

BIRDS OF GASPÉ COUNTY, QUEBEC.

BY JOHN B. DEMILLE

THE difficulties of travel over the rugged interior of the Gaspé Peninsula have confined activities of ornithologists to the coast line, with its string of small French fishing villages; and to the spectacular breeding colonies of Gannets and Herring Gulls at Percè and Bonaventure Island, located at the southeast tip of the Peninsula. Following a study of the ecology of the sea birds nesting in the vicinity of Percè village by P. A. Taverner¹ in the summer of 1914, the Canada Geological Survey acted on the recommendation of Dr. John M. Clarke² by establishing Percè Rock and Bonaventure Island as a Bird Sanctuary.

The breeding group affected by this legislation is one of the largest known on the north Atlantic coast. Those species represented, with approximate census figures are: Gannets (8000), Herring Gulls (3000), Double-crested Cormorants (1300), Murres (1000), Kittiwakes (800), Razor-billed Auks (200), Puffins (75), Leach's Petrels (100). Mr. Taverner³ has described vividly and with exceptional effectiveness artistically, his visit to the Bonaventure Gannet Ledges; he estimated the total number of birds on that island at 8000. More recently the locality was reported on by the chief taxidermist of the Milwaukee Public Museum,⁴ who collected material for the preparation of a display group similar to the excellent Gannet exhibit in the American Museum of Natural History. Frank M. Chapman, who was responsible for the latter work, was among the first to describe the section.⁵

William Brewster, in 1882, was the first ornithologist to enter Gaspé, and published his notes in the 'Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History'; five years later the U. S. Fish Commis-

¹ Double-crested Cormorant on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, 'Can. Geol. Sur.,' 1915.

² Protection of the Sea Fowl of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. 'VI Ann. Rep't. Commissioner of Conservation, Can.,' 1915.

³ 'Ottawa Naturalist,' Vol. XXXII, May, 1918.

⁴ George Shroobree, 'Museum Yearbook,' 1922.

⁵ Gannets of Bonaventure, 'Bird Lore,' Vol. I, 1899.

sion schooner *Grampus* called at Percè and a few observations made by the National Museum taxidermist, William Palmer, later appeared in the Smithsonian Bulletin No. 819.

The literature of interior Gaspè has chiefly been built up around geological research, in the form of surveyor's and mining reports, two of which are particularly useful to the traveler.^{1 2} The flora which includes various alpine forms characteristic of Labrador, has been studied by Harvard expeditions under the leadership of Prof. M. L. Fernald, over a period covering the last twenty years. A list of birds observed along the Gaspè coast line was published by Dr. C. W. Townsend³, and represents the pioneer work in describing the avifauna of this least known area of eastern temperate America.

From September 20, to the middle of August 1924, I lived with my wife in a comfortable log cabin situated three miles from the Tabletop Mountains, almost in the center of the peninsula. The cabin was connected with the small village of Mont Louis, on the shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, by thirty miles of rough trail. Once a month we walked down to the sea for the mail and stopped there two or three days before returning. Monthly trips were also made to the mountains, which at this point reach the highest elevation in eastern Canada, 4350 feet.

My opportunities for observation were, accordingly, sufficiently varied to give a representative record for the county when to this is added a trip along the coast from Ste. Anne des Monts around to Port Daniel, on the Chaleur Bay side. At this time several days were spent at Rivière Madeleine, Gaspè Basin, and Percè.

Although Gaspè is at a strategic point in the course of migrating birds *en route* to the great breeding grounds to the north, it had not been ascertained whether the line of flight strikes across the peninsula beginning at some point opposite Mingan or Pte. des Monts, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, or whether it follows along the coast. Neither Dionne⁴ nor Macoun⁵ refer to this territory.

¹ F. J. Alcock, *Geology of Lemieux Township*, 'Sum. Rep't., 1921. Can. Geol. Surv.'

² A. P. Coleman, *Physiography and Glacial Geology of Gaspé*, 'Bull. No. 34, Can. Geol. Surv.,' 1922.

³ 'Canadian Field -Naturalist,' Vol. XXXIV, April and May, 1920.

⁴ C. E. Dionne, 'Les Oiseaux de la Province de Québec,' 1906.

⁵ John Macoun, 'Catalog of Canadian Birds,' 1909.

Several records made in the fall of 1923 and the spring of 1924 tend to establish the preferred flight channel as following along the coast, although for the southern migration, particularly, cross-country seemed to be the most advantageous. The river valleys of the Mont Louis and Madeleine form a natural pathway leading southward; and half way across the watershed merges with that of the Cascapedia and Bonaventure rivers, so that by air line Chaleur Bay could be reached by covering a distance of eighty miles. But the birds have evidently overlooked this short-cut, and instead prefer to travel a roundabout way, and by taking the coast line must fly two hundred miles.

