (Linnaeus). KING EIDER. — No knowledge of any recent occurrences within the area. Eaton<sup>18</sup> gives a Niagara River record for December, about 1891, but this probably refers to the New York side, and its inclusion in this list on the strength of that record is perhaps scarcely justified.

*Melanitta deglandi* (Bonaparte). WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. — Not a very common bird at Niagara, but certainly the most frequently observed of the three species of Scoter which occasionally appear in the river immediately below the Falls. Three were seen in this section of the Niagara River on October 23rd and four on October 24th, 1926, a lone individual on October 20th, 1929, as many as 20 at various times between October 25th and December 17th, 1933.

*Melanitta perspicillata*. (Linnaeus). SURF SCOTER. — Apparently a rare duck in the vicinity of Niagara. No first-hand knowledge of its occurrence until recently. Two or three females or immature males were observed below the Falls at different times between October 9th and November 4th, 1933; while during that same period, namely, on November 1st, a beautiful adult male was seen resting on the rocks near the Maid-of-the Mist landing.

*Oidemia americana* Swainson. AMERICAN SCOTER. — Although it is not by any means common, the frequency of the occurrence of the American scoter in the river below Niagara Falls during the autumn of 1933 inclines us to the belief that this duck has been present but overlooked in previous years.

*Erismatura jamaicensis rubida* (Wilson). RUDDY DUCK. — Occurs sparingly but regularly at Niagara Falls, during the autumn migration period. We do not appear to have any spring records of the occurrence of this duck in the Niagara district; all examples recorded, in any year, having appeared within a very restricted period between the 15th and 31st of October.

*Lophodytes cucullatus* (Linnaeus). HOODED MERGANSER. — An example of this smaller Merganser, apparently an immature male, appeared on the wide expanse of water below the Falls, on November 14th, 1932, in company with about eight American Mergansers, two Horned Grebes and a Common Loon; while two other immature, or female, birds of this species were seen at the same place, in a similar mixed concourse of duck and grebes, on November 12th, 1933.

17. *Auk*, 51: 392, 1934.

18. *Birds* N.Y. 1: 220, 1910.



*Mergus merganser americanus* Cassin. AMERICAN MERGANSER. — This handsome Merganser is a common visitor to the Niagara River during both spring and autumn migration season. In some years, it is present on the upper river, in considerable numbers, during January and other mid-winter months.

*Mergus serrator* Linnaeus. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. — A fairly common bird on the Niagara River during both spring and autumn migrations. Occasionally observed in mid-winter but not so frequently or in such large numbers as the preceding species.

*Cathartes aura septentrionalis* Wied. TURKEY VULTURE. — On several occasions, during May and June, 1935, Turkey Vultures were observed circling over the extensive woodland areas near Warner in Lincoln County. W. E. Hurlburt saw no less than four in this vicinity on the ninth of June.

*Astur atricapillus atricapillus* (Wilson). EASTERN GOSHAWK. — An immature example of this species was shot near Vineland on or about December 20, 1935, and later sent to the Royal Ontario Museum for preservation. Our lack of any other records would tend to indicate extreme rarity in this area.

*Accipiter velox velox* (Wilson). SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. — Cannot be considered anything but a rare visitor to this district. It is perhaps of more frequent occurrence in Lincoln than in Welland County.

*Accipiter cooperi* (Bonaparte). COOPER'S HAWK. — Apparently of somewhat rare occurrence. A hawk of this species was seen dead on September 21, 1932, having been shot by a farmer near Vineland. Laing<sup>19</sup> records seeing two or three at Beamsville between September 17, and November 30, 1918. More recently, one was caught in a Starling trap at Vineland, on September 14, 1934, and another in the same trap a year later, on September 18, 1935.

*Buteo borealis borealis* (Gmelin). EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK. — Not by any means a common hawk, but is occasionally to be met with in the Niagara district during the autumn migration season.

*Buteo lineatus lineatus* (Gmelin). NORTHERN RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. — A reasonably common summer resident and probably the most plentiful of the *Buteo* hawks in this district. A few of the older, larger woodlots, with tall trees, afford nesting sites for a pair of these hawks.

*Buteo platypterus platypterus* (Vieillot). BROAD-WINGED HAWK. — Observed on several occasions in Welland County and is believed to occur sparingly throughout the district; but it is certainly not a common species.

*Buteo lagopus s.-johannis* (Gmelin). AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK. — Apparently of fairly frequent occurrence during the autumn migration. There is evidence that this species also occasionally occurs in mid-winter, for there is a preserved specimen in the possession of Mr. N. H. Culp, which we understand was shot at Vineland Station about the first of January, 1922. This hawk has, on one or two occasions, been shot by pheasant hunters in the Niagara district, and there is a mounted bird in Dr. Whytock's office at Niagara Falls which is stated to have been obtained near Queenston. Several were seen, and one shot and winged, near Smithville in Lincoln County on November 4th, 1933.

