

# THE AUK:

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF  
ORNITHOLOGY.

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VOL. XXVII.

JANUARY, 1910.

No. 1.

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## ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF LABRADOR.<sup>1</sup>

BY CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D., AND A. C. BENT.

### *Plates I-III.*

THE following notes are intended to supplement the 'Birds of Labrador' <sup>2</sup> published in 1907. They are the result of an ornithological excursion to the southern Labrador coast in the spring of 1909.

The itinerary was as follows: Leaving Quebec on the mail steamship on May 21, 1909, we reached the beginning of the Labrador Peninsula on May 23, some 345 miles from Quebec and 30 miles to the west of Seven Islands. This point is where the 50th parallel strikes the coast in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. From here, stopping at a few places, we skirted the coast as far as Esquimaux Point, where we left the steamer on May 24. The next day we started in a small sail boat and cruised for a week along the coast and among the islands to the eastward as far as Natashquan, about 85 miles from Esquimaux Point and some 255 miles from the westernmost point on the coast of the Labrador Peninsula. On this trip we landed and explored at Betchewun, Isles des Corneilles, Piashte-bai where we ascended the river five or six miles to the falls, Great Piashte-bai, Quatachoo and Watcheeshoo. We spent two days at Natashquan and returned by steamer on the night

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<sup>1</sup> Read before the Nuttall Ornithological Club, November 1, 1909.

<sup>2</sup> Birds of Labrador. By Charles W. Townsend, M. D. and Glover M. Allen. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. 33, No. 7, pp. 277-428, pl. 29. Boston, July, 1907. See also Townsend, Labrador Notes, Auk, Vol. XXVI, p. 201, 1909.



ISLANDS AT WATCHESHO, LABRADOR. NESTING SITES FOR GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS AND EIDERS.



PIASHTE-BAI RIVER AND LAKE, FROM BEGINNING OF HIGH LAND.

of June 1-2 to Esquimaux Point, which we established as our headquarters until June 14, making a number of day trips on foot along the coast to the east and west to the distance of five or six miles, and inland the same distance to the Romaine River. We also explored Esquimaux Island and took a three days sailing trip to Bald Island near Betchewun. On June 14 we took the steamer to Mingan where we explored the surroundings, and ascended the Mingan River three miles to the beginning of the height of land, and traversed the Indian portage path back for a few miles. On June 21 we took the steamer for our return home passing the westernmost point of the Labrador Peninsula on June 22.

In the publication of the Boston Society of Natural History it was stated that the "arctic area extends in a narrowing strip along the entire east coast and on the south coast as far west as Mingan."<sup>1</sup> The latter part of this statement was based on previously published records, and we found it to be not quite accurate, for the coast to the eastward of Mingan in places as far as Natashquan is forested to the water's edge, as is also the case with the group of limestone Mingan Islands. East of the Mingan Islands, however, the islands are largely bare and arctic in appearance and flora, but we found no evidence of breeding arctic birds such as the Pipit and Horned Lark, so common in such localities further to the eastward. In fact, at Natashquan in the barren plains we found the only instance of breeding Horned Larks.

The continuation of the range of granitic Laurentian Mountains looms up to a height of 800 to 1200 feet as a forbidding barrier all along this coast at a distance back of 2 or 3 miles at Mingan to 30 or 40 miles at Natashquan; it is the beginning of the high land of the interior. To the eastward of the Moisie River it is largely bare of tree growth, and presents from a distance a typically arctic appearance. That it is not arctic, however, our short excursion inland at Mingan proved, for we found everywhere on these barren hills evidence of a former forest growth of considerable proportions in the shape of tree stumps and trunks, which although whitened by long exposure to the weather, showed in their crevices the charred and blackened signs of a previous fire. Mr. J. A. Wilson, the

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<sup>1</sup> *Loc. cit.*, p. 282.

factor of the Hudson's Bay Company's Post at Mingan, told us that this was the result of a great fire which started at the Grand (Hamilton) River about forty years ago and swept the interior out to the shores of the Gulf where the fire front was over 100 miles wide. From the high land back of Mingan we could see some still higher land where there were patches of unbroken spruce forest, showing still more clearly the Hudsonian character of this country. All this of course explained the absence of such arctic breeding birds as the Pipit and Horned Lark. Between this high land and the sea the country consists of a succession of flat terraces, showing evidence of recent elevation above the sea, which are covered in places with spruce and fir forest, in places with extensive sphagnum bogs containing numerous small ponds. The whole region is dissected by rivers, some of which are of considerable size, and all at this season were pouring great quantities of dark brown water into the green waters of the Gulf. All are frequented by salmon which begin to ascend the rivers the second week of June. The more important of these rivers are the Ste. Marguerite, Moisie, Manitou, Shelldrake, Magpie, St. John, Mingan, Romaine, Corneille, Piashte-bai, Watcheeshoo, Nabesippi, Agwanus, Little Natashquan, and Natashquan.

In the high land these rivers form numerous rapids and falls, while in the coastal plains there are in places cuttings with high sand cliffs. Alders, paper birches and larches are common close to the water of the rivers, while the general forest consists chiefly of spruces,—the white, black and red,—and of balsam fir. A few mountain ashes and poplars also occur.

