

**Some Rookeries on the Gulf Coast of Florida.**—In a late number of 'The Auk' (Vol. VII, p. 221) Mr. W. E. D. Scott states that "there are absolutely *no Heron rookeries* on the Gulf coast of Florida, from Anclote Keys to Cape Sable." Mr. Scott has overlooked at least one rookery of fair size.

From April 19 to May 9, 1890, I was cruising along the Gulf coast, starting from Little Sarasota Bay, going as far as Ten Thousand Islands, and returning to the point of starting. My object was to take eggs of the various species said to breed along the coast. Moving along leisurely, rarely making more than twenty miles a day, the shore and islands were examined very closely.

Going south the only rookery noticed was one at the entrance to Charlotte Harbor, east of Pine Island; it was on a small mangrove island, and only Brown Pelicans and Florida Cormorants were breeding on it, probably four or five hundred pairs. Another one, also of Pelicans and Cormorants, about a hundred pairs I judged, occupied a mangrove island about fifteen miles southeast of Cape Romano.

On returning northward Pine Island was passed on the west side, through San Carlos Bay. A Pelican and Cormorant rookery on a small mangrove island was examined, and more than two hundred nests were counted on it. Opposite Captive Pass I was attracted to a mangrove island about two hundred yards long and a hundred yards wide by seeing a large flock of Frigate Pelicans circling about high above it. The boat was pointed towards it and on nearer approach several Herons were seen flying to and from the island. It was covered with mangroves, red and black species, tall slender trees forty feet in height. About sixty or seventy Herons' nests were examined, not more than a fifth of the number seen; the two species breeding were the Louisiana Heron and the Reddish Egret. One Egret's nest was found to five of the Louisiana Heron. The majority held young birds at this date, May 3. Many Cormorants also were nesting with them but no Brown Pelicans' nests were found and none of the Frigate Pelicans'; none of the latter alighted on the island while I remained.

Ten nests of the Great Blue Heron, two holding young ready to fly, were noticed on a small island two or three miles from the heronry; about fifty pairs of Cormorants were nesting with them.—H. K. JAMISON, *Manayunk, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**Migration of the Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulvicaeus*).**—During a four weeks' cruise to the Gulf of St. Lawrence last spring, I gained considerable information concerning the migration of the Red Phalarope. I sailed from Gloucester on May 24, and the first Phalaropes were seen on the following day, being more or less abundant until reaching Cape Breton Island. They were not again seen until, passing Cape North, we entered the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The exact position of the first birds seen was lat.  $43^{\circ} 2'$ , long.  $69^{\circ} 13'$ , or 132 miles W. by N. of Seal Island on the Nova Scotia coast. At this point seven were seen at 11 A. M.,

two at 3 P. M., one between three and four, and five during the following hour, the last being in lat.  $43^{\circ} 25'$ , or 27 miles N. E. by E. half E. from the point of first observation. All were flying E. by N.

The following morning, May 26, observations were commenced at four o'clock, but no Phalaropes were seen until 5 A. M. when small bunches, estimated to contain, in all, twenty-five birds passed, flying E. by S. A single pair was seen at 1 P. M., and ten were recorded at two o'clock. Single birds were noted at 4 and 6 P. M., and an estimated number of thirty was recorded at the end of the following hour. At 8 P. M. a flock of ten or twelve was heard as they flew overhead, passing south. The position of the first record of the day was lat.  $43^{\circ} 30'$ , long.  $68^{\circ} 25'$ , and the distance between the extreme stations of observation was 82 miles, the latitude of the latter being  $43^{\circ} 47'$ , and the longitude,  $66^{\circ} 33'$ , or a position 18 miles N. W. by W. of Gannet Rock.

On the morning of the 27th we were in sight of this island, and as it was nearly calm all day, we only succeeded in passing Cape Sable by sunset. During the entire morning Phalaropes were seen coming from up the bay and flying southerly, or out to the open ocean. They were in pairs, small bunches, or flocks of a hundred or more, but towards night it grew foggy, and we came upon them by thousands, settled in rafts upon the water. When approached they would rise just out of gunshot, fly a short distance, and again settle. These very large flocks seemed to be resting, and I am certain that no migration was taking place at that particular time. We passed Cape Negro very early in the morning of May 28, and when my first record was made at 4 A. M., we were 'jogging' off Shelburne, at which place we put in at noon on account of threatening weather, remaining until the morning of May 30. During the morning, and until entering the harbor, flocks of Phalaropes varying from two to several hundred were recorded, all of which were flying out to sea.

