

THE BIRDS OF OTTAWA.

BY C. W. G. EIFRIG.

The first list of the birds of Ottawa, published by members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, appeared in the third number of the Transactions of the Club, pages 29-34. It was prepared by Messrs. G. R. White and W. L. Scott, and enumerates, as a result of their observations up to 1881, the sum total of 169 species, four of which were later cancelled as erroneous. The second general list, which was to fix the ornithological knowledge of the district for some time, appeared ten years later, 1891 (OTTAWA NATURALIST, Vol. V., April, 1891). Additions, migrations and seasonal lists have since been published.

Then why this new list? A number of reasons make it desirable. 1. Quite a number of additional species have been added since the list of 1891, which enumerates 224 species, the present one 246. 2. The status of quite a number of species has since then been found to be different than given, *e.g.*, many are given as migrants for the district which have since turned out to be summer residents, *i.e.*, breeders. 3. The surroundings of Ottawa, and therewith the haunts of birds, are being changed so rapidly by man, that it seems desirable to make another record of the favorite localities for birds in the neighborhood as they existed in the first decade of the twentieth century, before they are no longer recognizable. 4. Many of the present members of the Club do not possess those early volumes, and many have repeatedly requested the writer to prepare a new list. Besides, it is a labor of love for the writer, who during six years spent all available leisure time in the study of the birds of the region. Never will those delightful hours and days be forgotten, when, whether in the fields or swamps, or woods, or on the lakes of the district, the birds furnished him with varied and interesting experiences, and allowed him many a glimpse into the wonders and mysteries of nature.

The members of the Club who reside at Ottawa, of course, know the topography of the region around the city and even casual visitors to the Capital are filled with pleasant recollections when hearing names like Britannia, Aylmer, Rockcliffe, Experimental Farm, etc., favorite resorts for Ottawans in the neighborhood, where also many of the observations recorded in this list were made. But, for the ever-increasing number of members living far from Ottawa, I quote from the introduction of the second list, pp. 31-32: "The district covered by this list is embraced within a circle of thirty miles radius, with the city of

Ottawa as its centre. It includes, roughly speaking, the Counties of Carleton and Russell in Ontario, and the southern portion of the County of Ottawa in Quebec, and lies between 45° and 46° north latitude. The northern portion of this district is covered by what may be termed the first range of the Laurentian Hills, one of which, known as King's Mountain, has an elevation of 1,125 feet above sea level, and rises about 900 feet above the large alluvial plain lying between it and the Ottawa River. These hills are covered with a great variety of deciduous and evergreen trees, and among them are numerous mountain lakes, varying in size from mere ponds to lakes of five miles and upwards in length (*e.g.*, Meach Lake). Flowing from the north through this range of hills the rapid river Gatineau empties, opposite the city, into the Ottawa, which flows from the west across the centre of the district, widening above the city with a southward sweep into a broad and beautiful sheet of water known as Lake Des Chenes, and again narrowing at the city where, falling over a limestone ridge, it forms the well-known Chaudiere Falls. Below these its course is straighter and narrower, and about twenty miles down it receives from the north the waters of another rapid stream, the Du Lievre. South of the Ottawa is a somewhat undulating tract of country, drained principally by the Rideau, which joins the Ottawa at the city. It is rather a sluggish stream in its upper reaches, through being dammed back at various points for canal purposes, and thus affords several excellent resorts for marsh birds. Much good farming land, with occasional hardwood ridges, is to be found in this part of the district, as well as swamps overgrown with tamarack, cedar, and other cone-bearing trees. The largest of these swamps is a peat-bog in Gloucester Township, known as the Mer Bleue, which covers several thousand acres of land, carpeted to a great depth with sphagnum moss, and producing immense quantities of berries of many kinds, notably cranberries and blueberries."