The vegetation of the bogs or barrens is similar to that of those described on the eastern coast.<sup>1</sup>

Sandy beaches abound along this strip of the Labrador coast. These are in places backed by sand cliffs, which near Clearwater Point, six miles east of Esquimaux Point, attain to a height of over 100 feet. In other places, as to the west of the Hudson's Bay Company's Post at Mingan, and also near the mouth of the Natashquan River, there are extensive sand-dunes regions. At various places along the coast between Mingan and Betchewun there are

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<sup>1</sup> *Loc. cit.*, p. 282.

gray limestone rocks, of which also the large group of Mingan Islands, from the Peroqueets on the west to St. G enevieve Island on the east, are composed. These limestones are in horizontal strata and are carved by the sea into numerous shapes of pillars, mushrooms, arches and caverns.

The high land at the westerly entrance to the Bay of Seven Islands as well as the mountainous islands there, and the islands to the eastward of the Mingan Islands are composed of Laurentian gneisses and granites, as are also the coastal ranges of mountains already referred to. The larger Mingan Islands are forested and contain elevated barrens or bogs like the mainland.

The bird fauna of this region of Labrador we found to be chiefly Canadian with a considerable Hudsonian element and of some birds that are often found in the Alleghanian zone. The only element of arctic fauna that we found was, as already stated, a pair of breeding Northern Horned Larks at Natashquan. Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and Pipits were, however, found during the earlier part of our stay on the coast, but were evidently late migrants.

Of Hudsonian birds the following we found to be summer residents in this part of the Peninsula: Pigeon Hawk, Lincoln's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Wilson's Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Alice's Thrush. White-crowned and Tree Sparrows were migrants only to the west of Betchewun. Whether they remained to breed to the east of this point we do not know as we left that region on June 1 before the migration was finished. We saw a few White-winged Crossbills and Redpolls which were apparently wandering or migrating birds. Although some of the others are birds whose range includes the Hudsonian as well as the Canadian zones, such as the Spruce Grouse, Labrador Jay, Black-poll Warbler, Winter Wren and Hudsonian Chickadee, the majority are birds of the Canadian zone, while a few, although often found in the Canadian zone, are sometimes classed as birds of the Alleghanian zone, such as the Marsh Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, American Crow, Bluejay, Black-and-white and Black-throated Green Warblers, and Redstart.

While the American Eider, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Tern and Double-crested Cormorant still breed in considerable numbers along this strip of southern coast, it is evident that Puffins

and Razor-billed Auks are rapidly diminishing their breeding numbers, while Murres and Gannets, as far as we could discover, no longer breed there. At Bald Island we found about 150 pairs of Puffins breeding, and a very few pairs probably still breed at the Peroquet Islands. As far as we could discover, probably less than two dozen pairs of the formerly abundant Razor-billed Auk breed on this coast west of Natashquan.

The cause for this diminution is not far to seek: — Indians and fishermen visit the islands with pails and collect the eggs for food. They also shoot the breeding birds. Eiders that conceal their nests under the spruce bushes are able to resist longer this war of extermination, but near Mingan and Seven Islands, where there are Indian villages occupied by these people during June and July, the Eiders are diminished very greatly in numbers. We found Indians cruising and camping at various places along the coast and witnessed their depredations on the birds. Birds that lay their eggs in colonies are of course more easily exterminated by these practices. According to the latest government census, published in 1908, the Montaignais Indians distributed along this coast number 694 in all, distributed as follows: 76 at Natashquan, 241 at Mingan, and 377 at Seven Islands. They come out of the interior with their furs the last of May and in June, and return to the interior about the middle of August. Their stay on the coast embraces the whole breeding period of the water birds.

At Mingan we were particularly impressed with the scarcity of passerine birds, which may perhaps be due to the presence there of Indian boys and their numerous small mongrel dogs that range the country, and also to their cats. We found that nearly all the Indians along this coast travelled about with cats as wigwam pets,— a fashion they are said to have adopted only of late years. Between them all the birds have but a poor showing.

The absence of Ravens and Rusty Grackles and Pine Siskins, and the rarity of shore-birds generally, of Labrador Jays, Redpolls, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Hudsonian Chickadees, and Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared to us worthy of note.

Our short stay of four weeks in Labrador was so timed that we arrived before the leaf buds had opened, and before all the snow and the winter birds had gone, and we left as summer was well

under way, after the migrants had passed, and the last summer residents had arrived. The Labrador spring is brief!

The spring migration of water birds was from west to east along the coast with the exception of that of the Brant and probably of the Old Squaw which go north over the land.

The temperature was remarkably even. The minimum thermometer registered 32° Fah. several times at night during the first ten days of our stay. The average temperature at 6 A. M. from May 23 to June 3 inclusive was 42.5°, maximum 48°, minimum 36°. The average temperature at noon for these twelve days was 50.5°, maximum 58°, minimum 44°; the average temperature at 6 P. M. for these days was 46°, maximum 53°, minimum 38°. For the thirteen days June 4 to 16 inclusive the average at 6 A. M. was 45.5°, maximum 48°, minimum 38°; at noon, average 50.8°, maximum 62° (June 10), minimum 44°; at 6 P. M., average 47.6°, maximum 50°, minimum 45°. The breaking of the thermometer prevented records during the last six days of our stay, but there was apparently no marked change.

We added three species to the list of Labrador birds, namely, the Piping Plover, Blue Jay, and Black and white Warbler. We also observed several birds whose previous records were very deficient, such as the Pintail, Purple Sandpiper, Marsh Hawk, Kingbird, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green and Nashville Warblers, and Redstart.

