

ing January they gradually decreased but returned again on February 10, when about one hundred were seen. As many others were reported from the surrounding district, this year's migration easily surpassed all the others of which I have record. They remained common until May 21, when all disappeared. As they were here from October 29 to May 21, their breeding grounds cannot possibly be very far north.

1917-18.—Although their favorite food was abundant last winter, not a single bird has been seen or heard of up to this date (April 1). In Bird-Lore's 1917 Christmas Census, there is a single record, viz: Benington, Vermont, but I am inclined to doubt the correctness of this, as it is the only record from all the north-eastern States and eastern Canada.

### A PROTECTED NEST OF THE BALD EAGLE.

BY W. E. SAUNDERS.

(Read at a Meeting of the McIlwraith Ornithological Club.)

On April 15th, 1916, I had the privilege of visiting the nest of a Bald Eagle on the farm of Mr. J. W. Gilbert on the lake shore west of Tyrconnell. Mr. Gilbert has taken a personal interest in this bird and his neighbors understand that he values its company and does not wish the birds to be shot. Consequently, it is no surprise to learn that they have nested in his woods for twenty-five years and that the memory of the oldest inhabitant proves that eagles have nested within three or four hundred yards of the present location since the first coming of the whites to Ontario.

For many years the birds were in an enormous chestnut tree which blew down about 1908, when they moved to the north side of the woods where they now are.

The 1916 nest is in a very large buttonwood tree thirteen feet in circumference and is placed in the highest available position, which I judge to be at least ninety feet from the ground. Less than 100 yards away is another nest which was used for perhaps only one or two seasons and then abandoned, possibly for the reason that the limb on which it was placed was dead and, therefore, dangerous. It is in an elm on an ascending branch which angles and curves a good deal as it rises and, therefore, looks as though the birds were justified in leaving it.

Some years since, Mr. Gilbert cut down the north end of his woods, leaving the eagle tree somewhat isolated, but this has made no difference

in the use of that tree by the birds.

The size of the present nest would indicate that they have used it for six or eight years at least and the tameness of the female bird proves clearly that she has been protected. Mr. Gilbert met us on the road opposite the nest and as we went in the bird flew when we got within seventy-five yards of the tree, but while she scolded she was evidently not alarmed and by the time we got under the nest she settled in the tree and after circling a few times more she went directly on the nest while we were beneath it. She seemed to consider it outrageous when I rapped on the tree to request her to get off, and she complied in a very noisy manner but she soon lit in the tree again.

Doubtless the eggs were very near hatching or had hatched as these birds are supposed to lay in March and after the incubation period the young remain in the nest for a couple of months.

Six years ago one of these birds was shot in the spring and Mr. Gilbert was afraid that he was going to lose his eagles after all as the remaining bird left almost at once, but after having been away for four days it returned with a new mate to the great satisfaction of the owner of the wood.

I questioned him about possible injury to fowl from the presence of these birds but he had not noticed any at all. Moreover, he said that he was so interested in the birds and they were such a joy to see in the air that he thought that if they did take a chicken even as often as every month or two during the year, such loss would not be a high price to pay for the enjoyment he got from their presence.

The food of these birds consists almost entirely of fish which they pick up on the lake shore a quarter of a mile distant.

All through the country along the north shore of Lake Erie eagles formerly nested at intervals of only a few miles but a great many of these have been killed by misguided effort and there are not many of them left.

It would have been well if the Ontario Government had included large and spectacular birds like this species in their recent legislation protecting the game birds for the next few years.

The Forestry Branch of the Dominion Department of the Interior has just issued Bulletin No. 65 on Wood-Using Industries of Quebec. This is a valuable contribution of 89 pages and is published in both French and English. It has been compiled by Messrs. R. G. Lewis and J. A. Doucet. Application for the bulletin should be addressed to The Director of Forestry, Department of the Interior, Ottawa.