

fair, that is to say, blowing in the direction of their march, they take wing again and fly probably another 700 miles without stopping.

The brant or barnacle geese are nearly as good flyers as the Canada geese, but they keep to themselves and seem to be in a greater hurry to get south. Then come along vast streams of duck, including the mergansers—the red breasted ones of this variety being the most numerous—mallard, teal, black and wood ducks and the great northern loon drive past on the storm with their goblin cry. Following these are the robins, thrushes, meadowlarks, bobolinks, kingfishers, woodpeckers (the golden-wing nearly always leading), nut hatches and the cawing crows, which are the noisiest of all. They seem to forget all discipline, and fill the night air with their scolding.

Only a few nights ago a party of scientists went down after sunset to Bedloe's Island to witness the passage of the birds, and to note whatever might occur to them as being worthy of subsequent enquiry. A report of their observations will soon be completed and ready for publication in the official records.

The night selected was one immediately following the cold snap, and the scientists, well wrapped in their winter coats, made their way to the upper gallery of the Statue of Liberty, and took their places under the flaming torch of the goddess. They waited two or three hours, but not a bird came in sight. Presently, however, masses resembling dark clouds appeared to windward, and the party soon recognized that the advance guard and main body of a great army of birds were approaching. There were many stragglers, and some of these flew against the granite base of the statue; others fairly pelted the goddess, while others peered around the light and brushed the faces of the

observers with their wings. The main body of the birds kept high up in the heavens and flew right along. The scientists secured about a score of birds in their nets and kept them until daylight, when, after determining their species, they let them go. The stream of birds kept up until dawn, when they all sheered away from the light.

A curious and interesting fact is that in 1886, soon after the statue was first lighted, over 1,000 birds were picked up about the base of the tower on a morning following a dark night. Each year following this number has gradually decreased until it is unusual for more than from 200 to 300 to be found after a stormy dark night. This would seem to show that the danger of being allured by the brilliancy of the goddess torch is becoming known to all the Atlantic coast birds of passage.

One of the most interesting things in connection with these night flying birds is the apparently perfect system of signalling that they maintain when sometimes they are half a mile high in the air. They seemed to have arranged a code of signals by whistling. The note is, of course, peculiar to the bird, and is used among other notes when singing, but for the purpose of signalling this note is only used. The bobolink, for instance, who has a wide range of song when on the passage, has but one cry, and he advises the main body of any threatened danger by whistling "spink, spink."

The birds that lead the main body are veterans who have made the march north and south for half a dozen years. The signal of a wild goose is a loud "honk." The kingfisher, who chatters in his summer creek and scolds so that you might almost imagine that he was a human being, simply gives a scream or a single resonant note, which keeps his forces