

elevation of approximately 4100 feet but here the male could be found singing at all hours of the day, although he was so restless and elusive, as he fed about old logs and uprooted trees, that he was more often heard than seen. The nest was found June 15 after a long hard search but it was empty, and judging from its appearance the young had already flown. It was well concealed in the top of the upturned roots of a large hemlock close to a small stream, and differed in no way from those I had found farther north, being a ball of fine hemlock twigs and green moss, with the entrance at one side and at the top.

Planesticus migratorius achrusterus. SOUTHERN ROBIN.—As I knew of but one breeding record for this species in the State, a set of eggs having been taken near Atlanta several years ago by Dr. Wm. H. LaPrade, I was interested during a week-end spent in Rabun County, in the extreme northeastern part of the State, to find it nesting fairly plentifully in and about several of the small towns there. I was at Clayton April 13, and with the short time I had at my disposal I succeeded in finding four nests, three practically built but as yet empty and the last with three slightly incubated eggs. This nest was twelve feet from the ground in a crotch at the outer end of a limb of a large post oak at the side of a road and was built of twigs, weed stems, grasses and mud, well lined with fine grasses. The following day was spent at Dillard, ten miles north of Clayton, and here three nests were found, one of which held four fresh eggs. It was twenty feet from the ground in a crotch near the top of a small white oak in a small grove at the edge of the town, and was compactly built of rootlets, weed stems, grasses and mud, well lined with fine grasses. The partiality this species shows for civilization, or at least for the proximity of man, was clearly evident here for none were seen anywhere, at any time, except in the close vicinity of the towns.

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NOTES ON BIRDS OF THE LABRADOR PENINSULA IN 1923.

BY HARRISON F. LEWIS.

Plate VII.

THE notes upon which this paper is based were made on or near the Gulf of St. Lawrence coast of the Labrador Peninsula, between Long Point of Mingan and Blanc Sablon, during the spring, summer, and early autumn of 1923. Leaving Quebec on May 1, 1923, I debarked at Esquimaux Point, on the southern shore of the

Labrador Peninsula, on May 4. On September 14 I embarked again on the steamer at Esquimaux Point, and on September 16 I arrived at Quebec. Much of the summer was spent in cruising along the coast in a motorboat.

As in previous years, Dr. C. W. Townsend has very kindly reviewed my paper prior to publication.

The weather on this coast was unusually cool during May and June, 1923. No large quantities of ice were encountered on the voyage from Quebec to Esquimaux Point, May 1-4, but later in the month easterly winds drove great quantities of heavy drift ice onto the coast in the Mingan Islands region, filling all the harbors, and extending so far seaward that practically no open water could be seen from shore. The harbor of Esquimaux Point did not become finally open for navigation for the summer season until May 24. There was a thin sheet of ice on open pools near Esquimaux Point on June 4 and a heavy white frost on the morning of June 15.

The migration of a few species of the Fringillidae in this region did not follow the usual course in 1923. Several local residents spoke to me of the absence of the usual large flocks of Juncos and small Sparrows in the spring. No such flocks were seen in this region in the spring of this year, so far as I know, although they were said to be conspicuous in most springs. Moreover, although I was afield and searching for birds daily in the Mingan Islands area from the time of my arrival on the coast until after the middle of June, when I proceeded farther eastward, I saw the three following species, which should have been common migrants, only in the numbers indicated: Snow Bunting, one on May 5; White-crowned Sparrow, one on May 23 and one on May 29; Tree Sparrow, one on May 20. During the summer White-crowned Sparrows were found breeding commonly, as usual, from Piashte Bay eastward.

A brief summary of the arrivals of various migratory species in the Mingan Islands region in the spring of 1923, as noted by me, is given below. Townsend and Bent have recorded¹ the dates of arrivals of migrants in this region on and after May 24, as observed

¹ 'Auk,' Vol. XXVII, No. 1, p. 1.

by them in 1909, and these dates agree in general very closely with the comparable dates here presented, although, as is normally to be expected, in the case of some species there are slight differences one way or the other in the dates of arrival recorded.

Species already present, May 3, 4, and 5.—Loon, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Black Duck, Old-Squaw, Eider, Canada Goose, Crow, Pine Siskin, Snow Bunting, Fox Sparrow, Winter Wren.