Thus it will be seen that we have here all the conditions conducive to making habitats for all kinds of birds. Only *Limicolæ*, the shore-birds, find conditions here less and less congenial, as the floods of the Ottawa in May and early June cover all the available sand banks with water, and in August and the following months they are given no rest by the hordes of boys and men who make a practice of going up and down the river in boats armed with all kinds of shooting irons, blazing away at every living thing. This is done all summer, especially on Saturdays and Sundays, so that even breeding birds and fledglings are wantonly slaughtered, so much so, that certain localities that would otherwise teem with bird-life, as Kettle

Island, have become almost devoid of it. The provincial or other authorities ought to put a stop to this practice.

Other localities frequently mentioned in the list are: Beaver Meadow, a delightful dell between wooded ridges, adjoining Hull on the west, north of the first toll-gate on the Aylmer Road; "water-front" which means the wooded shore of the Ottawa between Hull and Tetreauville, on either side of the Canadian Pacific Railway bridge; the Rifle Range the character of which is denoted by its name; the woods beyond it, on the south shore of the Ottawa, which are rich in some of the rarer birds as well as plants; Beechwood, a large tract of park-like hardwood near the cemetery, and Chelsea, on the Gatineau River, five miles north of the city, have yielded rich returns in the study of the birds; Meach Lake, a charming lake about ten miles north of the city, has furnished some records, as also Osgoode with its adjacent swamps along the Rideau, and Cranberry Creek has been visited by the writer and his co-workers. This locality, as well as Shirley's Bay, six miles west of Britannia, the Ottawa River with Kettle and other islands near the Rifle Range, as well as the extensive marshes and swamps near the mouth of the Lievre River, furnish favorite haunts for numerous marsh birds like the rails, ducks and other water-birds.

On a map in possession of the writer, on which distances from Ottawa are indicated by concentric circles, it is found that High Falls, Labelle County, Quebec, is just on the thirty-mile circle, and Inlet, in the same county, a trifle beyond. As the writer made numerous visits to these localities, notes made there are also included in the list.

Two conclusions have forced themselves on the writer as a result of his study of the Ottawa birds, which, however, can only be mentioned here, namely: 1. *That the Ottawa River is an important boundary line in the breeding ranges of birds for this part of Canada*; that is, certain species like the Canada Jay, Rusty Grackle, Pine Grosbeak, Three-toed Woodpeckers and probably several others, *do not breed south* of it, and for certain southern species it forms the *northern limit of their occurrence*, as, for the Chewink, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Grasshopper Sparrow, and, to a certain extent, the Indigo bird and others. 2. *That the Ottawa River is a migration route* for birds of much greater importance than is generally known. Great flocks of migrant land and water birds travel over it or along its banks, and even flocks of sea-birds use it as a highway, probably to and from James Bay.

In compiling the following list the writer has been given much assistance by several more or less ardent ornithologists, most of whom belong to the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

In work of this kind, when one observer usually cannot give all his time to it, co-operation on the part of many painstaking and conscientious observers is especially desirable, as indeed in all biological and other investigations. Therefore, this list embodies not only the results of the writer's work, extending over a period of six years, but also many notes and data furnished by Messrs. G. R. and E. G. White, A. G. Kingston, H. U. Morris, and H. Groh, who, together with the writer, frequently held meetings as the ornithological section of the Club. Mr. W. T. Macoun of the Central Experimental Farm and the late lamented Dr. J. Fletcher also furnished a number of valuable items. Especially valuable, however, has been the co-operation of Mrs. R. D. Brown and Miss Lees of "The Pines," Ottawa East, whose charming home with its beautiful surroundings is a perfect thermometer, so to say, for bird-life, be it for the migrant or resident species, their coming and going, greatest frequency, etc. The same can be said of Mr. E. Bedard, the keeper of the Rifle Range, and of his station of observation; he has indeed been of much assistance to me, and his many, often surprising records, were usually borne out by the specimen mounted. To these and several others who have occasionally furnished notes to the writer, also to Prof. J. Macoun, of the Geological Survey, who has always kindly allowed him free access to the collection of skins in the museum, the writer would once more express his sincere thanks.