We wish to thank all our friends on this coast for their kindness and assistance on the trip, particularly Mr. J. A. Wilson, factor of the Hudson's Bay Company's Post at Mingan, Dr. J. E. Tremblay, government physician at Esquimaux Point, Mr. Saltzman of Betchewun, and particularly Monsieur Johan Beetz of Piashte-bai. To the last named, who has spent thirteen years on the coast, we are greatly indebted for much accurate information about the birds, as well as for specimens and kind hospitality.

In the following annotated list those marked with an \* are new to Labrador. For the convenience of future investigators we have given as many of the Indian and French vernacular names of the birds as we could obtain, for these two languages are practically the only ones spoken on this strip of coast.



NESTING HOLE OF PUFFIN



NEST OF EIDER DUCK.



## ANNOTATED LIST.

1. **Colymbus holboëlli.** HOLBCELL'S GREBE.— We saw a specimen of this bird in the collection of M. Johan Beetz taken at Piashte-bai. From all that we could learn Grebes are rare on this coast.

2. **Gavia immer.** LOON; "Huard" (Fr.); "Ournorg" (Ind).— We saw this bird commonly along the coast; most of the birds were probably migrants although we frequently saw single birds flying back and forth from the interior where they may have been breeding. We did not, however, find any of their nests in any of the numerous ponds and pools we visited near the coast. On May 23, we counted about forty of these birds from the steamer between the mouths of the Moisie and Shelldrake rivers, and we observed about the same number fly east across the mouth of the Natashquan in the course of an hour on May 31. On June 3 we saw a flock of 12, followed by 8 stragglers, fly east through the sound at Esquimaux Point. The majority of the birds seen near at hand were in full adult plumage.

3. **Gavia stellata.** RED-THROATED LOON.— We found this loon much less common than the preceding species, although we saw a few at various points along the coast. As in the case of the Loon, we found no evidence of breeding, and we were told by the Indians and others that they breed far inland.

4. **Fratercula arctica.** PUFFIN; "Peroquet."— The only colony that we visited of these interesting birds was at Bald Island near Betchewun where we found about 150 pairs breeding in holes in the mellow soil of the island and under the limestone rocks. Most of the burrows investigated contained each a female and a fresh egg on the dates of our visits, June 8 and 9, but it seemed probable that many of the birds had not begun to breed. Certainly they were spending much time in courtship on the water.

As far as we could learn the only other colony left on this entire strip of Labrador coast to the westward of Natashquan is a very small one of a few pairs at the Peroquet Islands off Mingan; or, more strictly speaking, Long Point. We passed close to these islands both coming and going, but saw no Puffins near them.

5. **Cephus grylle.** BLACK GUILLEMOT; "Sea Pigeon"; "Pigeon."— This bird was not common along this coast. We saw about 36 between Moisie and Esquimaux Point on our journey east, but as we saw only one or two on our return, we concluded that the former were merely migrants. Between Esquimaux Point and Betchewun there were eight or ten birds and between the latter point and Natashquan we saw only about fifteen. The comparative scarcity of good breeding places would account for this rarity. The only place we found evidence of their breeding was at the limestone cliffs on the east end of Esquimaux Island, where we saw two or three birds fly out from about 30 feet up. In the latter part of May we saw two birds in the white winter plumage, many in partial

moult and others in full summer plumage. A male shot on June 5 at Esquimaux Point in mixed winter and summer plumage showed no evidence of breeding.

6. **Uria troille.** MURRE; "Murmette" (Fr.).— We saw nine Murres near Agwanus on May 30, either of this species or *U. lomvia*; they were, perhaps, migrating birds. At Betchewun we were shown by Mr. Saltzman a mounted specimen of an albino of this species that he had shot there the previous winter. Mr. J. Beetz showed us a similar specimen he had shot near Piashte-bai; both were of a uniform cream white color, with white breasts.

All the men with whom we talked along the coast as far east as Natashquan stated that no Murres bred there now, but that these birds were abundant in fall and winter. In the latter season they were often found bewildered or frozen in the woods and on the sea ice. We came upon numerous remains of Murres of both species along the shores.

7. **Alca torda.** RAZOR-BILLED AUK.— On May 29, we saw five birds of this species between Quatachoo and Watcheeshoo. On the following day near some rocky islands not far from Agwanus, we saw about 25 of these birds. On June 8 and 9 we visited Bald Island off Betchewun and counted 17 of these birds. They were flying about the island and swimming in the water near by in groups of half a dozen or more. They appeared to be courting. We found no eggs, and concluded that they had not begun to lay. The limestone cliffs of the island contained suitable ledges for their eggs, and we were told they bred there regularly. We were also told that a very few might still be found breeding on the Peroqueets off Mingan, but we saw none when we passed these islands.

8. **Stercorarius parasiticus.** PARASITIC JAEGER.— On June 21 we saw from the steamer near Long Point three Jaegers apparently of this species.

9. **Pagophila alba.** IVORY GULL.— We saw the wings of an immature bird of this species at Mr. Saltzman's house at Betchewun, and were told by him and M. Beetz that this species occurred on the coast in winter.

10. **Larus hyperboreus.** GLAUCOUS GULL.— We saw two of these birds near Seven Islands on May 23, one on May 25 between Esquimaux Point and Betchewun, and one near Quatachoo on May 29. These were either migrants or non-breeding birds, and were all apparently immature in the creamy white (Hutchins) plumage.