*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis* (Linnaeus). GOLDEN EAGLE. — There is a fine mounted specimen of a Golden Eagle in the possession of Miss Louise Sheppard, of Queenston, which we understand was shot by the late Major James Sheppard in the winter of 1890. Judging by the somewhat small size, and the beauty of the plumage, this specimen would appear to be adult male, newly moulted and in the prime of life. We know of no other definite record of a Golden Eagle in this district, and Major H. C. Sheppard tells us that as far as he is aware the bird mentioned here is the only one of its kind taken among the hundred or more Eagles shot by his father at Queenston during the period 1882-1907.

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus* Townsend. NORTHERN BALD EAGLE. — An immature Bald Eagle, with a small amount of white marking on the head, was shot near Jordan ponds by a local farmer on August 28, 1929. It is stated to have been in the vicinity for about two weeks previous to the date of shooting. Upon examination its stomach was found to contain fish. A second immature example was shot and winged near Jordan early in March, 1933. This bird was kept alive for some time by Chas. Mitchell, of that locality, and was later obtained by the writers and released at Niagara-on-the-Lake about the end of May. Mr. H. St. Clair Fisher of Niagara Falls has in his possession a mounted specimen of this Eagle which he shot on the river bank at Queenston on or about October 15, 1922. This specimen, which has been examined by the senior author, is apparently a female in its first or second year and is remarkable for its great

19. *Can. Field-Nat.* 34: 22, 1920.



size. Mr. Fisher tells us that, when in the flesh, it was stated by the taxidermist to have weighed 16 lbs., to have measured well over 45 inches in length, and to have had a wing spread of 9 feet 4 inches. Major H. C. Sheppard of Queenston has informed us that between the years 1882 and 1907 his father, Major James Sheppard, shot up to one hundred American Eagles along the river bank near Queenston. The lower Niagara River at Queenston must have been much favoured by Eagles in those days for we are told by Major Sheppard that several were shot nearly every winter, and that sometimes as many as eight or ten in a season were procured for preservation as mounted specimens. There is an old and interesting record given by the Rev. Mr. Hibbert Langille<sup>20</sup> of the Bald Eagle nesting on the bank of the Niagara River at Chipawawa, about fifty years ago. On several occasions during the past few years, Eagles have been reported as having been seen within the Niagara River gorge; but, unfortunately, we have no personal sight records to substantiate these reports.

*Circus hudsonius* (Linnaeus). MARSH HAWK. — A common summer resident in Lincoln and Welland Counties and the most conspicuous, if not the most plentiful, raptore occurring within the area. It would seem probable that this hawk

occasionally overwinters here for we have a February record for Lincoln County, and in Welland County it has been observed as early as March 5th.

*Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis* (Gmelin). OSPREY. — We have no personal observations of this fine hawk to record, but Laing<sup>21</sup> reports seeing a beautiful adult at Beamsville on Sept. 20, 1918, and there is a mounted specimen in a restaurant at Grimsby which is believed to have been obtained locally.

*Falco peregrinus anatum* Bonaparte. DUCK HAWK. — A falcon of this species was shot near the Lincoln-Haldimand county line, in the vicinity of Canboro, on October 9, 1933, by V. Juhlke of Vineland.

*Falco sparverius sparverius* Linnaeus. EASTERN SPARROW HAWK. — A fairly common summer resident, arriving in this district soon after the middle of March. There is no doubt that this small hawk quite frequently overwinters in this section of the country; for we have winter records almost yearly from the Vineland area, while, during recent winter seasons, several have been observed at Niagara Falls and other points in Welland County.

(To be continued)

20. *Our Birds in their Haunts*, p. 453-5, Boston, 1884.

21. *Can. Field-Nat.* 34: 22, 1920.

## ADDITIONAL NOTE ON THE PRESENCE OF THE EUROPEAN STARLING AT CAMROSE, ALBERTA

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IN MAY, 1935, the writer, traveling northward through Alberta stopped at Camrose to gather details of the nesting of a European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) east of that place in 1934, an incident since reported by Frank Farley (*Canadian Field-Naturalist*, Vol. 49 p. 119).

It was my good fortune to meet Lawrence Blades, school teacher at the Hartland school, 14 miles east of Camrose, in the belfry of which the Starling had nested. From him were obtained the following notes on the presence of a Starling in that vicinity subsequent to the collecting of the eggs.

A single Starling was seen on several occasions late in the autumn and early in the winter of 1934 in the region east of Camrose. It finally took up its abode in a barn some 5 miles north of the Hartland school. It was not seen during January and February, 1935, but what appears to have been the same bird reappeared early in the spring. On about May 10 it was caught in the loft of the barn mentioned, and after two days of captivity it died.

It was the writer's good fortune to arrive on the scene soon thereafter and to find the specimen still in Mr. Blades' possession. He kindly relinquished it in order that it might be preserv-





Sheppard, R. W., Hurlburt, W. E., and Dickson, Geo. H. 1936. "A Preliminary List of the Birds of Lincoln and Welland Counties, Ontario." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 50(6), 95–102. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339913>.

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