In the fall migrating flocks would invariably be flying northward past the cabin, the only ones to take the course I had figured out for them being the Geese and river Ducks. At the sea Passerine species would always be found from ten days to two weeks after they had quitted the vicinity of our camp on the North Branch of the Madeleine River.

The difference in dates of arrival in the spring was even more pronounced. By the middle of June, although plowing had been commenced in the village, two or three feet of snow still covered the ground inland. In the list of species individual cases will be cited to show the number of days taken for a species to appear at the camp after being recorded down at the sea.

It should be mentioned that the first map approaching an accurate survey of the county had not been issued until the present year, 1924. It is printed by the Department of the Interior, Canada, and designated as the Bonaventure sheet. Politically, the Magdalen Islands, lying in the Gulf of St. Lawrence 120 miles off Cape Gaspé, belong with this County; but many authoritative accounts of the birds of this interesting group have been published and they have been omitted from this discussion of the peninsula.

ANNOTATED LIST.

BIRDS OF GASPÉ COUNTY

1. *Gavia immer*. LOON.—The last ones of the year were at Madeleine Lake, Oct. 20. This was a month before ice formed. The ponds opened up again during the first week in June and by the 15th of the month an individual had arrived at one of the four ponds near the cabin.

2. **Gavia stellata.** RED-THROATED LOON.—At Cap des Rosiers, May 23, 1922, Lewis reports seeing one.

3. **Fratercula arctica arctica.** PUFFIN.—Local to Bonaventure Island, where their nests are made in all available hollows and cavities. Shrosbree describes his method of capturing them, by throwing a fishnet over the hole opening so the birds would be entangled like so many herrings.

4. **Cephus grylle.** BLACK GUILLEMOT.—To be seen in pairs and small flocks all along the coast. They are known to the French as *Pigeons de mer* and frequently taken for the pot. The birds are unsuspecting and dive rather than fly when approached. With the exception of the Herring Gulls these are the most common of the water birds locally distributed.

5. **Uria troille troille.** MURRE.—At Bonaventure together with a few pairs of the next species. These and the Petrels are the first to leave the Ledges, about the last week of August; after that time only a few stragglers are to be found in the vicinity.

6. **Uria lomvia lomvia.** BRÜNNICH'S MURRE.

7. **Alca torda.** RAZOR-BILLED AUK.—Local at Bonaventure. At the end of the nesting season the birds congregated in flocks of twenty or thirty, and by their odd coloring and rapid, direct manner of flight they stood out in marked contrast to the endlessly circling Gannets.

8. **Alle alle.** DOVEKIE.—A small flock in Mont Louis Bay, Dec. 27, during a severe storm. Ice had not yet formed in the open sea.

9. **Rissa tridactyla tridactyla.** KITTIWAKE.—Evenly distributed between Percé Rock and the Ledges on Bonaventure. Occasionally to be seen along the coast.

10. **Larus hyperboreus.** GLAUCOUS GULL.—Three birds identified during the winter at the village. Reported at Gaspé by Lewis in December. A common breeder on the southern coast of Labrador.

11. **Larus marinus.** GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.—At Mont Louis in September and along the coast not uncommonly during the summer, accompanying the next species.

12. **Larus argentatus.** HERRING GULL.—Besides being the most widely distributed of sea fowl these birds have come to be closely associated with the lives of the people who inhabit the towns strewn along the bleak north shore. Just as they are known as valuable scavengers among harbors of commerce, so here they are depended on by the fishermen for the disposal of debris scraped from the cleaning tables along the beach. The distinctive architecture of the French *habitant* will signify his love of the picturesque, and quite aside from its economic value *le Goëland* is admired for its graceful wings and the cries of unrestrained excitement.

One early morning I went with a cod fisherman out to the banks off Rivière Pierre. The boat was no sooner anchored than several Gulls took their places astern with the familiarity of old acquaintance; and as the four lines were baited I realized what their inducement was. Herrings taken the night before in nets were cut into small pieces for the hook and then heads and backbones were thrown to the birds astern. Each tidbit

was the signal for mad scrambling and the victor would snatch it up as it touched the water. They were shy of a stranger, my companion said, or he would have them perching on the gunwales and fairly eating the scraps from his fingers. During the long morning, from daylight until noon, of the fishing season, each boat entertains its coterie of Gulls; it may be that from one season to the next the same ones return to the former friendships.

In contrast to this attitude may be mentioned the practice of Newfoundland fishermen in capturing fledgling Gulls and raising them as poultry. After fattening them on a diet chiefly of fish the coast fishermen are satisfied, instead of the conventional turkey, with one of his home-raised Gulls for the holidays.¹

The St. Lawrence coast of Gaspé has been settled for only forty years, and yet I was often surprised by the evidences of comfort and happiness everywhere shown. Their tastes of the inhabitants are simple in many respects, but they are able to vary the universal pork diet of winter in so many ingenious ways as to make their meals models of the culinary art. Between villages there is neither telephone nor automobile communication, and except during the four months of navigation travel must be accomplished with their shaggy, fragile looking "French Ponies," which are accustomed to the steep and difficult road.