11. **Larus marinus.** GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL; "Saddle-back"; "Le gros Goeland avec le dos noir" (Fr.).— Common summer resident; seen daily all along the coast, also over inland ponds and rivers which it visits from its breeding grounds on the coast. We found the nests of this species common on nearly all the small rocky islands visited to the eastward of Esquimaux Point, generally on the highest and most conspicuous place. On the bare rocks the nests were often bulky affairs made up of sticks, seaweed and grasses, while on the turf, they sometimes consisted of large cup-shaped depressions with elevated rims, made up only of the growing turf of grasses and mosses, without the addition of any extran-

eous material. These latter nests appeared to have been used in previous years. The nests were seldom over three or four in number on a single island, and often not more than one. They contained two or three eggs.

12. **Larus argentatus.** HERRING GULL.—Common summer resident all along the coast. Nearly all the birds seen were in full adult plumage; a mottled gray bird was rare: we saw large flocks on the islands and shore near Seven Islands, and were told that they bred there in great numbers. At Esquimaux Point they collected to the number of at least 2,000 along the flats to feed at low tide. We found several small colonies among the islands to the eastward of Esquimaux Point just beginning to lay eggs the last of May.

13. **Sterna caspia.** CASPIAN TERN.—The only previous records of this interesting bird are those of Audubon and Frazar. The latter found a colony of some two hundred pairs about twenty miles to the westward of Cape Whittle in 1884. At the mouth of the Natashquan River flying close to the sandy beach we both saw and satisfactorily identified a bird of this species on May 31. The bird was watched with glasses and we heard it scream but we unfortunately failed to secure it.

14. **Sterna hirundo.** COMMON TERN; "Stearine."—We found Terns abundant about the rocky islands between Watcheeshoo and Natashquan where they apparently bred. There were also fifteen or twenty pairs at Betchewun, at Esquimaux Point and at Mingan. The birds arrived at Esquimaux Point on June 3. All the terns identified were of this species.

15. **Sula bassana.** GANNET; "Margot" (Fr.).—On June 8, ten miles east of Esquimaux Point, we saw a Gannet in immature plumage flying west. M. Johan Beetz gave us an adult bird in the flesh that he shot on June 11 near Mingan. On June 21 we saw about 30 of these birds, all but one in adult plumage, between the Peroquet Islands and Magpie River, and we saw one the next morning near Seven Islands. We were told that although a few Gannets visited the Peroquet Island each year they had not bred there for fifteen years, a desertion that was predicted by Bryant as long ago as 1860. The last record is that of Lucas in 1887 who found "a few Gannets. . . in spite of the incessant persecution of the Indians who regularly make a clean sweep there."

16. **Phalacrocorax auritus.** DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT; "Gagatiship" (Ind.).—We observed three colonies of these birds, the only ones, as far as we could learn, in the region included. On May 26 at Seal Rocks off St. Genevieve Island we found at least 200 pairs nesting on a smooth rocky island of about an acre in extent. We counted 204 nests, including some not finished. Some of the nests were empty, others contained one, two, three, four and in a few cases five eggs. The nests were made of sticks carefully interlaced, forming in some cases structures of large size. Many were partially composed of fresh rock weed (*Fucus*) and in several we found green branches of fir or spruce. One appeared to be adorned with some gull feathers, and another with a long curling shaving. Large crabs also were not uncommon on or near the nests. The rocks and nests were thickly

bedaubed with the white excrement of the birds. The birds at this rock were all in full adult plumage, but we saw two or three birds on a rock about three miles off that appeared to be in immature plumage. At no place did we see any Common Cormorants.

On May 29 we visited a similar but smaller colony at Cormorant Isle off Watachoo and found 73 nests containing 170 eggs. On May 30 we sailed near a third colony on a rocky island off Agwanus of about the same size as the one at Cormorant Isle.

We saw single birds flying inland over the rivers at Piashte-bai and Rivière des Corneilles.

17. *Mergus americanus*. AMERICAN GOOSANDER.— On June 7 we saw 3 birds of this species flying by Eskimo Island. They were probably late migrants. M. J. Beetz told us that this species occurred in the open water of the rapids of the Piashte-bai River in winter.

18. *Mergus serrator*. RED-BREADED MERGANSER; "Bec-scic" (Fr.); "Oushuk" (In.).— We found this bird common along the coast, generally in small flocks and not in pairs.

19. *Anas rubripes*. RED-LEGGED BLACK DUCK.— Common in pairs along the coast and in the ponds.

20. *Dafila acuta*. PINTAIL.— We had a very satisfactory view of an adult male of this species as it flew from a pond in a bog back of Natashquan on June 1.

21. *Clangula clangula americana*. GOLDEN-EYE; "Plongeur" (Fr.).— We saw but very few of this species along the coast: two at Isle des Corneilles on May 28, four at Esquimaux Point on June 6, and one at the cliffs near Clearwater Point to the east of Esquimaux Point on June 10. Here on the edge of the sand cliffs over 100 feet high in an old birch stub overlooking the sea, we found the nest of this species containing 15 eggs. They were 12 feet from the ground in the stub 18 feet high.

22. *Clangula islandica*. BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE.— We learned from Monsieur J. Beetz that this species occurred regularly only in winter in the open waters of the river at Piashte-bai, and he very kindly presented us with two specimens of adult males in the flesh, that he had shot in January of the previous winter at that place, and kept in cold storage.