The order and arrangement of the list is that of the American Ornithologists' Union, which is the standard. The scientific names are also brought up to date, they being those of the third check-list of the Union of 1910, with the exception that the trinomials have been left as binomials for the species, and retained for the subspecies only, for which they are really only necessary. The numbers, however, are continuous, as any others are of no use in a list of this kind. The meaning of the designations of frequency is as follows: rare, 1-5 individuals of that species seen during a whole season; moderately common, 1-2 in a day spent in their proper haunts; common, 5-10; abundant, more than 10. The name of the order is given first, that of the family second.

ORDER PYGOPODES—DIVING BIRDS.

PODICIPIDÆ—GREBES.

1. *Æchmophorus occidentalis*, Western Grebe. Rare accidental visitor. A specimen was caught alive on February 26th, 1904, in the grounds of the Ladies' College and kept alive several days.

2. *Colymbus holbælli*, Holboëll's Grebe; Red-necked Grebe.

A none too rare migrant, probably commoner than suspected. It occurs on the river in April and May and again from September to November. A number are brought every autumn into the market by rivermen. On November 25th, 1908, two were caught in nets on the river and kept alive on the market for several days.

3. *Colymbus auritus*, Horned Grebe. A moderately common summer resident. Breeds on Kettle Island, in cat-tail sloughs, and similar bays in the river and on lakes. Earliest date of arrival April 10th; latest date, October 27th.

4. *Podilymbus podiceps*, Pied-billed Grebe; Dipper. A common summer resident. Earliest date of arrival, April 6th (1909); latest, November 7th. Breeds in similar places as the preceding species. By virtue of its diving ability it is able to keep out of sight much longer than its abundance warrants.

GAVIIDÆ—LOONS.

5. *Gavia imber*, Loon. A moderately common summer resident, which arrives as soon as the ice begins to open up in the rivers, about April 20th, but sometimes before, as in 1908 one was seen on March 25th. They are usually gone by the middle of November, when their favorite resorts, the lakes to the north of us, are freezing over, but in 1905 one was seen as late as December 18th. By May 24th they usually have their set of two eggs laid. This bird is a great ornament to our lakes and its shooting for sport or pastime should in every way be discouraged.

6. *Gavia stellata*, Red-throated Loon. A very rare accidental visitor. The last and only date for Ottawa is November 12th, 1885, when a young female was shot by Mr. T. R. Coursolles.

ALCIDÆ—AUKS, MURRES AND PUFFINS.

7. *Fratercula arctica*, Puffin. This queer-looking marine bird is also a rare accidental visitor. The only one recorded from here was shot in October, 1881.

8. *Uria lomvia*, Brunnich's Murre. The record of this bird, a northern marine species, is a strange and interesting one. It was first noticed in this vicinity November, 1887, near Papineauville (G. White), but in December. 6-12, 1897, it came to Ottawa in numbers for the first time. Since then the bird comes almost every year, and about the same time. In 1907, they began to arrive on November 25th, but in 1908 the first ones, 400-500, were seen on December 19th. The bulk of these flights seems to be heading towards the Great Lakes via the Rideau River. and lakes; the remainder presumably towards James Bay. Probably none of these birds ever get back to their native sea coast; they are picked up dead and dying in the country traversed by them. They die of starvation. Why they should

thus migrate to their doom with such persistency is difficult to explain. Many are, of course, also shot by gunners.

ORDER LONGIPENNES—LONG-WINGED SWIMMERS.

STERCORARIIDÆ—SKUAS AND JAEGER.

9. *Stercorarius parasiticus*, Parasitic Jaeger. Another marine species of the north which can only be a rare accidental visitor here. A young bird was shot on September 4th, 1909, on the Ottawa, near the mouth of the Lievre River, and is now in the writer's collection.

LARIDÆ—GULLS AND TERNS.