ARRIVALS.

May 6. Greater Yellowlegs, Slate-colored Junco, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Robin.

May 8. Scoters (not White-winged, probably Surf), Osprey, Savannah Sparrow.

May 9. Mergansers (probably Red-breasted), White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter (definitely identified), Red-breasted Nuthatch.

May 10. Boreal Flicker, Purple Finch, White-throated Sparrow, Myrtle Warbler, Yellow Palm Warbler.

May 12. Wilson's Snipe.

May 13. Hermit Thrush.

May 14. Rough-legged Hawk.

May 15. Double-crested Cormorant, Pipit.

May 16. Song Sparrow.

May 18. Semipalmated Plover.

May 19. Horned Lark.

May 20. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Tree Sparrow.

May 23. Bronzed Grackle, White-crowned Sparrow.

May 24. Rusty Blackbird, Lincoln's Sparrow.

May 25. Brant, Tree Swallow. (Tree Swallows not observed by me on this date, but by Mr. Allen L. Moses and Mr. M. W. Armstrong.)

May 26. Semipalmated Sandpiper, Swamp Sparrow.

May 27. Spotted Sandpiper, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Pigeon Hawk.

May 28. Least Sandpiper.

May 29. American Scoter, Purple Sandpiper.

June 1. Black and White Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat.

June 3. Barn Swallow, Wilson's Warbler, Redstart. (Barn Swallow not observed by me, but by Mr. M. W. Armstrong.)

June 4. Tern (Common or Arctic), Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Olive-backed Thrush.

June 5. Nighthawk.

June 6. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Water-Thrush.

June 8. Tennessee Warbler.

June 9. Yellow Warbler.

June 11. Kingbird.

June 13. European Widgeon.

June 17. Alder Flycatcher.

In the region about Harrington and St. Mary's Islands many small birds perished about the last of May and the first of June from some cause unknown. I was not in that region at the time, but residents there described the destruction to me later in the summer. Small birds were found dead in large numbers, usually crouched in the dead grass of the year before, or in the entrances to the burrows of small mammals, as though they had died there at night while asleep. I was told that, in the yard about one house at Harrington, "half-a-bucketful" of these dead birds were raked up.

Mr. Allen L. Moses, of Grand Manan, New Brunswick, arrived at Harrington on June 9, after this loss of life had ended, but he found a number of the bodies of the victims and identified Lincoln's Sparrows, a Swamp Sparrow, a Water-Thrush, and a Myrtle Warbler.

An annotated list of those species concerning which observations of particular interest were made is given below.

ANNOTATED LIST.

1. *Larus delawarensis*. RING-BILLED GULL.—A colony containing from 200 to 400 pairs of breeding Ring-billed Gulls was visited by me on July 13. This colony was densely massed on the southwest corner of Fog Island, which is one of the outer islands on the Canadian Labrador coast, about 20 miles west of Cape Whittle. Some of the nests had been

placed on the sides and bottom of a small valley and some on the higher land south of the valley. No nests of this species were found on the island at a distance from this congested group, which occupied a relatively small area.

As we approached the colony, the old birds rose into the air, forming an extraordinarily dense cloud of Gulls, while the downy gray, partly-fledged young scuttled in large numbers through the herbage in every direction, seeking shelter and looking like a swarm of giant lice. In places in the colony where the ground was chiefly bare rock, with here and there a few closely-grouped plants, these patches of herbage were found to be crowded with young Gulls. Most, but not all, of the eggs had hatched and nests which the young had left had been trampled out of recognition.

This colony was observed at close range from a blind for a short time. A good deal of fighting occurred among the adult birds, but no bird seemed to pay any attention to other members of the colony outside of its own immediate vicinity. Each bird repeatedly uttered at short intervals a single-syllabled cry, "Wow," in a loud, shrill voice. The composite result was a terrific din, which was increased by the notes of the young and by the cries of the Caspian Terns which nested close beside the Gull colony. The rings on the bills of the adult Gulls were very easily seen from the blind.