13. *Larus philadelphia*. BONAPARTE'S GULL.—In September about a dozen were flying over the water of Mont Louis Bay, and were recorded again the following May. Due to the absence of islands along the north shore of the Peninsula most of the sea birds nesting in this latitude (49° N) go farther up the river beyond Green Island, or cross to the Labrador shore, distant seventy miles.

14. *Sterna hirundo*. COMMON TERN.—During the first week of June, after a lapse of three weeks from the last of the great flights of Gulls up the coast, this species became the common bird of passage, the flocks extending as far out over the water as the eye could see.

15. *Sterna paradisæa*. ARCTIC TERN.—Migrating flocks common all along the coast during spring and fall.

16. *Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*. BLACK TERN.—Not common, but undoubtedly a regular traveler in the region. A flock of ten off Ste. Anne des Monts, Sept. 18, 1923; also at Port Daniel, on Chaleur Bay, Sept. 2, 1924.

17. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. LEACH'S PETREL.—Common on Bonaventure, where it nests in holes above the Gannet Ledges. Duval told me the few fishermen living there never did any hunting on the Island, although two-thirds of the area is densely covered with spruce and fir. It is evident that foxes have taken advantage of such security and prey heavily on Petrels, Puffins and other birds nesting at the top of the cliffs. I came on a fox one evening in the act of stalking, and Shrosbree found one enjoying a meal.

¹ Capt. J. W. Collins, Rept. U. S. Fish Commission, 1882.

18. **Morus bassana.** GANNET.—Although nesting only three miles from the mainland, all except occasional individuals kept out to sea for their food. In curious contrast were the Herring Gulls that nested on Percé Rock, a few hundred feet off shore. They seemed to divide their time impartially between land and sea, and at any time during the day small companies of the Gulls would be lined up along the ridge pole of some house roof, on a fence rail or standing about in the fields.¹²

19. **Phalacrocorax auritus auritus.** DOUBLE-CREASTED CORMORANT.—In addition to the large colony nesting on the flat summit of Percé Rock these birds breed in several locations in the vicinity of Gaspé Bay; small birches take the place of the usual rock ledges as the nesting site at Three Runs. Other notable sections are the Bon Ami cliffs and the coast near Mt. St. Albans. Ten years ago the Dominion government was prevailed upon by wealthy salmon interests to issue orders for the extermination of the Gaspé Cormorants. When action was suspended as a result of Taverner's report on conditions, public opinion was so hostile that, until the Sanctuary was decreed, the Cormorant colony was threatened with public execution.

Fred Richmond, who lives in the village of Gaspé Basin, told me what he thought of the whole Cormorant family in a way that expresses the sentiment of most of the natives on the subject. God no doubt had his reasons for creating each living thing, he said, but when he made the Cormorant he did himself little credit.

20. **Mergus americanus.** MERGANSER.—A pair on one of the four North Branch Ponds near camp, Oct. 4. *M. americanus* and *serrator* and the Hooded Merganser have been given the French name *Bec-scie*. I made no observation of this latter species, but from descriptions of the bird given me by a man in Mont Louis and another in Grande Vallée it is evidently to be found in the County.

21. **Mergus serrator.** RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.—Six on Madeleine Lake, Oct. 20; the next day one was seen flying south along the Madeleine River. These may migrate south across the Peninsula but the spring route is along the coast. May 4 a small flock seen going up the Mont Louis River from the sea. Several hundred nest on rock islands 100 miles east of the city of Quebec.

22. **Anas rubripes.** BLACK DUCK.—Common during October on inland ponds. Mallards apparently keep to the interior westward, avoiding Gaspé entirely. They have been reported, however, as breeding and plentiful on the southeast Labrador coast.¹³

23. **Spatula clypeata.** SHOVELLER.—At Quebec, according to Dionne, this is an occasional visitant. Although I saw none Taverner reports an individual taken near Gaspé in June, 1915; he also found a mounted specimen of the next species, shot near Gaspé Basin.

¹² For a detailed account of this species see paper by Lucas, 'The Auk,' April, 1888.

¹³ L. M. Turner, *Birds of Labrador*, Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus., 1885.

24. *Aix sponsa*. WOOD DUCK.

25. *Clangula clangula americana*. GOLDEN-EYE.—Between April 10 and 13 several flocks seen along the coast on the way from Mont Louis to Ste. Anne des Monts. At this time the St. Lawrence was filled with floating ice and a strip a quarter of a mile wide was still frozen along the shore.

