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## LAKE-SHORE BIRD MIGRATION AT BEAMSVILLE, ONTARIO.

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The following field notes were gathered during the summer and autumn of 1918. While in the service of the Royal Air Force the writer was stationed upon the south shore of Lake Ontario almost due north of the town of Beamsville. Here in checking the aerial gunnery practice six or seven hours were spent daily up in a fifty-foot tower at the water's edge. Periods on duty ranged from daylight until dark. As every day was spent largely out-of-doors and duty commenced on alternate mornings at dawn, excellent opportunity for observation was afforded. A rough bird census was taken daily and new migrants and disappearances thus noted.

The country surrounding the tower and within range of the field glasses consisted of the open lake northward, and to the south stretched a flat typically peninsular farming land of fields and orchards interspersed with remnant wood lots. Most of the notes were gathered from the tower; unless otherwise stated, each record following may be so taken. A few birds were noted in the woods to southward that did not show themselves close to the water.

The course of migration here was from east to west. A great many birds followed the shore and it was plain very early in the season that this was a pathway. Many expected species, however, notably the hawks, were disappointments, and the following gleanings may be as noteworthy for their omissions as their records. Nearly all migrants chose the fine days for moving and almost invariably passed during the early morning hours, or before 9 a.m. There was little movement in the afternoon. The bobolinks, bluebirds, blackbirds, snowflakes, horned larks, waxwings, pipits and swallows made a procession of it here; other species were more retiring and veiled their movements. Birds not mentioned in the following list were not seen in the autumn. No specimens were taken. Where any doubt existed in the mind of the writer, the record is marked so (?). The number in italics after the date gives the number of birds seen. The last notes were made November 26.

*Colymbus auritus*, Horned Grebe. Oct. 5, first noted; small company. Oct. 13, hundreds occupying waters near shore for several miles. They became quite callous to machine-gun fire and were very numerous till the end of the month. Only on rare occasions was one of these divers noted in flight. Numbers declined as follows: Nov. 6 (50); Nov. 8 (50); Nov. 16 (1); Nov. 18 (few); Nov. 26 (1).

*Gavia imber*, Loon. Aug. 10 (1); Aug. 20 (1); Sept. 30 (1). During October seen almost daily and often in flight. Nov. 1 (2 in flight); Nov. 6 (young); Nov. 11 (1); Nov. 19 (one flying high south-east across the peninsula).

*Larus argentatus*, Herring Gull. Aug. 17 (6)? Owing to the difficulty in distinguishing this from the next species, no exact record could be kept.

*Argentatus* was noted in September and October but very sparingly, and in November the numbers rose and fell apparently with the weather. Nov. 4 (numerous); Nov. 7 (beautiful adult picked up on shore); Nov. 20 (numerous); Nov. 26 (adult and young).

*Larus delawarensis*, Ring-billed Gull. Much more common than the preceding species up till November. July 21, July 28, Sept. 26, Oct. 13, Oct. 17, Oct. 19 (young); Oct. 23, 26 and 29 (numerous); Nov. 10.

*Larus philadelphia*, Bonaparte's Gull. Oct. 13 (flock); Oct. 17, Oct. 31, Nov. 1 (flock). Observed also Nov. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 18. Unlike the larger gulls, this bird almost invariably was posting west close to shore.

*Sterna caspia*, Caspian Tern. Sept. 4 (3); Sept. 25 (2). One of these birds in the first instance and both in the second were travelling east fairly close to shore.

*Sterna hirundo*, Common Tern. Aug. 19 (12); Aug. 22 (3); Aug. 25 (2); Sept. 6 (flock); Sept. 17 (11); Oct. 1 (20); Oct. 2 (three flocks). In nearly all cases moving westward, low.

*Phalacrocorax dilophus*, Double-crested Cormorant. On Nov. 21, 23 and 24, a lone bird, doubt-