

Notes from Northern New York. — At Chateaugay Lake, Clinton Co., N. Y., on Dec. 24, I saw a typical specimen of *Uria lomvia* which had been shot on the lake just before it was closed by the ice — that is, about Dec. 12 or 13, 1900.

On the 24th also I found the body of a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), from which the wings had been cut off, lying on top of the snow on the margin of the lake. As the last heavy snow in that section fell on Dec. 12, 1900, the bird could not have been killed before that date. The plumage was immature. — GEO. C. SHATTUCK, *Boston, Mass.*

Florida Bird Notes. — The greatest migration of birds that I have ever witnessed occurred here during about two hours of the morning of Jan. 31. The movement was composed exclusively of White-bellied Swallows, thousands of which passed headed south; wind fresh S. W., thermometer 80°. This migration was evidently caused by a cold wave in the upper portion of the State.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have been with us all winter, also Bonaparte's Gulls. This is the first season I have observed the latter here. — E. J. BROWN, *Lemon City, Florida.*

Notes from the Magdalen Islands. — I had the pleasure the past season, with Mr. C. S. Day, of spending three weeks at the Magdalen Islands. We devoted most of the time to Coffin Island and East Point, as being least known, arriving there on June 12. For four days we were isolated from the world at the wonderful Bird Rocks. The following are a few of the more noteworthy of many observations.

On June 13 Mr. Day was so fortunate as to flush a Least Sandpiper (*Tringa minutilla*) from her nest with four half-incubated eggs. The nest was a mere hollow in the 'barrens,' just back from the edge of a slough, among sparse growth of coarse grass and moss, the structural part consisting of simply a few dry bayberry leaves. The eggs were of a light grayish buff, marked rather sparsely, except at the crown, where there was a thick mass of spots and blotches. The markings were of a rich dark brown, verging on blackish at the crown, with occasional subdued lilac. In size they varied only from 1.18 to 1.20 inches in length, and from .82 to .88 in breadth. The owners were both present, and so exceedingly tame that I photographed one of them upon the nest. The love song is beautiful, a mellow twittering, emitted as the bird circles about. I met the species several times, and it is considered by the fishermen a regular and frequent breeder.

The same is their opinion regarding both the Scaup Ducks. I saw Scaups occasionally, and finally discovered a nest of the Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila nearctica*) with nine eggs, June 29, on a small island in "the Great Pond," flushing the female at very close quarters. The nest was a bed of down in the grass, the eggs fresh and notably larger than the many of the Lesser Scaup I have found in the West, ranging in

length, with one exception, from 2.50 to 2.60 inches, and in breadth from 1.70 to 1.80. In color they were almost exactly like some eggs of the Bittern that I had just taken, with a little more of an olive tinge. None of the books give this species as nesting in eastern North America, so perhaps this is the first known instance. As in the case of the Lesser Scaup, it would appear to be a late breeder. Only a few rods away, on another 'nubble,' were nests and eggs of a belated Dusky Duck, and of a habitually late-breeding Red-breasted Merganser. I also found a nest of the Blue-winged Teal on June 16, the young alive in the shell.

The Bittern, the Horned Grebe and the Rusty Grackle breed abundantly in the swamps and ponds near East Point. Of the first I found one nest with six eggs, the books giving five as the maximum. At the time of our arrival the young Rusty Grackles had just left the nests. These are very similar to nests of the Robin, and are built low down in the spruces, usually near the ends of thick boughs. I found this species only near East Point, in clumps of spruces on wet ground by the ponds. Piping and Ring-necked Plover were breeding abundantly on the long sand-bar between Grand Entry and Grindstone, but were almost wholly absent at East Point.

The stay on Bird Rock was fascinating beyond compare, amid the whirring multitudes of sea-birds. One morning we rowed over to and climbed North Bird, inspecting the Gannet colony on top. For the sake of the cause of bird-protection, I will here say that I was witness to the landing of a party of fishermen on Great Bird, after they had taken everything on North Bird that they could reach or shoot, who fired raking shots again and again into the masses of birds upon their nests, mowing them down like grass, to leave them there dead or dying,— a most horrible and pathetic sight. Will not our committee on bird-protection, the Audubon Society, and individual friends of the birds, use their influence to induce the Canadian authorities to forbid or restrict the looting of the Bird Rocks, and make the keeper of the light a warden?

In all I noted 65 species on the islands, 52 of these, at least, undoubtedly breeding. Curiously, staying mostly about East Point, I failed to find a number of the small land-birds that others have reported, but, as I had hoped, this was counterbalanced by the water-birds. Comparing my list with those of Cory, Brewster, Bishop, and Young, I have three species not recorded by them:— Barn Swallow, Mourning Warbler, and Glaucous Gull. The first of these is now common, and perhaps has come in there quite recently.

Five more species seem to be unrecorded in the breeding-season (June), namely, Bonaparte's Gull, Eider, Lesser Yellow-legs, Saw-whet Owl, and Tree Swallow. Of these last only the Saw-whet was proved to breed, by my finding a dead fledgling in a Flicker's hole. Fishermen declared that the Bonaparte's Gull breeds, but all I saw were in immature plumage.— HERBERT K. JOB, *Kent, Conn.*