No doubt this is one of the colonies of Ring-billed Gulls which were found in this vicinity in 1884 by M. A. Frazar.¹

On August 12, I visited the island at Point au Maurier where Dr. Charles W. Townsend found,² in 1915, a colony of these birds containing some five hundred individuals. I had found less than a dozen pairs of Ring-billed Gulls nesting on this island in 1921, but on this visit in 1923 I saw about 100 adults and about 50 young there. There is much vegetation on this island and consequently the young Gulls are difficult to find. Some of the young, when handled, regurgitated lance (small fish) and, in some cases, large, fat, white maggots. Little heaps of ripe blueberries, apparently regurgitated by the old birds for the use of the young, were seen here and there on the rocks. Some of these heaps were still wet when observed.

2. *Sterna caspia imperator*. COUES' CASPIAN TERN.—The only Caspian Terns which I have seen on the Labrador coast were found breeding on Fog Island on July 13, in close association with the Ring-billed Gull colony on the island. The Caspian Terns' nests were not scattered among those of the Gulls, but were by themselves on a high, rounded prominence on the western side of the combined colony. The area occupied by the Terns was bordered on the west by the sea, and on the three other sides by the nesting-grounds of the Ring-billed Gulls. I counted 25 nests of Caspian Terns, and it is probable that there were in

¹ "An Ornithologist's summer in Labrador," 'Orn. and Oölg.', Vol. 12, p. 18.

² "In Audubon's Labrador," 'Auk,' Vol. XXXIV, No. 2, p. 141.

all between 25 and 30 of their nests, as some from which the young had gone were probably unrecognizable. This is, no doubt, the colony found by Frazar in 1884,¹ and reported by him to contain about 200 pairs of birds at that time.

The Caspian Terns had little or nothing in the way of nests, except shallow depressions in the grass and herbage, sometimes with a little lining of dead grass. Two eggs were the largest number found in any one of these nests. The eggs in about one-quarter of the nests had hatched, and the young Terns were hiding in the grass with the young Ring-billed Gulls.

When the colony was approached the old Terns flew excitedly about with hoarse cries of "*carr-r-r-r, carr-r-r-r,*" and when we handled their young they redoubled their cries and hurled themselves repeatedly at our heads, turning sharply when only about two feet distant. It was impossible to avoid involuntarily dodging their fierce rushes except by refraining from looking up at them.

As observed from the umbrella-blind, this colony was very interesting. The tops of the heads of the adults were still solid black. There did not seem to be as much fighting among the Terns as among the Ring-billed Gulls, but at least one fight between adult Terns was seen. One of the combatants fought from the air.

A downy young Ring-billed Gull strayed into the area occupied by the Terns, where it was fiercely set upon by an old Tern, which chased it toward its own kind, striking it again and again with open beak. At each blow the poor little Gull was knocked sprawling on the rock and when at last it passed across the border of the Tern colony, where the old Tern abandoned the pursuit, it was crying piteously. Thereupon its tormentor gave a triumphant wag of the tail and shouted hoarsely, "*ha-ha-har-har-har-hark a' the yellin'!*" This is the usual cry of the adult Terns when undisturbed among their nests. It sounded ludicrous in view of the fact that old and young, Terns and Gulls, kept up a continual uproar, and the air resounded at all times with "yellin'." Two young Terns with open mouths were seen to run up to an old Tern, begging for food with a little cry of "*cheep, cheep, cheep, cheep,*" etc. The old bird was not inclined to grant their request, but viewed them coldly and shouted, "*ha-ha-har-har-har-hark a' the yellin'!*", then turned its back on them. As the first part of this cry is given, the bird's bill is open and lowered, but with the closing phrase the head is thrown upward until the bill points almost straight up.

3. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. LEACH'S PETREL.—On the outermost of the Boat Islands, which lie a short distance southwest of St. Mary's Islands, I excavated on July 20 a burrow containing a Leach's Petrel, which, after examination, was liberated. In another burrow, at some distance, I found a soiled Petrel's egg unaccompanied by a bird. Owing to the difficulty of distinguishing with certainty the entrances of

¹ *Loc. cit.*

Petrels' burrows from the entrances of the burrows of Puffins and small mammals, I cannot estimate the size of the Petrel colony on this island. I have not yet found this species elsewhere in Labrador, although it has been recorded there by several previous observers.