26. *Clangula islandica*. BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE.—A migrating flock at Mont Louis, April 20. These, in company with large numbers of Scoters, breed in the St. Lawrence on rocky islands near the base of the Peninsula. When visiting these islands by canoe the 9th of July most of the eggs were hatched. The birds resented intrusion more emphatically than the Gannets at Bonaventure; and probably because of the easy accessibility, their nests were often plundered by men from the mainland.

As the canoe approached one of the islands a reconnoitering flock would fly out to investigate; after circling overhead they would return and give the warning. All the birds on the island flew up simultaneously as the canoe touched shore; their harsh cries made a deafening noise while they wheeled about in great excitement. Then as the canoe pushed off a small flock would carry warning to the next island, and the same reception would be waiting for us when we drew near.

27. *Harelda hyemalis*. OLD SQUAW.—Two flocks passed Mont Louis April 20; common along the coast in the fall. Lewis found numbers off Bonaventure Island during December.

28. *Histrionicus histrionicus*. HARLEQUIN DUCK.—On April 21 a small flock was recorded at L'Anse Pleureuse, the next village east of Mont Louis. Taverner found a dozen or more unsexed birds near Bonaventure.

29. *Somateria dresseri*. EIDER.—These pass across the tip of the Peninsula by the hundreds and are considered the favorite game bird. The preferred season for shooting them is the spring. The birds settle in large numbers on the ice around open water and can be killed with so little trouble the natives think it a shame to miss the fun.

30. *Oidemia americana*. SCOTER.—This and the two following species migrate in considerable numbers along the coast. In April, long strings of the birds would be seen out over the open St. Lawrence, beyond the shore ice. They are among the earliest arrivals. The next species is the more abundant.

31. *Oidemia deglandi*. WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.

32. *Oidemia perspicillata*. SURF SCOTER.

33. *Branta canadensis canadensis*. CANADA GOOSE.—A cross-country migrant. Flocks ranging in size from 10 to 30 birds were passing over camp almost daily during the month of October. The first to return in spring were seen over Mont Louis Lake, fifteen miles inland, flying north during a heavy snow storm April 26.

34. *Branta bernicla glaucogastra*. BRANT.—These and White-winged Scoters are probably the most abundant transients along the coast

during April and October. A group of almost a hundred birds settled on the open water off Rivière à Claude for the night of April 15.

35. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. BITTERN.—At Newport and Grand River on Chaleur Bay, a number on mud flats at river outlets. On a small island off Newport, where we camped one night, 20 or more were found roosting in the trees.

36. *Ardea herodias herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON.—During the year I had no experience with Herons inland. They kept strictly to the coast; it is possible heronries would be found in the south shore district. On that side the land is in sharp contrast with the St. Lawrence coastline, being for the most part low and gently sloping. The rivers are longer, emptying into Chaleur Bay, and behind the barachois (gravel bar) at the mouth, they broaden out to form an extensive shallow backwater of the sea. Wherever these were passed Great Blue Herons, Bitterns and the next species would be seen feeding. Aug. 20 from a canoe at the base of Percé Rock I saw three Herons perched on the edge of the barren plateau, while Cormorants and Gulls scurried back and forth caring for late nestlings.

37. *Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Aug. 10 on the small tidal flats of the Mont Luis River I saw ten birds wading about in the shallow water; in larger numbers than the preceding species around the coast.

38. *Phalaropus fulicarius*. RED PHALAROPE.—One of the mackerel fishermen at Port Daniel told me this was called "sea goose"; during August it was found on the Miscou Banks in large numbers. I saw a flock of about thirty off Bonaventure, swimming about in calm water between tide-rips.

39. *Lobipes lobatus*. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—At Grand Etang, Aug. 17 a large flock, and more seen from the canoe off Bonaventure five days later.

40. *Pisobia minutilla*. LEAST SANDPIPER.—May 9 on mud flats of the Mont Louis River I saw three in company with Greater Yellow-legs.

41. *Ereunetes pusillus*. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.—A pair on the beach at Grand Etang, Aug. 17, and at Mont Louis, May 8.

42. *Calidris leucophaea*. SANDERLING.—Just after the ice in Mont Louis Bay had broken up, on April 18, a flock of about twenty was feeding along the beach.

43. *Totanus melanoleucus*. GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.—May 9 and 15 at Mont Louis, and in August at the mouth of the York and Grand Pabos Rivers.

44. *Tringa solitaria solitaria*. SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—From the middle of June to the first of August these were to be found on practically every pond inland. I was surprised to find this and the next species the only ones of the family nesting there, with every condition so favorable.

45. *Actitis macularia*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER.

46. **Numenius hudsonicus.** HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—A pair at Fox River, Aug. 18.