23. *Harelda hyemalis*. OLD SQUAW; "Coe-caw-wee" (Ind.).— We saw Old Squaws on one day only, May 23, while we were steaming along the coast between May Island and the Shelldrake River. To the west of the Moisie River we saw only about a dozen, but to the east of the Moisie and between it and the Shelldrake we saw numerous flocks of 50 to 200 birds each, and from 1,000 to 1500 birds in all. These were either on the water or flying about high in the air either to the east or west. All appeared to be in full summer plumage. As we saw none after this further down the coast, we inferred that, like the Brant, the Old Squaw migrated north over land, and this surmise was confirmed by several natives with whom we talked. Mr. Saltzman said that very few went by Betchewun in the spring, although many flew by going to the west in the fall.

24. **Histrionicus histrionicus.** HARLEQUIN DUCK; "Canard des roches" (Fr.).— We were told by Monsieur Beetz that we might find some of these birds breeding at Quatachoo, and on May 29 we saw a flock of five of this species at that place and three more, full adults, at Watcheeshoo, but we found no evidence of breeding.

25. **Somateria dresseri.** EIDER; "Moynak" (Fr.); "Meship" (Ind.).— This was the most abundant and characteristic breeding duck along the coast, particularly at and to the eastward of Esquimaux Point. To the westward of this Point we saw many migrants on our arrival in May, but on our return in the latter part of June there were but few. Thus at Mingan on June 19 we saw 3 adult males and 30 in the brown plumage, and on June 22 at Seven Islands we saw four in the brown plumage and one partially moulted male. Nearly all the birds east of this point were in full adult plumage and generally in pairs, although we saw two or three flocks of 30 or 40 each made up of brown birds with one or two adult males. In walking around Esquimaux Island on June 3 we saw at least 500 of these birds on the rocks or in the water near by. Courting was continually in progress and the love note of the male, a loud and rather pleasing *ah-ou*, was frequently heard.

We found their nests abundant, especially on the smaller islands, such as the Isles des Corneilles. The nests were either in plain view or hidden amid the dead grass, or in crevices between the rocks or under the spruce bushes. While often close to the waters they were sometimes several yards back in the middle of the islands. At the islands at Watcheeshoo on May 29, we found about 25 nests in a few hours. The usual number of eggs was five or six, in one case seven; all the eggs collected were fresh.

It is evident that Indians and fishermen along the coast consume great quantities of the eggs of this valuable bird, and also shoot many of the birds during the breeding season. It is only a question of time before they are extirpated, as is practically the case now at Seven Islands and Mingan.

26. **Oidemia americana.** SCOTER; "Macreuse" (Fr.).— We saw Scoters in large numbers all along the coast; most of them were flying to the eastward, evidently on the spring migration. They became less common during the latter part of our stay, but even on June 22, near Seven Islands, we saw about 30 White-winged and 30 Surf Scoters. Although it is said that many spend the summer here, these are probably non-breeding birds for we found no evidence of their breeding. The Scoters were in flocks large and small and did not as a rule appear to be paired. At Esquimaux Point Scoters were seen daily flying east through the Sound sometimes in large numbers.

The Surf Scoter was by far the most common of the three species, the White-winged next, while the American Scoter was comparatively rare.

27. **Oidemia deglandi.** WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.— See *O. americana*.

28. **Oidemia perspicillata.** SURF SCOTER.— This, as already stated, we found the most common of the Scoters. On May 25, near Charles Island,

these birds appeared to be in pairs. An albino of this species, taken at Piashte-bai, was shown us by Monsieur Beetz.

29. **Branta canadensis.** CANADA GOOSE; "Outard" (Fr.); "Nisk" (Ind.). — We are glad to be able to correct the statement made in the 'Birds of Labrador' that this species "is now found breeding in the interior only or in the remote north and west" for we found a nest of the Canada Goose on a small hummock in the middle of a tiny lake in a bog two or three miles from the coast at Esquimaux Point on June 11. We also saw single birds and pairs in the bogs and flying back and forth from the coast at several points between Esquimaux Point and Natashquan, and we were told by M. Cyr of the former place that when inspecting the telegraph line that runs along the coast, he occasionally caught young geese, and he stated that he once found a nest in the latter part of May between Watcheshoo and Pashasheeboo. M. Beetz confirmed these observations.

On May 27 we saw a flock of 28 Canada Geese, apparently migrants, feeding among the Isles des Corneilles, and on June 5, 17 flew north over the land back of Esquimaux Point.

30. **Branta bernicla glaucogaster.** BRANT; "Bernache" (Fr.); "Apes-tis" (Ind.). — We were told by Dr. Ross, the factor of the Hudson's Bay Company's Post at Seven Islands, and the statement was confirmed by several others, that the Brant came in thousands from the south the last of May, flying in between the islands and bedding in the inner bay. Between this date and the 15th or 20th of June they are constantly rising up and flying over the land in the direction of Hudson Bay. Mr. Charles Maloney of Mingan told us that a few were seen there in the spring flying west towards Seven Islands. Mr. Saltzman said he never saw any Brant at Betchewun. At Seven Islands the Brant are shot by the Indians and others as they fly by points, and are stalked in canoes concealed by blinds of grass or evergreen branches.

We saw none of these birds when we crossed the Bay of Seven Islands on May 23, and but one on our return on June 22, but we were told that a large migration took place in our absence.