4. *Phalacrocorax carbo*. CORMORANT.—The Common Cormorant is not yet "extirpated as a breeding bird in North America." On July 17, Mr. M. W. Armstrong, of Bridgetown, Nova Scotia, and I found several pairs nesting on the cliffs, about ninety feet high, on the south side of Lake Island, of which island Cape Whittle is the southwestern extremity. The nests were about one mile east of the Cape, and were chiefly on ledges on the upper half of the cliff. From observations made on July 17 and 18 we concluded that the number of occupied nests of this species at this point at that time was not less than 11, was not improbably as many as 14, and was possibly greater than 14. A number of pairs of Double-crested Cormorants nested with the Common Cormorants.

With $\times 6$ binoculars we observed the adult Common Cormorants in flight at distances of from 100 to 200 feet and on their nests at distances of from 35 to 100 feet. In this way we saw distinctly the yellow area of bare skin at the base of the lower mandible, the white throat patch, and the white patches on the flanks, although at the time of our observations the white markings on the flanks were very small. We saw Common Cormorants and Double-crested Cormorants perched near one another, when the larger size of the former species was easily distinguished. One old Common Cormorant remained on her nest only ten or twelve feet below me, while with my naked eye I studied her appearance in detail at my leisure. When she shifted her position on the nest I could see that she had both eggs and newly-hatched young under her. I could not approach nearer to her and when I went away she had not left her post.

We were able to reach one nest containing four partly-fledged young Common Cormorants, of which we banded three. The fourth one would not lift its head erect, and so it remained just beyond our reach. While I had one of these young ones in my hands, I carefully counted its tail-feathers, which had burst out of their sheaths, and which I fingered one by one. There were fourteen of them. Young Common Cormorants in the nest, even the youngest of them, can be distinguished at first glance from young Double-crested Cormorants, by the fact that they have white faces, including white foreheads, bare of feathers. The bare foreheads of nestling Double-crested Cormorants are nearly black. Strangely enough, the voices of the nestling Common Cormorants seemed to our ears to resemble some of the notes of the Robin! The insides of the mouths of these young birds were flesh-color, while the insides of the mouths of the adult Common Cormorants were yellowish. Some of the Common Cormorants' nests still contained eggs.

5. *Mareca penelope*. EUROPEAN WIDGEON.—A specimen in the plumage of the female, which I recorded as *Mareca americana*,¹ proves

¹'Auk,' Vol. XXXIX, No. 4, p. 516.

upon re-examination to be the present species. It was obtained at Bonne Esperance in November, 1919, by John Goddard, and is now in the Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa. Mr. P. A. Taverner, who supplied me with the record originally published, has kindly drawn my attention to the necessity for this correction. The species has previously been recorded from the Canadian Labrador by Townsend,² who found it in the collection of Mr. Johan Beetz, at Piashte Bay, in 1915.

On the morning of June 13, 1923, Mr. M. W. Armstrong and I were walking on one of the extensive reefs lying south of, and attached to, Niapisca Island, which is one of the Mingan Islands and is six or seven miles west of Esquimaux Point. We returned to the shore of the island proper at a point which we had not previously visited, where we climbed a steep beach or "seawall," about ten feet high, composed of loose shingle piled up by the waves. This beach sloped down toward the island almost as steeply as to seaward, and immediately behind it lay a small, shallow pond of fresh water, containing several small islets. As we topped the beach we held our binoculars in readiness for examination of the bird-life which we might surprise in this pond. Two or three birds of common species were disturbed by our sudden appearance, but as I examined the pond through my binoculars (x 6), my gaze was suddenly arrested by a Duck of moderate size which was almost motionless in the water. The bird was below the level of my eye at a distance of from 150 to 200 feet, and the sun was at my back. I saw at once that the crown of the bird's head was white or whitish, and exclaimed to Mr. Armstrong, "There's a Baldpate!" Even before I finished speaking, however, it was impressed upon me very clearly and distinctly that, aside from the crown, the Duck's head and neck were of a solid rusty-brown color. A moment later the Duck took to flight, and at the same time three other similar Ducks, which I had not previously seen, arose from one of the small islets in the pond, and the four flew away together. In flight they appeared as gray Ducks, with a large patch of white on each wing, light-colored underparts, and black under tail-coverts. I received the impression that one of the Ducks was duller in color than the others, but I cannot be certain that this was correct. When I asked Mr. Armstrong what he had seen he told me that his gaze had been riveted upon the three Ducks on the islet and that he had not seen the one Duck in the water until all four flew. He had been very strongly impressed with the fact that the three Ducks on the islet had rusty-red heads and necks, with white or whitish crowns, which markings, under the excellent conditions of observation, showed very clearly. We followed the strange Ducks, and flushed them twice more, but they became wilder at being disturbed, and we did not succeed in seeing anything more of the details of their plumage. After a careful consideration of our observations, and consultation of books and colored plates