47. **Pluvialis dominicus donimicus.** GOLDEN PLOVER.—Sept. 28 and 30 I saw three birds just below the summit of Dunraven, the highest of the Tabletop Mts., fairly good evidence they were taking the inland route over to Chaleur Bay. Two flocks of the next species were recorded at Douglastown by Dr. Townsend.

48. **Squatarola squatarola.** BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.

49. **Charadrius semipalmatus.** SEMIPALMATED PLOVER.—This and the next species I found locally distributed all around the coast, feeding by twos and threes on the gravel beaches.

50. **Charadrius melodus.** PIPING PLOVER.

51. **Arenaria interpres morinella.** RUDDY TURNSTONE.—A small flock on the shore of Mont Louis Bay, April 20.

52. **Canachites canadensis canace.** CANADA SPRUCE PARTRIDGE.—Common all through the interior to within eight miles of the coast. During the winter the birds stayed in the upper branches of spruce and fir trees and were easily overlooked, but unlike the semi-migratory habits of the Ruffed Grouse the range did not shift perceptibly winter and summer.

Mating began the first of June. The colors of the male are the most striking of the winter birds, and this quality adds to the interest of watching the courtship. They are so tame it is sometimes possible to catch them with the hand, yet in shielding their young they are more courageous than the warier Grouse.

On July 10, near Mont Louis Lake, I found four broods along the trail to the village. The young were able to fly sufficiently for protection but each mother was so solicitous that she flew almost into my face while I stood in the vicinity of her chicks. As I walked on she would scuttle down the trail ahead, and then watch me from the bushes until her fears were satisfied.

53. **Bonasa umbellus togata.** CANADA RUFFED GROUSE.—Rarely found in the heavy forest of the interior, but plentiful on the village outskirts and back about ten miles from the sea. The first of January marked their first disappearance; none seen then until April. The first drumming was heard May 20 near Mont Louis Lake. Young were seen the last of June near the village. The climate down at the sea was about two weeks later than at North Branch Camp.

54. **Lagopus rupestris rupestris.** ROCK PTARMIGAN.—The record established by Shrosbree, is unique for Gaspé. He collected a single bird on Bonaventure Island in July, 1922.

55. **Circus hudsonius.** MARSH HAWK.—Individuals seen frequently over the interior during the summer months.

56. **Accipiter velox.** SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—June 3, while making the last trip from Mont Louis Lake to North Branch with the dog-sled (the snow was between two and three feet deep in the trail), a female perched on a nearby spruce and gave its shrill whistle.

57. **Accipiter cooperi.** COOPER'S HAWK.—Nov. 2 on the south slope of McNab Mt. I walked to within fifty feet of one resting on the point of a low spruce. A few in summer along the coast.

58. **Astur atricapillus atricapillus.** GOSHAWK.—One was seen soaring over the valley east of Dunraven, May 2. Another along the portage road between Fox River and Gaspé Basin.

59. **Buteo borealis borealis.** RED-TAILED HAWK.—Common in summer between Mont Louis Lake and the sea.

60. **Buteo platypterus.** BROAD-WINGED HAWK.—On March 20, while breaking trail about a mile below camp, with the snow seven feet deep, one of these birds flew past and lit on a tall spruce. After watching me curiously until I had passed, it went on, flying northward. This point was near the divide between the watersheds of the Madeleine and Mont Louis Rivers; the Hawk was accordingly migrating up the valley of the North Branch following this course.

As pointed out before, the cross country route is the more difficult one in the spring because snow lingers until the last of June, and this will account for records of such strong winged birds as the Canada Goose, Loon, river Ducks and several of the Hawks, while the other species circle the Peninsula.

This Hawk was common during the summer. Two nests were located, one built in a white pine (a rare tree in Gaspé); and the other, nine miles up the Mont Louis River in the crotch of a yellow birch, forty feet above the ground.

61. **Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis.** ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.—On May 2 one was seen soaring over the north shoulder of Dunraven, near enough for distinguishing the black tail-tip.

62. **Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus.** NORTHERN BALD EAGLE.—One over Black Lake, three miles from camp, July 1. Townsend saw four in immature plumage at Cross Point, July 7, 1919.

63. **Falco peregrinus anatum.** DUCK HAWK.—A pair above sea cliff west on Mont Louis Bay, June 1. Reported at Percé as probably breeding.

64. **Falco columbarius columbarius.** PIGEON HAWK.—Oct. 11, one passed close to me flying low over a thicket of stunted spruce on an elevated ledge of Tabletop. Common on the coast.

65. **Falco sparverius sparverius.** SPARROW HAWK.—Aug. 31, while walking the railroad near Gascons, on the south shore, a bird darted into the bushes at the side of the track just ahead. I was able to get close without being seen and was surprised to discover him standing on the ground waiting beside a mouse hole, in the manner of a cat. The bird stayed a minute or two and then hopped to an opening in the undergrowth. He flew away empty handed. Not uncommon all around the coast.

