

and sometimes selects a tree quite away from the water. The nest is almost as large as a bald eagle's, but built in a different situation. The osprey is a late breeder, the bald eagle an early breeder. The former usually lays its eggs—at least in Ontario—about May 20th, the latter about April 12th; the golden eagle about the end of April. Where not harassed and molested the two former birds are vehement in defence of their nests, and greatly resent intrusion; but I notice where they have been much disturbed, they lose spirit and do not come within gunshot of an intruder, hardly venturing to attack him if he climbs their tree.

I have not observed the osprey at Charleston Lake, or seen more than three nests in North Frontenac. One of these, in the township of Bedford, I visited with a friend on May 29th, 1903. It was built on a partially dead limb of a living maple, and is the only osprey's nest I have ever seen in a living tree. These birds were fortunate in hatching their young, which, I later learnt, they brought out in safety. But usually, as in the case of the eagles, the hue and cry is raised and the tree is either felled after the young are hatched or else the old ones are shot whilst incubating their eggs.

In some parts of North America the osprey is still fairly plentiful and is said to breed in communities, but this is not the case with our Canadian bird, which is invariably solitary, and only found in pairs widely separated. Again, in nesting, as mentioned above, the site is usually a pine, a tamarac or hemlock stub, the altitude varying from 30 to 60 feet from the ground.

In Scotland the nest was usually placed on some rocky island in a highland loch, or on a ruined tower, as at Loch Awe in Argylshire, and I believe on the coast of Maine, rocks by the sea coast or even the ground have been chosen, but not so in Ontario.

It is to be hoped these noble birds, both eagles and ospreys, may continue to enliven the beautiful lakes, and what remain of forests, in Ontario, but as matters are now proceeding, it cannot be many years before they become here, birds of the past.