² 'Auk,' Vol. XXXIV, No. 2, p. 136.

and other ornithologists, I am forced to conclude that these four Ducks were European Widgeons, of which at least three were drakes.

6. **Nettion carolinense.** GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—In a small pond of fresh water on Fog Island we saw on July 13 three Green-winged Teal, two drakes and a duck. The birds were seen at close range under excellent light conditions with x 6 binoculars, and their characteristic markings were very conspicuous and were easily noted.

7. **Glaucionetta** (sp.). GOLDEN-EYE (sp.).—On Green Island, near Kégashka, I saw in a small fresh-water pond on July 9 a female Golden-eye and her brood of 9 downy young. There are no trees on this island, which is unsheltered from seaward and is more than a mile from the mainland. It would be interesting to know where these young birds were hatched. It is probable that they were American Golden-eyes.

8. **Histrionicus histrionicus histrionicus.** HARLEQUIN DUCK.—A flock of 9 or 10 Harlequin Ducks, at least one of which was an adult drake, was seen on July 18 among the outer Cormorant Rocks, off Wapitagan.

9. **Somateria mollissima dresseri.** EIDER.—In spite of the damage done by white foxes and bad weather in 1922,¹ this species returned to the Canadian Labrador coast in good numbers in 1923. The breeding season this year was very favorable for the Eider and unusual numbers of its young were raised.

It may be worth noting that, among two or three large flocks of Eider drakes seen near Wapitagan on July 18, practically every individual showed more or less of the eclipse plumage, while some were almost entirely in eclipse.

10. **Arquatella maritima maritima.** PURPLE SANDPIPER.—A pair of birds of this species in spring plumage were observed on the outer reef of an islet outside of Sea-Cow Island, near Esquimaux Point, on May 29, by Mr. Allen L. Moses and myself. They were very tame and permitted us to study them at close range at our leisure with binoculars. It was on May 29, 1909, that Townsend and Bent observed three of this species and secured one at Quatachoo.²

11. **Crocethia alba.** SANDERLING.—This species was very common at Esquimaux Point during the period September 8–13, and probably longer. During this period I saw from 40 to 125 Sanderlings each day without going more than a mile from the village.

12. **Circus hudsonius.** MARSH HAWK.—On August 20, I saw an individual of this species at Esquimaux Point and on September 3 I saw one at Betchewun.

13. **Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus.** NORTHERN BALD EAGLE.—At the mouth of a large brook which flows into the head of Ragg Bay, near Betchewun, I saw an adult of this species on September 3.

¹ 'Auk,' Vol. XL, No. 1, p. 136.

² 'Auk,' Vol. XXVII, No. 1, p. 13.

*14. **Sphyrapicus varius varius.** YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—On May 20, as I was searching for birds in woodland a short distance west of Esquimaux Point, I suddenly heard the loud caterwauling which is one of the characteristic cries of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Turning, I saw a small Woodpecker clinging to a telegraph pole not far from me. Before I could see more it flew into stunted fir woods close at hand. I followed. It was very restless and shy, but at last I obtained a view of it for about one minute at a distance of 15 feet. I noted the spotted wings with the prominent white mark along the front edge of each, and the black and white striping on the side of the neck. The crown of this individual was solid black, with no red visible anywhere. This is the first record of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the Labrador Peninsula.

15. **Tyrannus tyrannus.** KINGBIRD.—On June 11, I saw a bird of this species about the buildings at Betchewun. It was observed at a distance of 30 feet and its characteristic markings and cries were noted.

