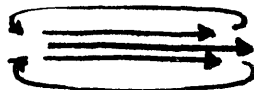


FIELD NOTES

Notes on the Roosting Behavior of Bonaparte's Gull: A cursory survey of the literature reveals a lack of data concerning the roosting behavior of gulls in general; and of the Bonaparte's Gull in particular. The following observations were made in Dunkirk Harbor in western New York. Dunkirk Harbor lies on Lake Erie and seems to be an area of high concentration of migrating Bonaparte's Gulls (5000 were observed there 23 April 1967, *Kingbird* 17(3): 154, July 1967).

On 27 April 1967 the author observed 1500 Bonaparte's Gulls in the inner harbor area: gulls were feeding, resting on the water, and sitting on a stone pier $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile out in the harbor. Little activity was observed until 7:10 P.M. when the 1000 Bonaparte's Gulls sitting on the pier rose in unison and flew to an area in the harbor approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile away (sunset was at 7:11 P.M.). The gulls were flying in a formation resembling a large conveyer belt. The birds flew in a manner suggested by the arrows at right. The area covered by the conveyer belt formation did not vary and was approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile. Every area indicated by the arrows was occupied by gulls. Some of the birds would occasionally land, and a few were feeding, but the majority only flew in the formation.



At 7:35 P.M. the sitting birds rose and the entire compact flock flew less than 15 feet above the water directly out into the lake. I watched the birds until they appeared to sit down in the lake $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile from the stone pier. The entire behavior pattern from conveyer belt formation to roosting took 25 minutes.

At 4:30 the following morning approximately 50 birds were sitting in the water in front of the stone pier at the harbor. Light intensity was very low as the sunrise was at 5:14 A.M. Observations were made from a vantage point at the side of the harbor. At 5:15 flocks of from 6 to 48 birds began to rise from the outer harbor area, where they had landed the previous night, and fly to the stone pier and inner harbor. Unlike the exodus of the previous night, the birds flew in loose groups and were over 50 feet above the water. The return of the birds to the inner harbor area stopped at 6:00 A.M., taking 45 minutes. A check of the inner harbor area revealed a total of 1500 birds, the same number as were there the previous evening.

The observations were made with 7×35 binoculars and a 20–30–40 power B & L telescope. Observations were made while collecting field data on the migratory behavior of Bonaparte's Gulls supported by the Mae P. Smith Fund of the American Museum of Natural History (N.Y.C.) and the Research Foundation of the State of N.Y.

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Migrating Flock of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Green Haven: On the morning of May 21, 1967 a full flowering cherry tree was filled with activity. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) were feeding on the nectar from the blossoms. I was able to count 15 at a time, but I am sure there were more. They kept arriving and departing in two's and three's, generally going in the direction of a brook nearby. The remaining ones, each time, seemed to resent those coming back and would scold and chase for a moment or two, then settle to feeding once more. All made their little chattering sounds constantly as they fed from the blossoms. This happened about 9:00 a.m. and continued until about noon when they left for the day.

On the 22nd I checked again in the morning and five were feeding, and on the 23rd, only two remained.

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