

**On the Westerly Trend of Certain Fall Migrants in Eastern Maine.**

—In investigating the influence of the topography of the land upon the flights of migratory birds, an interesting point is to ascertain to what extent the more prominent physical features of a region determine the direction of these flights, and especially is this important when great natural barriers deviate in their line of extent from the general north and south trend of the paths of migration. During a limited collecting experience of two years in the vicinity of the St. Croix River, a few facts seemingly bearing on this subject have come under my notice. I frequently came in contact with some of those species that perform their migratory journeys during the day, and one circumstance that struck my attention was, that in their fall migrations they all appeared to be flying directly *west*. At first I thought it to be merely a fortuitous circumstance, but repeated observation convinced me that there must be something more in it. I have noted it most frequently in the Swallows and Swifts, and very often in the Nighthawks, and my friend, Mr. Howard H. McAdam, informs me that he has observed this westerly movement in some Hawks when migrating in flocks.

In the case of the water birds, the surrounding country is so cut up by lakes and rivers, that their evidence, unless very accurately taken, is unreliable. Mr. William Brewster, in his account of his observations on the small, night-migrating birds at Point Lepreaux light-house ('Bird Migration,' Memoirs of Nuttall Club, No. 1), states that on leaving the light they always proceeded due *west*.

The question involved is this: Whether the birds inhabiting Maine, New Brunswick, and the country further northward, proceed directly south in their autumn journey until they reach the coast line, and then massing upon the coast, take their course westward until they can again continue directly south; or whether they pass across this territory in a westerly or southwesterly direction *from the first*, holding such a course until they reach the first great migration route tending directly south. My own observations being made only from thirty to fifty miles from the sea, would have little weight, even if more thorough, but I note my experience in order to call the attention of other field workers to a point that would be of some interest to determine, and with the hope that someone else may have had a similar experience.—LOUIS M. TODD, *Calais, Maine*.

**A Bird Scare.**—At half-past three o'clock on the morning of the 26th August, I was awakened by a noise which I had some difficulty, in my drowsy condition, in making out. I first thought it was from heavy drops of rain on the zinc floor of a balcony outside of my bedroom—such drops as precede a thunderstorm—and I lay back to sleep again. The noise continued, and I then knew it was caused by some objects flying against the windows. There is an electric lamp on a level with the middle of the window and only thirty feet away, and I thought it might be some unusually large moths striking against the glass. The noise was so irritating that sleep was out of the question, and I got up and went to the