This migration was described by Hind<sup>1</sup> who observed Brant flying north over the land at the mouth of the Moisie River on June 10, 1861. He says: "From information derived on the spot, I learned that this bird is not seen much further eastward than Mingan, on the north shore of the gulf. They are found on all parts of the coast between Mingan and the Saguenay, where they arrive about April<sup>2</sup> 20, and remain ten or twelve days. They go inland and breed on the upper lakes,<sup>3</sup> or cross over to Hudson's Bay. They come from the interior, with the other species of geese, about September 15, remain about a month, then strike direct to the south shore of the St. Lawrence, or to the island of Anticosti, where they congregate in large numbers, before their winter flight towards the South."

<sup>1</sup> Henry Youle Hind, London, 1863, Vol. I, p. 17.

<sup>2</sup> This must be a mistake for May.

<sup>3</sup> It is now known that they breed north of Lat. 83°.

31. **Lobipes lobatus.** NORTHERN PHALAROPE.— We saw only two birds of this species, one on May 25, an adult female, the other on June 8. Both were a short distance from the shore at Esquimaux Point. We saw none at any of the numerous pools and ponds visited.

32. **Gallinago delicata.** WILSON'S SNIBE; "La bécassine" (Fr.).— We found a wing of this species at Esquimaux Point.

33. **Arquatella maritima.** PURPLE SANDPIPER.— As the only previous record is that of Audubon it is interesting to record that on May 29 we saw three of these birds on an island at Quatachoo, and secured one. It was in full spring plumage showing the purple sheen on the back.

34. **Pisobia minutilla.** LEAST SANDPIPER.— We saw a few of these birds at several places along the coast and heard their flight song. We did not find it breeding, although we explored many suitable places.

35. **Ereunetes pusillus.** SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.— We saw several flocks of these sandpipers at various places but they were nowhere abundant. They were apparently migratory. Specimens of both of these small sandpipers were secured.

36. **Totanus melanoleucus.** GREATER YELLOW-LEGS; "Le Grand Chevalier a pieds jaunes" (Fr.).— Considering the number of good localities we saw surprisingly few of these birds, not more than eight or ten in all, along the entire coast. Four of these were on the main land near the Isles des Corneilles in a region that suggested the possibility of breeding.

37. **Helodromas solitarius.** SOLITARY SANDPIPER.— Only one was seen, and this on May 26 in a marsh near the Isle des Corneilles.

38. **Actitis macularia.** SPOTTED SANDPIPER.— Fairly common all along the shore, on the islands, and on the sandy shores of the rivers.

39. **Ægialitis semipalmata.** SEMIPALMATED PLOVER.— A flock of 25 migrants were seen at Esquimaux Point on June 3, and a few individuals at other places, the last on June 8 at Betchewun.

40.\* **Ægialitis meloda.** PIPING PLOVER.— Two Piping Plovers were seen at Natashquan on May 31 on the long sandy beach. This is the first record for Labrador of this species.

41. **Canachites canadensis.** HUDSONIAN SPRUCE PARTRIDGE; "Perdrix de Savin" (Fr.); "Inino" (Ind.).— This bird appeared to be fairly common in the woods about Esquimaux Point; we secured three males and one female, and saw another male. At Mingan, although we saw none, we found recent tracks and a feather in a dusting place.

Near Charles Island on June 9 a set of eggs was brought in by a fisherman, which he had just found in the woods on the main land. He had nearly stepped on the bird and had crushed four out of the twelve fresh eggs with his foot.

42. **Bonasa umbellus togata.** CANADIAN RUFFED GROUSE; "Perdrix franc" (Fr.); Puspustus (Ind.).— A tail of this species decorated a house at Natashquan, and we were told by Mr. Saltzman that this bird occurred at Betchewun.

43. **Lagopus lagopus.** WILLOW PTARMIGAN; "Perdrix blanche"

(Fr.); "Wapino" (Ind).—Monsieur Beetz gave us a specimen in the white plumage in the flesh taken at Piashte-bai in winter and kept in his cold storage plant. Both he and Mr. Saltzman and Mr. Wilson and others all agreed in the statement that this ptarmigan is abundant along the coast in the winter only every five or six years. This was the case last winter during which Mr. Saltzman killed 63. In the intermediate winters very few or none are seen, and they are not found in summer.

44. **Circus hudsonius.** MARSH HAWK.—A pair of these birds was seen on June 11 about two miles inland from Esquimaux Point, circling over the bog. Audubon's and Stearns's records are the only previous ones for this species.

45. **Accipiter atricapillus.** GOSHAWK.—We saw a mounted specimen of an immature bird of this species in the collection of M. Beetz. It was taken at Piashte-bai.

46. **Falco peregrinus anatum.** DUCK HAWK.—We found the remains of a Duck Hawk on Bald Island.

47. **Falco columbarius.** PIGEON HAWK.—We saw one or two birds of this species at nearly every place along the coast. At Esquimaux Island on June 3 we were attracted by the cackling notes of a Pigeon Hawk, and by following the notes found the nest in a thick clump of spruces. It was fourteen feet from the ground in a red spruce, and seemed to have been built in an old crow's nest that had also been used by squirrels. A thin fresh lining of lichens and small twigs had been added. At this date there were three eggs, and five when collected on June 7.

