

WINTER BIRDS OF THE OKANAGAN DISTRICT B. C.,

By Allan Brooks.

During two seasons spent hunting and collecting in the Okanagan district I was very much surprised to note the abundance of bird life in winter as compared with Central Ontario, which has a correspondingly severe winter. Not only were there a greater number of species actually wintering there, but the numerical strength of representative species was greatly in excess of such species allies in Ontario.

I might also have included in the list such species as Western Robin, and Varied Thrush as I noticed these several times at a very late date, after the snow had fallen.

I spent most of my time between Okanagan and Arrow Lakes in lat. 50 a district including every variety of country from sage brush to bunch grass and scattered pines (*Pinus ponderosa*) to the heavily timbered mountains.

The altitude of Vernon is about 1240 ft.

WINTER RESIDENTS OF THE OKANAGAN DISTRICT, B. C.,

JECHMOPHORUS OCCIDENTALIS. Western Grebe. A few remain all winter.

COLYMBUS HOLBELLII. Holbells Grebe. Common.

COLYMBUS AURITUS. Horned Grebe. Common.

LARUS GLAUDESCENS. Glaucous-winged Gull.

“ *CALIFORNICUS*. California “

“ *DELAWARENSIS*. Ring-billed “

These were the only gulls identified during the winter months.

PHALACROCORAX. Sp? I noticed an immature cormorant on Okanagan Lake, January '98.

MERGANSER AMERICANUS. American Merganser. Abundant.

MERGANSER SERRATOR. Red-breasted Merganser. Rare. “ “

LOPHODYTES CUCULLATUS. Hooded Merganser. Scarce during winter months.

ANAS BOSCHAS. Mallard. A few Mallards winter in neighborhood of Vernon; no other fluviatile ducks observed during winter months, though Widgeon and Pintail may remain.

AYTHYA VALLISNERIA. Canvas-back.

“ *AMERICANA*. Red-head.

“ *MARILA NEARCTICA*. American Scaup.

“ *AFFINIS*. Lesser Scaup.

“ *COLLARIS*. Ring-necked duck.

All of the above were identified, and associate together on Okanagan Lake.