

THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST

VOL. XXXIV.

OTTAWA, ONT., DECEMBER, 1920

No. 9

THE VERTEBRATES OF THE OTTER LAKE REGION, DORSET, ONTARIO.

By A. H. WRIGHT AND S. E. R. SIMPSON.

(Continued from Vol. XXXIV, page 145).

IV.—THE BIRDS.

By A. H. WRIGHT AND S. E. R. SIMPSON.

The birds of this region have received attention through all the years of this camp's establishment. Each year either at the beginning of camp or in the later portion, bird contests have been held and almost every year of its ten years' existence the camp has had a naturalist among the councillors in residence from June 28 or July 1 to September 1 or 10. This list is based mainly on the records of the two authors for the seasons of 1913 and 1919, and is now put in form to stimulate recording of subsequent finds. We are sure there are forms omitted but some of the naturalists did not keep notes and prefer to leave almost certain observations unrecorded because of memory's tricks. Our list then is almost solely a summer list with several additions in prospect. It numbers 122 species. Comparable notes are those of Messrs. W. E. Saunders¹ and John M. Cooper² on birds observed in Algonquin Park.

Our greatest thanks are due to Mr. J. H. Fleming³ for his courtesies previous to our trip. In many ways the most useful list in the field was his "List of the Birds of the Districts of Parry Sound and Muskoka, Ontario," also his "Birds of Toronto."⁴

The authors have found very helpful Macoun's and Macoun's Cat. of Canadian Birds; the works of C. W. Nash and Thomas McIlwraith; and the subsequent work on "Birds of Eastern Canada, 1919," by P. A. Taverner to whom they owe favors for assistance in 1913. Of assistance were the three lists of "Birds of Ottawa" in this journal (1881, 1891, 1910-11). Subsequent work can well center on fall migration, breeding data, more

records of waterfowl, shore-birds and birds-of-prey. There are twenty or more species yet to be sought in summer or previous records which need verification.

1. *Colymbus auritus* Linn. Horned Grebe.

One reported from Lake of Bays, August 22, 1911, by Mrs. J. M. Haber.

2. *Podilymbus podiceps* (Linn.). Pied-billed Grebe.

Present in summer but scarce in this region. Mr. G. M. O'Connell reports them from Lower Fletcher lake where the residents claim they were more common in earlier days.

3. *Gavia immer* (Brunn.). Loon.

Common on all the lakes and one of the most distinctive birds of the Lake of Bays country. A nest with two eggs found on an island in Otter lake the last week of June, 1919. Later, July 7, two young were seen on Otter lake. In 1913, the newly hatched egg shells were found on an island on Otter lake. Young not infrequently observed throughout the region. Several nests have been found on Otter lake since the camp was established.

4. *Larus argentatus* Pont. Herring Gull.

Common on Lake of Bays; less frequent in the smaller lakes to the northward.

5. *Mergus americanus* Cass. American Merganser.

The most common duck of the lakes of this region. Every lake has a pair or more and one of the most spirited sights is a parent bird with its young. They either swim away or frequently half swim and half fly along the surface to a safe distance. These broods are frequently recorded in the first weeks of July and even later.

6. *Lophodytes cucullatus* (Linn.). Hooded Merganser.

Mr. L. A. Fuertes observed a female with a flock of four to five young.

7. *Anas rubripes* Brewster. Black Duck.

In 1919 common on all the lakes in August and present every season.

(1) Saunders, W. E., Birds of Algonquin Park. The Ottawa Naturalist, Vol. XXIX., Feb., 1916, No. 11, pp. 145-150.

(2) Cooper, J. M., Ottawa Naturalist, XXX., No. 10, Jan., 1917, pp. 125-129.

(3) Auk., Vol. XVIII., pp. 33-45.

(4) Auk., Vol. XXIII., pp. 437-453; XXIV., 71-89. Also "Birds" in "Natural History of the Toronto Region, 1913," pp. 212-237.