16. **Empidonax trailli alnorum.** ALDER FLYCATCHER.—Audubon stated that he found *Muscicapa pusilla* "on the coast of Labrador in considerable numbers," and since he found one nest with eggs in a bush, while the nest of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is usually built on the ground, Townsend and Bent have presumed that this nest was an Alder Flycatcher's.

On June 11, 1921, I heard two Alder Flycatchers at Lake Patterson, near Mingan, but was unable to obtain even a glimpse of them.³

On June 25, 1922, I heard two Alder Flycatchers near Esquimaux Point, but a long chase among dense growth resulted only in my getting a distant glimpse of a small bird slipping away among the leaves.

On June 17, 1923, I distinctly heard two Alder Flycatchers on Esquimaux Island, near Esquimaux Point, but had no opportunity to search for them then.

On August 22, 1923, while I was camped on this same Esquimaux Island, I heard two Alder Flycatchers nearby in the early morning. Stepping from the tent, I had the satisfaction of obtaining at last a satisfactory view of an Alder Flycatcher in the Labrador Peninsula. An individual of that species was perched on top of the camp wood-pile, in the open, about ten feet from me, where it "sang" several times before flying back into the bushes. I was able to see very clearly the form and coloration characteristic of the species, including the whitish underparts and white throat.

On August 24 a party of 4 or 5 Alder Flycatchers came about this camp, and 2 or 3 of them were very clearly seen, and the whitish underparts and white throats noted. One old bird was seen to feed a young one. The species was not recorded after August 25, when two birds were observed.

¹ 'Ornithological Biography,' 1839, Vol. 5, p. 289.

² 'Birds of Labrador,' Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXIII., p. 380.

³ 'Auk,' Vol. XXXIX, No. 4, p. 512.

17. **Otocoris alpestris alpestris.** HORNED LARK.—On the point of the mainland just east of the entrance to Washatnagunashka Bay I heard a Horned Lark singing on June 28. A little later on the same day and on the same point I saw a female Horned Lark and watched her to her nest, from which I soon flushed her. The nest contained three young in the down. A few minutes later I saw another pair of Horned Larks, about a quarter of a mile distant from the first pair, but in this case I did not succeed in finding the nest. This place is about 33 miles west of Natashquan, the most western point on this coast from which breeding Horned Larks have been reported previously.¹ It is not surprising, however, that Horned Larks breed about Washatnagunashka Bay, for the coastal strip there is as Arctic in appearance as it is at Cape Whittle, more than a hundred miles farther eastward.

18. **Quiscalus quiscula aeneus.** BRONZED GRACKLE.—On May 23, I found two of this species together beside a small brook in the village of Esquimaux Point. When disturbed they flew to the roof of a house and later flew away westward. On May 28, a single Bronzed Grackle was seen in the same village.

19. **Carpodacus purpureus purpureus.** PURPLE FINCH.—One seen singing at Mingan on May 10. At Esquimaux Point I saw two on June 5, and a single bird on five other occasions, from May 12 to June 9, as well as one on August 27. I observed one at Betchewun on June 21.

20. **Astragalinus tristis tristis.** GOLDFINCH.—On July 3 Mr. M. W. Armstrong and I flushed a Goldfinch from the ground on a grassy area in Natashquan village. It alighted in a tree, and later flew from tree to tree. We had several good views of it with x 6 binoculars at distances of about 100 feet. The black wings and tail were clearly seen, but we did not succeed in distinguishing the black cap, as the bird, when under observation, was usually above the level of our eyes. This Goldfinch was bright yellow on the breast and underparts, but was rather dull greenish yellow on the back. It uttered the familiar notes of "per-chic-or-ee" (in flight) and "we-e-e-e-e," with rising inflection, and also a few bits of song, and it flew with the usual wavy flight of this species.