At the mouth of the Mingan River on June 17, we were similarly guided to another nest which contained four fresh eggs. This nest was 24 feet from the ground in a black spruce in a clearing. It appeared to be newly made of dead sticks, thickly lined with soft fine rootlets. The female was moulting from first winter into adult plumage. The male was in full adult plumage. Both birds contained White-throated Sparrows in their stomachs.

48. **Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis.** OSPREY.—Fish Hawks were common along the coast especially at the mouths of the rivers, where they apparently lived on trout. We were told by salmon fishers that they sometimes found the marks of their talons on salmon.

49. **Ceryle alcyon.** BELTED KINGFISHER.—We saw a Kingfisher on the little Natashquan River on June 1, and another on June 21 on the Mingan River.

50. **Colaptes auratus luteus.** NORTHERN FLICKER.—We saw two pairs of Flickers near the Isles des Cornelles and heard one at Mingan.

51. **Tyrannus tyrannus.** KINGBIRD.—As Audubon's is the only previous record for southern Labrador, it is interesting to note that we saw a Kingbird at Esquimaux Island on June 7, and perhaps the same bird in the village of Esquimaux Point on June 10.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hantzsch has recorded a specimen taken at Killinck July 1906, and another some years previously at Makkovik. (Journ. für Ornithologie, Vol. LVI, 1908, p. 379.)



52. **Empidonax flaviventris.** YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.— There are numerous alder runs suitable for this flycatcher, but we saw none until June 10, when the first arrivals took place. After this it was very common.

53. **Otocoris alpestris.** HORNED LARK.— On our arrival at Esquimaux Point on May 24 we found this bird present in small flocks. We also saw about 6 of them in a marsh at the Isles des Corneilles on May 26. On June 1 on the plain back of Natashquan we found a pair which we secured whose actions suggested breeding. The female showed evidence of incubation. They were typical specimens of *alpestris*, not as much worn and the yellows not as faded as in the specimens taken in July and August, 1906, on the eastern coast. On our return to Esquimaux Point on June 2, the Larks previously found there had left.

54.\* **Cyanocitta cristata.** BLUE JAY.— This bird has not been recorded for Labrador before. On June 20 we watched from our window at Mingan a Blue Jay on the nearby fence, and heard him call the next day. M. Beetz showed us a mounted specimen he had shot at Piashte-bai in January, 1907.

55. **Perisoreus canadensis nigricapillus.** LABRADOR JAY.— We regretted that we were unable to secure any specimens of this bird to determine its subspecific rank. Although it was said to be common and tame in autumn and winter, it was certainly rare and shy in summer. The only places we found it were Hunting Island and Mingan. At the former place on June 9 we obtained a distant view of a couple of these birds, but they disappeared when we attempted to follow them. At Mingan we heard its calls several times but only once obtained a fleeting glimpse of one.

56. **Corvus corax principalis.** RAVEN.— We saw not a single Raven on the coast, but were told that a pair usually bred on a cliff at Esquimaux Island, and we found the unoccupied nest.

57. **Corvus brachyrhynchos.** CROW.— The Crow is common along the coast. Several pairs appeared to be breeding on Mingan Island.

58. **Euphagus carolinus.** RUSTY BLACKBIRD.— Although there are numerous alder thickets along the coast, we saw no Rusty Blackbirds. We were told, however, by Charles Maloney of Mingan that this bird, of which he gave an accurate description, is common in flocks during the middle of May, but that they never stay to breed.

59. **Carpodacus purpureus.** PURPLE FINCH.— We saw only one Purple Finch in Labrador and this was on June 21 on the mountains back of Mingan. It was a full plumaged male and executed its flight song.

60. **Loxia leucoptera.** WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.— On June 21 we saw four of these birds flying about over the forest near the Mingan River.

61. **Acanthis** sp.? REDPOLL.— We saw two or three Redpolls at Esquimaux Point on May 24 and June 2.

62. **Plectrophenax nivalis.** SNOW BUNTING.— A few of these birds still lingered on the coast when we first arrived, and we obtained several specimens, the last on June 5, at Esquimaux Point.

63. **Passerculus sandwichensis savanna.** SAVANNAH SPARROW.— We found this bird commonly in pairs and in full song on the barren islands

the open bogs and natural meadows, and among the sand dunes, but nowhere abundant.

[*Note.* We looked carefully for Ipswich Sparrows in the extensive sand dunes at Natashquan and Mingan but failed to find any.]

64. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.— On our arrival at Esquimaux Point on May 24, we found the White-crowned Sparrow common and in full song, and the same was the case everywhere along the coast to the eastward as far as Natashquan during our visits to these regions. We left Natashquan on June 1, and on our return to Esquimaux Point we found only a few birds there on June 2 and June 3, and none after that date. On visiting Betchewun and the intervening points again on the 8th, 9th and 10th of June none of this species were to be found. It is apparent therefore that the bird is a migrant only on the coast to the west of Betchewun, which is situated at the eastern end of the group of Mingan Islands; whether it breeds on the barren islands or on the shore beyond this point to Natashquan we do not know.

65. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.— This was the most abundant sparrow on the coast during our entire stay, and was evidently breeding commonly.

66. *Spizella monticola*. TREE SPARROW.— We saw several Tree Sparrows at Betchewun and the Isles des Corneilles during the last of May, and one at Esquimaux Island on June 3. This was the last bird of the species seen.

67. *Junco hyemalis*. JUNCO.— We found this bird fairly common but never abundant in all suitable localities.