66. **Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis.** OSPREY.—From Fox River around the south shore these were common.

67. **Strix varia varia.** BARRED OWL.—March 15, I came unexpectedly on a bird roosting on a low spruce, in the valley below Tabletop.

68. *Scotiaptex nebulosa nebulosa*. GREAT GRAY OWL.—The breeding range of this species possibly extends to the north shore of Gaspé. I happened to notice a large bird high up in a spruce growing beside the road near Rivière Madeleine, while walking from that village to Grande Vallée on Aug. 16. It gave me leisure to make the identification and refused to fly until a stick was thrown. Unfortunately I had no gun at the time.

69. *Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*. SAW-WHET OWL.—At one of the North Branch Ponds, Oct. 4 one was heard calling. Dr. Phillips reported a pair at the forks of the Cascapedia River in 1922.

70. *Bubo virginianus virginianus*. GREAT HORNED OWL.—From March 15 until the end of May heard frequently at North Branch. A pair at Mont Louis Lake and called Oct. 20 at Madeleine Lake.

71. *Surnia ulula caparoch*. HAWK OWL.—A pair flying north perched on tops of spruce trees near the trail late in the afternoon of Feb. 17, half-way between camp and Mont Louis Lake. After watching me a minute they exchanged calls and took flight.

72. *Ceryle alcyon alcyon*. BELTED KINGFISHER.—Just after sunrise Oct. 4 one flew down North Branch River, giving its challenging cry. The first one in the spring was at the mouth of the Mont Louis River May 15, and later in the day was seen three miles upstream. June 5 one passed by the cabin, going south down the North Branch.

73. *Dryobates villosus leucomelas*. NORTHERN HAIRY WOODPECKER.—A common resident.

74. *Dryobates pubescens medianus*. DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Resident, but less common than the Hairy. Found in the mountains up to an elevation of 3000 feet.

75. *Picoides arcticus*. ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER.—Resident and common all through the interior.

76. *Picoides americanus americanus*. THREE-TOED WOODPECKER.—Resident and common. Like the preceding, this species prefers the mountains and the dense vegetation of the inland region, from Mont Louis Lake back. The ravages caused to spruce by insect blights evidently explain the presence of large numbers of Woodpeckers.

77. *Sphyrapicus varius varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—This, the Flicker and Hairy are the common species along the coast, where, being north of the tree limit so far as orchards are concerned, they are obliged to turn their efforts to the maple, ash and birch.

78. *Phloeotomus pileatus abieticola*. NORTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER.—One near Mont Louis Lake, June 4.

79. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. NORTHERN FLICKER.—Last record in the fall, Sept. 24. One arrived at Mont Louis, April 20, three days later seen seven miles back at the river forks. At Mont Louis Lake, May 18. The cabin at the forks had been riddled with shallow holes, and one morning we were at a loss to explain a loud rattling noise until I investigated and found a Flicker hammering away on one of the logs beside the door. The cabin had been built of white cedar.

80. *Antrostomus vociferus vociferus*. WHIP-POOR-WILL.—A pair heard calling across one of the North Branch Ponds, Sept. 25.

81. *Chordeiles virginianus virginianus*. NIGHTHAWK.—None seen on the north shore, but at Percé and Newport a pair Aug. 24 and 25, respectively.

82. *Chaetura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Although reported as rare on Anticosti Island, sixty miles off the coast in the Gulf, they are common all along the north shore. June 18 several flew over the Mont Louis River at the forks and the next day a flock of about 25 was flying over a field two miles above the last house in the village. It was late in the day and I watched to see where they would go. After wheeling about in massed formation they suddenly disappeared into the hollow top of a dead poplar. The stub had a diameter of three feet and stood about thirty feet high.

As I approached, the alarm was given and they all came pouring out. They kept up an excited twittering until I had gone. The hollow stub was only a few yards from the river, standing on the side of a much worn deer trail.

83. *Archilochus colubris*. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—One at Gaspé Basin, Aug. 21. Said to be common in the many beautiful gardens of the village.

84. *Sayornis phoebe*. PHOEBE.—Two pairs nesting, one under the bridge two miles up the Mont Louis River; the other at L'Anse Pleureuse.

85. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. KINGBIRD.—One seen at Grand River, Aug. 25.

86. *Nuttallornis borealis*. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.—A pair at Mont Louis and others at St. Antoine and along the south shore.

87. *Empidonax flaviventris*. YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.—An individual in bushes bordering marshy ground along the Mont Louis River five miles back from the coast, July 6.

88. *Empidonax trailli alnorum*. ALDER FLYCATCHER.—With the temperature two degrees below freezing a pair passed down the North Branch River on Oct. 5, feeding in alder bushes opposite the cabin. May 6 and 12 an individual near the village.