We continued along the coast on the 30th, reaching and entering Liverpool during the latter part of the afternoon. Thousands of Phalaropes were seen during the day, flying in a leisurely way and frequently settling on the water. On the afternoon of the following day, May 31, a number of small flocks containing from three to thirty each, were seen between La Haye and Sambro Light, off Halifax; they were not nearly as abundant as on the previous day, and all were hurriedly flying to the eastward. On June 1 but three of the hourly records included Phalaropes, viz., the 6 and 11 A. M., and the 4 P. M., when one, seven, and twelve were seen, respectively, all flying E. by N., and not stopping to feed. No more were seen until we passed Cape Canso and were off Chedabucto Bay on June 3, when one was seen flying south at 4.30, and three flying east at 5 P. M., they being the last that were noted until rounding Cape North from the eastward, and although I inquired of fishermen at various times, especially at Louisbourg, off Scatari, at Sidney, and at Inganish, I failed to hear of any except a very few stragglers off Scatari Island on the 5th or 6th. I questioned very closely at Inganish and found that these birds usually passed that place, but had not been seen this year. As

they are considered one of the most reliable signs of mackerel, they would not have been readily overlooked. On the other hand, I spoke the captain of a Prince Edward's Island smack near Cape St. Lawrence, who had seen flocks aggregating as he estimated, two or three hundred, in the Gulf at about lat.  $47^{\circ}$  and long.  $61^{\circ}$  on June 5, and another skipper informed me that, while crossing from Bird Rock (the northernmost and eastern island of the Magdalen group), to Cape St. Lawrence, on June 7, he met large flocks of Phalaropes which he estimated at 5000 or more, all flying toward Bird Rock, and mackerel were also seen travelling in the same direction. My last note is of three birds seen on the morning of June 13, between Cape North and Cape St. Lawrence; they were flying east at the time.

On May 27, 28, and 30, the centre of abundance was reached among the Phalaropes and during that time there was but a single school of mackerel seen. On May 31 the main body of fish appeared, but the great rafts of Phalaropes had apparently passed to the eastward.

The Phalaropes have a variety of names which are common among the fishermen, those generally used being 'Sea Geese,' 'Mackerel Geese,' 'Whale Birds,' and 'Gulf Birds,' the latter being especially used for the species here discussed. A very technical appellation is simply 'Birds,' a term used in connection with them alone and never confounded, as there are no other birds to them except 'Chickens' (Petrels) and Hags. They are said to be very tame at times, especially when south of Cape Cod, but my observations were quite the reverse, as I was seldom able to reach them with birdshot. Some were in the perfect spring plumage but more had irregular patches of white feathers on the under parts and a few had no red markings at all; the sexual organs were not especially active in any that I dissected.

The Phalaropes, with a few other species, as the Shearwaters, Petrels, and Jaegers, are the characteristic birds at a distance from the land. The period of excessive plentifulness occurred from May 27 to 30 inclusive, and the area covered was about ninety miles broad. Our speed was very moderate and all birds which were seen when flying, pursued nearly the same course as that which we were taking, but passed by us very easily. Upon sighting land the birds became more abundant and I think it probable that the main body of Phalaropes commenced to overtake us on the 27th when off Cape Sable. They gradually increased in numbers all through that day and during the following morning when we were off Shelburne. As previously stated, we remained in that port until the 30th, and during the intervening time, a strong northerly gale was blowing, which may have retarded migration to some extent, but it is hardly probable that the movement was brought to a full stop; when we resumed our course on Friday morning, the numbers of Phalaropes were at their greatest, but nearly all had passed ahead before we reached Live:pool at 4 P. M., and on the following day birds were rare.—HARRY GORDON WHITE, *Woods Holl, Mass.*