68. *Melospiza lincolni*. LINCOLN'S SPARROW.— This bird occurred in small numbers along the coast and was in song. It was always shy and difficult to observe.

69. *Melospiza georgiana*. SWAMP SPARROW.— A few Swamp Sparrows were found at Esquimaux Point and at Mingan. It was first seen at Esquimaux Point on June 4.

70. *Passerella iliaca*. FOX SPARROW.— Common all along the coast and in full song during our entire stay.

71. *Iridoprocne bicolor*. TREE SWALLOW.— A fairly common bird on this coast and seen from the first day of our arrival. On May 31 at the mouth of the Natashquan River we saw a migrating band of perhaps 75 of this species.

72. *Riparia riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.— A colony of about 30 pairs of Bank Swallows was found near Clearwater Point, six miles east of Esquimaux Point on June 10. Their nesting holes were just below the top of a sand cliff 125 feet high fronting the sea. A colony of perhaps half this size was found breeding at the sand cliffs of the Mingan River two miles from its mouth on June 21.

73.\* *Mniotilta varia*. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.— We heard and saw this familiar warbler first at Piashte-bai River on May 28, and after that near Betchewun, at Esquimaux Point, and at Mingan. There are no previous records for this species for Labrador.



NEST OF PIGEON HAWK.



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74. *Vermivora rubricapilla*. NASHVILLE WARBLER.—At Esquimaux Point on June 13 and again near the Mingan River on June 21 we heard the song of this bird. The birds were not seen. The only other record is that of Audubon who procured a few.

75. *Dendroica aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—We shot an adult male of this species at Esquimaux Point on June 10, and saw another at that place on June 11. We found it common near the Mingan River on June 21.

76. *Dendroica caerulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—On June 20 at Mingan we saw at close range an adult male of this species. The finding of a dead bird by Audubon, "a victim to the severity of the climate," is the only previous record for Labrador.

77. *Dendroica coronata*. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER.—We saw a few of this species at various places along the coast in the earlier part of our visit from our arrival at Esquimaux Point on May 24, up to June 3; none after that date.

78. *Dendroica magnolia*. MAGNOLIA WARBLER.—We saw the first Magnolia Warbler at Esquimaux Point on June 4, after which it became very common wherever we went.

79. *Dendroica striata*. BLACK-POLL WARBLER.—We found this bird on our arrival at Esquimaux Point on May 24, and at all other points along the coast. On June 5 it became very abundant, and we counted 21 at Esquimaux Point in a walk not over a mile in length. It continued abundant during the remainder of our stay.

80. *Dendroica virens*. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.—We found three of these birds on May 28 near the Piashte-bai River, two at Natashquan on May 31, one at Esquimaux Island on June 7, while at Mingan in the week of June 15 to 21 we found the bird common.

The only previous records are of one taken by Frazar at Esquimaux Point, and of two seen by Palmer at the Mingan Islands.

81. *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*. YELLOW PALM WARBLER.—We saw one bird of this species on May 31 at Natashquan, another in full song at Esquimaux Point on June 3.

82. *Seiurus noveboracensis*. WATER-THRUSH.—We observed one bird of this species at Natashquan on May 31, and another at Mingan on June 21.

83. *Geothlypis trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—A fairly common bird at Esquimaux Point and Mingan. The first bird was seen at Esquimaux Point on June 2.

84. *Wilsonia pusilla*. WILSON'S WARBLER.—A very common warbler, but not seen until June 4, when four appeared at Esquimaux Point. After this they were very common and in full song everywhere.

85. *Setophaga ruticilla*. REDSTART.—We saw and shot the first Redstart on Esquimaux Island on June 7. After that the bird was fairly common here and at Mingan. The previous records for Labrador are very scanty.

85. *Anthus rubescens*. PIPIT.—We found this bird in large flocks at Esquimaux Point from our arrival up to June 7, after which date no birds

were to be found. We also saw 6 at Betchewun on May 25 and a flock of at least 50 at Natashquan on May 31.

87. **Nannus hiemalis.** WINTER WREN.—At Esquimaux Point on June 4 we heard a Winter Wren singing, and saw one at a different locality there on June 13. We also heard one singing near the Mingan River on June 21.

88. **Penthestes hudsonicus.** HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE.—The only place we found these birds was at the Little Natashquan River where we saw a pair on June 1.

89. **Regulus satrapa.** GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.—We saw one individual of this species at Natashquan on May 31, and another at Esquimaux Island on June 3.

90. **Regulus calendula.** RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS.—A common bird everywhere, and its delightful song was constantly heard. We found it on the first day at Esquimaux Point.

91. **Hylocichla aliciae.** ALICE'S THRUSH.—At Esquimaux Point on June 2 we saw the first of this species, and a few after this. On June 13 we shot a female there with ovary slightly enlarged. A few were seen at Mingan supposedly of this species but they were not satisfactorily identified. We did not hear it sing.

92. **Hylocichla guttata pallasi.** HERMIT THRUSH.—A common bird and in full song on and after June 4.

93. **Planesticus migratorius.** ROBIN; "Le Merle" (Fr.).—Abundant during our entire stay, especially so on our arrival at Esquimaux Point on the afternoon of May 24, when there appeared to be numerous migrants of recent arrival. A nest containing a set of three eggs nearly ready to hatch was found and brought to us at Esquimaux Point on June 13.