89. *Otocoris alpestris alpestris*. HORNED LARK.—The Tabletop Mts. lie ten miles east of Mt. Albert, where a breeding colony of these birds and Pipits has previously been discussed by Townsend.¹ On my first visit to Dunraven, the highest peak of Tabletop, I counted forty birds, most of them in pairs. This was Sept. 27; ten days later the mountains were covered with snow and I found only a single pair. A small flock passed over the cabin Oct. 29, the last to be seen until March 16, when a small flock flew north up the river past camp.

Ten pairs were found on Tabletop June 28; although the weather was bad nest building had evidently begun. Several flight songs were heard, in so wild a setting a very beautiful sound. The male flies straight upward for

¹Townsend, A Breeding Station of the Horned Lark and Pipit, 'The Auk,' Jan., 1923.

fifty or a hundred feet as the song begins, then flutters a second as he hangs suspended, and drops suddenly to the ground with the song's conclusion.

90. **Cyanocitta cristata cristata.** BLUE JAY.—Only occasionally reported. I saw one at Rivière Madeleine Aug. 13 and heard of them at Ste. Anne des Monts and Percé. Anderson found one as far inland as Lake Ste. Anne.

91. **Perisoreus canadensis canadensis.** CANADA JAY.—Common all through the interior. Two pairs were regularly at the door yard in the early mornings winter and summer. In stormy weather they were about the cabin most of the time and during the long months of isolation they endeared themselves to us by their companionship. A description of some of their interesting ways will be found elsewhere.¹

Nesting began the last week of April, the nest being located in a spruce growing in swampy ground a quarter-mile from camp. June 8, three fledged young were brought to the cabin by the parents. Three in juvenal plumage were seen in the wooded area of Bonaventure Island.

92. **Corvus corax principalis.** NORTHERN RAVEN.—Reported by Taverner preying on Herring Gull nest at Percé. Although only as casuals were they to be seen along the coast, inland they were one of the common residents. One came to our camp to feed on scraps, Sept. 26, and frequently afterward. A pair was regularly at Mont Louis Lake, but on Tabletop they congested in a flock of as many as fifteen individuals. In the fall and summer I expected to find bears attracted by the carcasses of my caribou, but Ravens invariably had the bones picked clean in two or three days.

93. **Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos.** CROW.—Absent between the middle of December and March 24. Mating had started the first of May. In July, after nesting, large flocks settle on the beach and eat the refuse left in cleaning the cod fish. At Mont Louis their numbers were about two hundred; the only flock exceeding this in size was at Chlory-dormes.

94. **Dolichonyx oryzivorus.** BOBOLINK.—Reported as fairly common on the south coast in hay meadows, by Anderson. One pair was seen outside the village of Newport.

95. **Molothrus ater ater.** COWBIRD.—An individual near Chandler. Townsend saw one in immature plumage at Grande Grève.

96. **Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus.** RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—A pair nesting in swamp willows two miles up the Mont Louis River. Bell, accompanying Sir William Logan on one of the trips of exploration, mentions seeing one at Ste. Anne des Monts, July 17, 1858.

97. **Sturnella magna magna.** MEADOWLARK.—One seen near Percé by Taverner in June 1915.

98. **Euphagus carolinus.** RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—An individual reported by Keays at Mont Louis Lake, Oct. 2. The first to appear in

¹ A year's friendship with the Canada Jay, 'Bird Lore,' April, 1925.

spring stopped at camp April 30. It perched on a stump and repeated its squeaky note, and then flew down stream. Having come from the river valley north it was evidently migrating along the coast. June 16, a pair nesting in alders two miles below camp. Three days later one was found in low meadow land along the Mont Louis River.

99. *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*. BRONZED GRACKLE.—Oct. 16 about fifty, making a loud commotion, settled for the night in bushes two miles above the village. May 5, a large flock in poplars near one of the Mont Louis houses. Common and nesting there June 18.

100. *Pinicola enucleator leucura*. PINE GROSBILL.—On the afternoon of Oct. 27 a pair lit in trees near the cabin and after calling several times flew off down the river. Nov. 3, I found three among stunted spruce on the south slope of McNab Mt. Dec. 28, a flock of 11 feeding on spruce "browse," half way between camp and Mont Louis Lake. They were also seen during March and April.

101. *Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*. PURPLE FINCH.—These are present all winter at Montreal, but the first to arrive at Mont Louis were in a field above the village May 24, just after the snow had disappeared. They were singing from bare birches and moving restlessly from point to point. July 8, a pair nesting at Mont Louis Lake, the male in full song. Five days later common along the North Branch River.

102. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. RED CROSSBILL.—Several at Mont Louis and L'Anse Pleureuse the last week of July.