10. *Larus hyperboreus*, Glaucous Gull. This arctic species has been but lately added to the Ottawa list. On December 2nd, 1905, Mr. E. Bedard of the Rifle Range shot the first specimen. He claims that this species forms a part of the enormous flights of gulls and terns moving regularly up and down the river. They are easily distinguished from the Herring Gulls. Other dates of Mr. Bedard are: March 26th, 1907, eleven seen; April 5th, 10th, and 12th, 1908, and March 31st, 1909.

11. *Larus marinus*, Great Black-backed Gull. A casual visitor. May 2nd, 1885, one was seen near Kettle Island (G. White); also one at the same place April 9th, 1906, by the writer.

12. *Larus argentatus*, Herring Gull. This fine bird is a moderately common breeder here and a sometimes abundant migrant. The bulk come at end of March and beginning of April, the earliest date being March 26th, 1904. The species breeds along the Ottawa in suitable localities and on the lakes northward. The bird has been seen here as late as December 7th (1907).

13. *Larus delawarensis*, Ring-billed Gull. This common species of the Great Lakes and the sea coast undoubtedly has always been among the hosts of migrant birds passing up and down the Ottawa, still the first definite record of it for Ottawa was only made in December, 1908, when Mr. E. Bedard captured one alive. He kept it with several ducks in a small enclosure, where it developed an unsuspected amount of viciousness in attacking, killing and then eating his fellow-captives.

14. *Larus philadelphia*, Bonaparte's Gull. This is a not uncommon migrant, which in early May is sometimes found in numbers over the river. It probably nests on some of the lakes not far north of here, as young birds are found here in August. Earliest and latest dates are: May 2nd (1908), and October 7th (1907).

15. *Sterna hirundo*, Common Tern; Wilson's Tern. A casual visitor and probably a more common regular migrant

than known. For, after a few isolated records of its occurrence here had been made up to 1909 it suddenly, on the 30th of May and 1st of June of that year, appeared in great numbers over the river, flying westward. Many surprises like that and probably a number of unrecorded species would undoubtedly await one who could give his whole time to watching the river during migration.

16. *Sterna paradisæa*, Arctic Tern. This delicate, beautiful "sea-swallow" has been seen and taken for the first time on the same day, 30th of May, 1909, as the preceding species. They were probably heading for James Bay. The presence of these ocean birds in numbers on certain days, shows that the Ottawa is a migration route of greater importance than has hitherto been supposed.

17. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*, Black Tern. This inhabitant of large inland marshes is a rare casual visitor here. On May 28th, 1888, Mr. E. White saw six on the Ottawa, and Mr. McCarthy took one at Britannia, August, 1908.

ORDER STEGANOPODES—TOTIPALMATE SWIMMERS.

SULIDÆ—GANNETS.

18. *Sula bassana*, Gannet. This is another marine species that can now be taken into a list of Ottawa birds for the first time, it having been first recorded and taken at Shirley's Bay on October 14th, 1909. It, otherwise, is found only in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and along the northern coasts and islands both in the Old and New World, and even here in certain circumscribed localities only.

PHALACROCORACIDÆ—CORMORANTS.

19. *Phalacrocorax auritus*, Double-crested Cormorant. A casual visitor. One was taken about 1st October, 1890, at Shirley's Bay; a later date is October 17th, 1904, when one was brought in to Mr. Henry, the taxidermist. Finally, on May 27th, 1906, Mr. Gemmill shot one on the Ottawa River. Probably commoner than supposed.

PELECANIDÆ—PELICANS.

20. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*, White Pelican. This fine large white bird is entitled to a place on this list on the strength of a specimen captured at Manotick, 12 miles from Ottawa, May 26th, 1904, and reported by the late Dr. Whiteaves in THE OTTAWA NATURALIST.

ORDER ANSERES—LAMELLIROSTRAL SWIMMERS.

ANATIDÆ—DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS.

21. *Mergus americanus*, American Merganser. A common migrant and a not uncommon breeder. It may almost be said to be a resident, as witness these dates: 12th November, 20th

December, 1908 (17 seen), 12 January, 1909 (3 seen). The bulk of the species, however, arrive from about April 6th to 18th. At Arnprior Mr. H. U. Morris saw a female with eight young on June 12th, 1909.