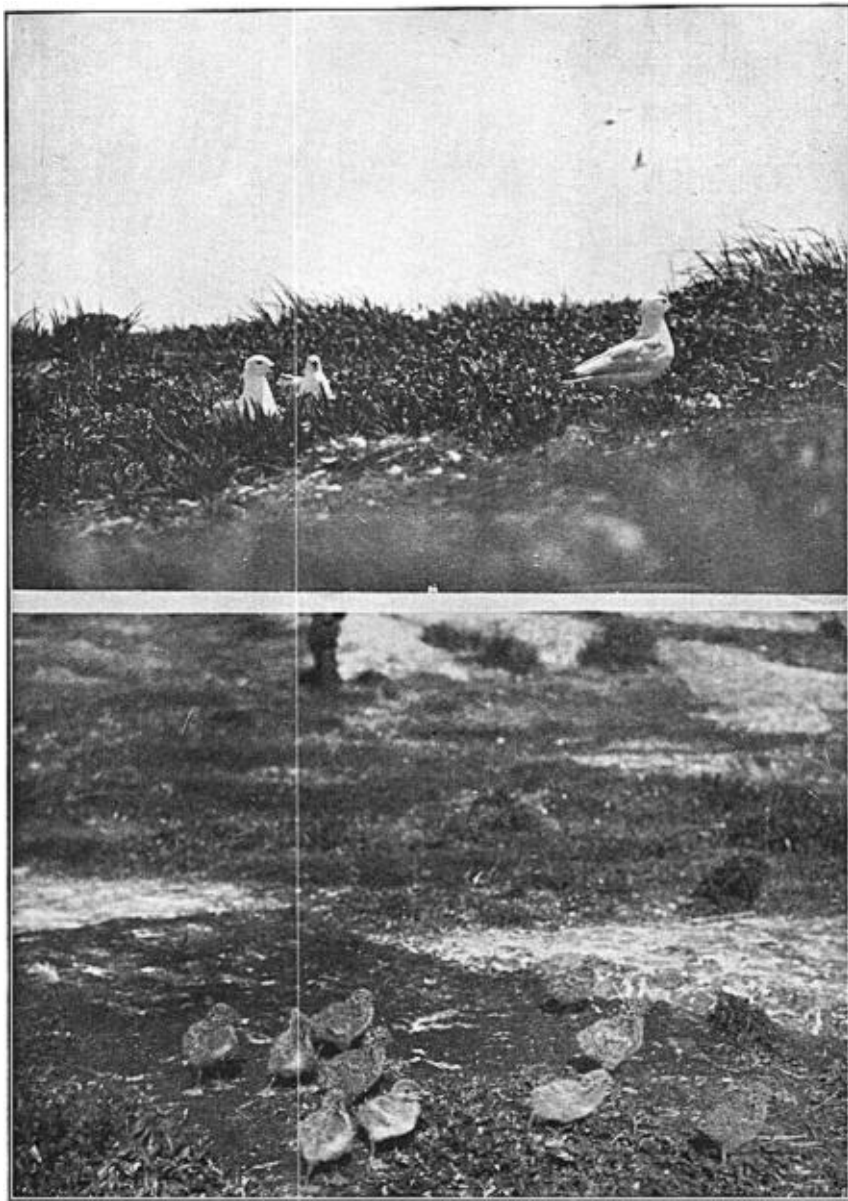
This is the second Labrador record of the Goldfinch, and the first record of the actual occurrence of a specimen on the Peninsula, as this species has hitherto appeared in the list of Labrador birds because of Kumlien's record of "an adult male caught on shipboard, August 22, 1877, off Cape Mugford, Labrador."²

21. **Spizella passerina passerina.** CHIPPING SPARROW.—The first record of this species in the Labrador Peninsula was based on individuals seen at Mingan in 1922.³ In 1923 I observed it only at Natashquan, where on July 6, I found three males in full song in as many different parts of

¹ 'Auk,' Vol. XXVII, No. 1, p. 15.

² Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 15, p. 76.

³ 'Auk,' Vol. XL, No. 1, p. 137.



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RING-BILLED GULLS.

Fig. 1. On Nesting Area.

Fig. 2. Young with One Young Caspian Tern.

Fog Island, Quebec, July 13, 1923.

the village. Each of them was carefully studied and identified with the aid of binoculars. One of these birds was seen at its regular singing-station on several dates from July 2 to July 7, and another one was observed on July 3, as well as on July 6. From the appearance and actions of the birds it seemed probable that each one had a mate and a nest nearby, but this was not verified. Natashquan is about 95 miles east of Mingan.

