

These were called rookeries, but he believed they were not only roosting places but breeding grounds also. At the time of his youth, near Brougham, east of Toronto, pigeons were plentiful at all times after the wheat was cut, and when hunters went out looking for pigeons they felt certain of finding them in almost every field of wheat stubble. Some years before there had been a rookery a few miles north of Brougham, where there were plenty of young to be seen, and no doubt the birds nested. The migrations took place in the same immense flocks as Dr. Bethune had described; some of them would darken the sky, but he could not recall the shape of them.

Mr. T. C. Scott, said that in the summers of '69 and '70 in Halton County, there occurred the last flights that he could recollect. He remembered counting as many as twenty flocks passing while he was on his way from the house to the school; all of these flocks were widely extended east and west, but not many yards in depth. On the mountains near Milton, there was a large pine forest, and old hunters said that during the regular spring flights, the pigeons rested on the mountains after having crossed the lake, alighting on the trees so thickly that the limbs would break with their weight. This occurred every year as though it were a settled habit with the pigeons to rest in this place. He, too, had noticed the great width and short depth of the flocks.

Mr. J. E. Keays had heard his father describe how the farmers used to salt several barrels of pigeons breasts for winter use.

Mr. Saunders read from his note book the records he had kept of the flight of the pigeons, showing that the last regular flocks he had seen near London were in 1876. After that, five or ten birds at a time were seen, for two or three years, and then no further regular migration was noted in the spring at all, but occasional birds in ones, twos or threes, have been seen near London up to as late as '95. At Point Pelee small flocks of 5 to 20 were seen in August 1882, which may have bred there.

The latest record of birds that probably bred in the London District is that of 3 or 4 birds, a male, female and young, which were seen and the female and one young shot, about 15 miles east of London, on September 24th, 1885.