22. *Mergus serrator*, Red-breasted Merganser. A much rarer migrant and breeder than the preceding. Breeds in the sloughs and ponds near Templeton, where on June 20th, 1897, Mr. G. White saw ten young able to follow their mother. Dates: April 1st, October 20th.

23. *Lophodytes cucullatus*, Hooded Merganser. A common summer resident and abundant migrant. In autumn many are brought to the market by gunners. Like the American Merganser it breeds in cavities in hollow trees or stumps. Dates from April 3rd (1906), to November 6th (1905).

24. *Anas platyrhynchos*, Mallard. A regular but rare spring and fall visitor. Much less common than farther west or south. On April 6th, 1909, Mr. E. Bedard saw one and on October 19th and November 6th, 1905, Mr. E. White saw several in Lochaber Bay, near Rockland.

25. *Anas rubripes*, Black Duck. The old well-known and well-beloved Black Duck, *Anas obscura*, has of late been made into two species, *A. rubripes* and *A. tristis*, the Red-legged and the Black-legged Black Duck, by Mr. William Brewster, of Cambridge, Massachusetts. He claims for the red-legged kind larger size, more northerly breeding range and some differences in coloration from the other, the black-legged species. Other authorities, like Dr. Dwight, of New York, claim that these differences are only due to difference in age, so that there would, after all, be but one species. Without entering into a discussion of this matter here, we can say that, if there are two kinds, we have both. However, most of the Black Ducks shot in this vicinity are the large, red-legged kind, *Anas rubripes*. This is a common migrant and breeder here, arriving from the 2nd of April on, and some staying well into November (17th, 1909). They breed in sloughs and similar localities.

26. *Anas tristis*, Black-legged Black Duck. In October, 1908, Mr. E. Bedard captured two from a small flock and kept them alive for a long time. One had blackish feet and bill, the other red legs and green bill; both, however, were of small size, and both were taken from what seemed to be one family. This would lend color to the contention that these differences are but phases in the appearance of the one species.

Anas platyrhynchos, *Anas rubripes* or *tristis*, Brewer's Duck. The hybrid form between Mallard and Black Duck is one of not too infrequent occurrence here.

27. *Chaulelasmus streperus*, Gadwell. Rare accidental visitor.

A female was shot on the Ottawa from a small flock October 29th, 1885, by Mr. W. F. Whitcher.

28. *Mareca americana*, Baldpate. A regular but rather scarce spring and fall visitor; more common formerly. Dates: April 20th, 1906, a pair at the Rifle Range; November 6th, 1905, three seen in Lochaber Bay.

29. *Nettion carolinense*, Green-winged Teal. A rare migrant or spring and fall visitor; apparently much rarer in spring than fall, when a small number of young ones are to be seen in market. On October 12th, 1908, three were taken at Shirley's Bay and in the same year three spent all August in a small pond near Hurdman's Bridge.

30. *Querquedula discors*, Blue-winged Teal. A moderately common migrant and breeder. More common than the preceding species. Arrives about May 1st and leaves about middle of October. On May 24th, 1908, one was seen dabbling in shallow water along Beaver Meadow water-front. They breed also on Kettle and Duck Islands and similar localities.

31. *Spatula clypeata*, Shoveller. A scarce fall visitor. The following are all the available dates: fall of 1882; two seen October, 1883; two shot in 1886 by Mr. W. P. Lett; on September 16th, 1908, Mr. G. White shot two near Rockland and on November 2nd of the same year, he saw four at the same place, all birds of the year.

32. *Dafila acuta*, Pintail. A rare spring and fall visitor. Arrives about middle of April and leaves in November. Mr. E. White saw several at Bear Brook April 13th, 1905, and saw many and shot several at Lochaber Bay, November 6th, 1905.