22. **Melospiza melodia melodia.** SONG SPARROW.—At Esquimaux Point this species was observed on May 16 (2), June 3 (1), June 5 (1), and June 18 (1). At Betchewun the Song Sparrow was observed on June 20, 21, and 22, August 28, 29, 30, and 31, and September 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7, one or two birds being noted on each of these days. Song Sparrows were also seen at Agwanus on June 29 and 30 and July 1, at Natashquan on July 3, 4, and 5, and at Romaine on July 12. The largest number seen on one day was 3 on July 3. Mr. Allen L. Moses informed me that he saw a Song Sparrow near his tent on St. Mary's Islands on June 30.

23. **Hirundo erythrogastra.** BARN SWALLOW.—Mr. M. W. Armstrong informed me that on June 3 a Barn Swallow flew past him on the beach at Esquimaux Point. He saw its ruddy breast and long, forked tail. Mr. Allen L. Moses informed me that he saw a Barn Swallow, possibly the same one as the one seen by Mr. Armstrong, on Esquimaux Island, near Esquimaux Point, on June 4. In this case the Swallow was flying back and forth over a pool at a distance of about 50 yards from Mr. Moses, and was under observation for about half an hour. Its ruddy underparts, long, forked tail, and dark upperparts were clearly seen. Both of these observations were reported to me verbally on June 4 and I have every confidence in them. The only previous record of this species in the Labrador peninsula is that of Packard¹ at North-west River, Hamilton Inlet, where it was recorded as breeding.

24. **Bombycilla cedrorum.** CEDAR WAXWING.—At Betchewun I saw two individuals of this species on June 20 and four on June 21.

25. **Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea.** YELLOW PALM WARBLER.—At Mingan I observed a male of this species in song on May 10, and at Esquimaux Point a pair on May 20, and single birds on May 23, and June 4, 6, and 9. I also saw three individuals in one group at Betchewun on September 6.

26. **Seiurus aurocapillus.** OVEN-BIRD.—On St. Charles Island I heard an Oven-bird singing in thick woods on June 19. On the mainland at Betchewun I heard three individuals singing repeatedly on June 21. In each case the song was clear and unmistakable. At Betchewun on September 1 an Oven-bird walked nervously about on the lower branches of a small conifer beside a wood-road at a distance of 8 or 10 feet from me, and I saw its markings with the greatest clearness. Betchewun and St. Charles Island are farther eastward than other points on this coast from which the Oven-bird has been reported.

¹ 'The Labrador Coast,' New York, 1891, p. 416.

27. *Geothlypis trichas trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—On July 14, a short distance inland from the western side of Coacoachou Bay, I heard four of this species in song, and saw one clearly at close range. This is slightly farther east than Old Romaine, where the species has been recorded by Townsend.¹

28. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—This species was observed in the Mingan Islands region on May 9 and 29, June 25, August 21 and 27, and September 1, one individual being noted on each of these dates. At Harrington it was observed as follows: August 15 (1), 17 (1), 18 (3) and 19 (3). Mr. Allen L. Moses told me that several birds of this species came aboard the S. S. "Labrador" on August 18, between Mutton Bay and Bonne Esperance. In view of these and previous observations it would appear to be well established that the Red-breasted Nuthatch is a regular and not uncommon summer resident in the southern part of the Labrador peninsula.

As there are almost no trees on the Harrington Islands, the Red-breasted Nuthatches there commonly seek food about wood-piles, buildings, and fences and on the ground. On August 19 I saw one perched on the bare solid rock, from which it made sallies into the air above it after insects, much as a Flycatcher would do.

29. *Regulus satrapa satrapa*. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.—A female was distinctly seen by me near Esquimaux Point on June 4.

*Canadian National Parks,
Ottawa, Canada.*

OBSERVATIONS AND BANDING NOTES ON THE BANK SWALLOW.

BY DAYTON STONER.

Plate VIII.

OWING not only to the wide-spread interest in and popularity of bird banding but also to the fact that this field of endeavor seems destined to throw much light upon many activities of migratory birds, suitable districts where such work can be carried on are being continually selected for this purpose. In this connection it has seemed to the writer that the establishment of a bird banding and trapping station in some favorable locality in Iowa

¹ 'Auk,' Vol. XXXIV, No. 2, p. 139.