33. *Aix sponsa*, Wood Duck. This most beautiful of all ducks still holds its own with us as common migrant and breeder. Along wooded streams and on sylvan lakes and ponds, where it can find cavities in trees and stumps for its nest, the Wood Duck may be found over all the Ottawa district throughout summer. In fall many are brought into the market by gunners, mostly plainly plumed young birds, but also a number of the fine adult drakes. These should not be shot, for it is a pity to destroy and pluck so much beauty, besides the bird is on the vanishing list over a large part of its territory. They arrive during the first half of April (dates: April 6th, 12th, 15th, 16th), and leave in October (October 19th, 1905, twenty seen in Lochaber Bay). The latest date I have is November 6th, 1903.

34. *Marila americana*, Redhead. A rare fall visitor. On October 17th, 1907, Mr. E. White saw a flock on Shirley's Bay.

35. *Marila vallisneria*, Canvas-back. This desideratum of all epicures is an even rarer fall visitor than the Redhead. On October 28th, 1906, one was shot here.

36. *Marila marila*, Scaup Duck; Greater Blue-bill; Black-head. One of our most common migrants. In April large flights can be seen travelling westward over the Ottawa and in October eastward. This species, together with the Black Duck, Hooded Merganser and Golden-eye, furnish the greater number of the ducks brought into our market in fall, it being second in point of numbers. Dates: April 6th, (1909); November 9th (1908).

37. *Marila affinis*, Lesser Scaup Duck, Lesser Blue-bill. A much less common migrant than the preceding. On October 12th, 1908, Mr. N. Lachance took one on Shirley's Bay; November 6th, 1905, Mr. E. White a fine adult male on Lochaber Bay, and November 15th, 1903, one on the Rideau.

38. *Marila collaris*, Ring-necked Duck. Another far from common spring and fall visitor. May probably sometimes be overlooked and taken for the Greater Scaup, which it much resembles. On October 27th, 1907, Mr. N. Lachance shot several on Shirley's Bay.

39. *Clangula clangula americana*, Golden-eye; Whistler. An abundant migrant, and not a few remain with us all winter on open places in the rivers, as along the Des Chenes Rapids. The first migratory ones are seen along the Ottawa, March 24th (1908), and the remaining days of March, but during the first half of April large flights can be seen ascending the river, the last date for the spring migration being May 3rd (1908). The return movement is heaviest in October and early in November.

40. *Charitonetta albeola*, Buffle-head; Butter-ball. This rotund little duck is a moderately common migrant. In the flocks of migrating ducks usually a few of this species are seen, as on April 17th, 1908, when Mr. E. Bedard saw five among hundreds of other ducks at the Rifle Range. On October 22nd, 1906, Mr. N. Lachance saw nine on Shirley's Bay, among them a fine adult male, one of the latter also being brought to the market on the 26th of the same month.

41. *Harelda hyemalis*, Old Squaw; Long-tailed Duck. An abundant migrant from and to Hudson Bay and the far north. The vanguard arrives about April 2nd, but from the 16th to May 16th large flocks pass westward via the Ottawa, returning during the end of October, well into November, on the 9th of which (1905) a male was shot on Brewery Creek and presented to the writer.

42. *Somateria dresseri*, American Eider. A rare accidental visitor, though it probably is sometimes overlooked. A young male was shot by Mr. G. White on the Ottawa, November 9th, 1889. This is the only positive record so far.

43. *Somateria spectabilis*, King Eider. This is another northern marine species which now makes its appearance on the

Ottawa list for the first time. Up to November 2nd, 1908, there were no records of it, when Mr. E. Bedard shot four young birds at the Rifle Range, out of a flock of about 75, which went up the river as far as Pembroke, where they were also seen. On December 2nd of the same year, another flock came along, out of which ten or more were shot near Ketchum's boathouse. Next day more went up. Finally, May 8th, 1909, Mr. E. Bedard claims to have seen 28 passing up the river. Either this species is now changing its habits and migration routes, or they have, until 1908, been overlooked.

44. *Oidemia americana*, American Scoter. An irregular and rather rare spring and fall visitor, unless they also will deign to visit us more often in future. On May 4th, 1909, and May 5th, 1908, Mr. E. Bedard saw several flocks of Scoters passing up the river. On September 1st, 1908, a fine adult male was in the market here, shot nearby, and on October 7th of same year two immature specimens.

45. *Oidemia deglandi*, White-winged Scoter. Of the same undecided status as the preceding species. The dates I have are: October 28th, 1904, one in the market; October 22nd, 1906, Mr. N. Lachance saw seven at Shirley's Bay, out of which he shot two immature specimens; May 4th, 1909, Mr. E. Bedard shot one near the Rifle Range.

46. *Oidemia perspicillata*, Surf Scoter. Like the foregoing, if anything rarer. On October 13th, 1908, Mr. E. Bedard shot an adult male, and on October 29th of same year three immature ones.

47. *Erismatura jamaicensis*, Ruddy Duck. A rare irregular fall visitor. On October 15th, 1907, Mr. N. Lachance shot a young female on Shirley's Bay.

48. *Chen hyperborea nivalis*, Greater Snow Goose. Apparently other geese than the Canada Goose pass over our district, but until more are secured this species must be put down as a very rare accidental visitor. The only available record goes as far back as 1867, when Dr. Van Cortlandt shot one above the Chaudiere Falls, the head and wings of which were in the possession of the Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society until destroyed by moths.

49. *Chen caerulescens*, Blue Goose. Another extremely rare accidental visitor here from the far north. Three specimens of this goose were shot by Mr. G. R. White within a few miles of the city on October 11th, 1886.

50. *Branta canadensis*, Canada Goose. This magnificent and truly Canadian bird is a common migrant here and until within comparatively recent years undoubtedly bred in the district. I was told by natives that it nested, till lately, at Echo

Beach Lake, Quebec, about 35 miles in a straight line from the city. The earliest date for its arrival here from the south which I have is March 16th (1898). From then till well into May (9th, 1907) its wedge-shaped flocks enliven the air, and again in the fall from October 11th to about November, 20th.

51. *Branta bernicla*, Brant. This abundant eastern migrant is only a very rare accidental visitor with us, the only record being a specimen shot some thirty miles down the river by Mr. P. Thompson in the fall of 1887.

ORDER HERODIONES—HERONS, STORKS, IBISES, ETC.

ARDEIDÆ—HERONS, BITTERN.

52. *Botaurus lentiginosus*, Bittern. A common summer resident, breeding in large and small swamps and sloughs. They come in the spring as early as April 6th, and stragglers remain as late as October 30th.

53. *Ixobrychus exilis*, Least Bittern. A very rare summer resident at Shirley's Bay.

54. *Ardea herodias*, Great Blue Heron. This large bird, popularly but erroneously called "Blue Crane," is still a common figure with us, though most possessors of guns deem it a piece of great heroism and marksmanship to kill every one they see. Its heronies, collections of big bulky nests up in trees in swampy, flooded woods, are found here and there in the district. Extreme dates of arrival and departure are: March 17th (1907), and November 17th (1909).

55. *Butorides virescens*, Green Heron. A rare visitor to us from further south, in the fall. It has been taken once by Mr. W. E. Saunders on the banks of the Rideau. As it nests not far to the south of us, along the St. Lawrence, and as this species has the habit in common with other herons to take a little ramble northward from their breeding grounds before departing to the south in fall, it should be looked for more assiduously and will probably be found more regularly.

56. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*, Black-crowned Night Heron. This is a summer resident of circumscribed local distribution. It nests on Kettle Island, and there it is not rare, otherwise it is. But even at Kettle Island, birds in the adult plumage are rare and none had been taken here till September 10th, 1907, when Mr. E. White shot two adult males in a little spruce and cedar thicket near Hurdman's Bridge. One was seen by him also late as October 19th (1905) in Lochaber Bay.

(To be continued.)



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