103. *Loxia leucoptera*. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.—This and the preceding species are common breeders near the coast. A flock numbering about fifty at Mont Louis, July 9. Taverner saw more than a hundred at Percé about this time in 1914.

104. *Acanthis linaria linaria*. REDPOLL.—From April 20 to March 24, flocks varying in size from 50 to 200 were seen wherever fields had been swept clear of snow by the prevailing northwest winds. At this time my wife and I made the 80-mile round trip from Mont Louis to Ste. Anne by sleigh, and at each village along the way these delicately colored birds would greet us from the gable of some curving roof. The hardy folk sat comfortably by their stoves and gave possession of their mountain-bordered valleys to these merry songsters.

105. *Astragalinus tristis tristis*. GOLDFINCH.—A flock of twelve in a barley field one mile up the Mont Louis River, May 31. Common between the village and forks, July 10.

106. *Spinus pinus*. PINE SISKIN.—Small flock feeding in tall trees on trail to Tabletop, Sept. 25. About twenty in poplars four miles above the village, May 12 and June 1. Nest with eggs found by Taverner at Gaspé Basin, July 21.

107. *Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*. LAPLAND LONGSPUR.—April 14, a flock of twenty on exposed ground in snow-covered field five miles above the village. May 2 and June 6 several on Dunraven.

108. *Poœcetes gramineus gramineus*. VESPER SPARROW.—Sept. 24

ten were seen in a field of oats on the village outskirts. Reported from Ste. Anne des Monts and Rivière Madeleine in the month of July by Townsend.

109. *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*. SNOW BUNTING.—On Nov. 2, I found a flock of more than a hundred flying from place to place on the snow-covered summits of Dunraven and McNab, picking shriveled crowberries where they were exposed. Small flocks were seen along the coast during the first two weeks of April.

110. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*. SAVANNAH SPARROW.—May 6, a flock of about 30 in open fields near Mont Louis. Common up to timber line in the mountains, after the middle of June. The first of July a nest was found on the northeast shoulder of Dunraven. The materials were sphagnum moss, coarse grass, bits of ground blueberry stalks and lined with white caribou hair. It was placed under a granite boulder surrounded by dwarf spruce.

111. *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—On May 20, we reached Mont Louis Lake at seven o'clock in the morning, having traveled with the dog sled since midnight from North Branch to avoid the softened snow that came with the heat of the sun. One of these birds was picking ravenously over a small patch of bare ground in front of the cabin when we arrived and spent the whole day, being joined from time to time by several White-throats.

112. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.—Sept. 27, a bird in song at the foot of Dunraven. At camp the last migrant was seen Oct. 17. Three songs heard at the village May 10 and common two days later. At the forks May 14; a week later at Mont Louis Lake. June 1 at North Branch their jubilant song gave us confidence the snow would soon be gone. July 16 a brood of fledged young was found near camp.

113. *Spizella monticola monticola*. TREE SPARROW.—A small flock at Rivière à Claude April 18.

114. *Spizella passerina passerina*. CHIPPING SPARROW.—Sept. 27 about twenty on the eastern slope of Tabletop. June 19 and later common in the village and along the coast.

115. *Junco hyemalis hyemalis*. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.—Late migrants near Mont Louis Lake, Oct. 1. First spring arrivals at camp April 28, a pair feeding at the cabin door during the afternoon. Cross country migration suggested by entire absence the day before at Mont Louis Lake, the only route from the St. Lawrence at this point. After June 1 common everywhere. Nest with four eggs found June 18 at a point on the trail twelve miles back from the sea. The nest was curiously lined with small quills of the procupine, one of the most abundant of the mammals in this country. These young were fledged the first week in July. July 12, a nest was located near camp, three weeks after the disappearance of snow. In the village at this time Juncos were beginning the second brood.

116. *Melospiza melodia melodia*. SONG SPARROW.—The last one

seen at camp on Oct. 15. Several songs on the trail near the village May 5. At the forks May 17. None found farther inland.

117. *Melospiza lincolni lincolni*. LINCOLN'S SPARROW.—May 6 a small flock in field a mile above the village. A pair with fledged young in low tamaracks at pond behind camp July 13.

118. *Melospiza georgiana*. SWAMP SPARROW.—Within a radius of two miles around the camp I located seven ponds. They varied in length from two hundred yards to half a mile, each of them shallow and with marshy borders. The extent of local glaciation in this upland region between the high range of the Shickshock Mts. and the St. Lawrence resulted in a wide distribution of bogs and dammed water courses. Intervening mudholes between ponds contributed to the difficulties of travel, and incidentally offered all kinds of insects a place to breed in distressing abundance.

In accordance with such characteristics of the country Swamp Sparrows are commonly distributed. The first nest was found near camp June 15.

119. *Passerella iliaca iliaca*. FOX SPARROW.—Seven inland only during the fall migration, three near Tabletop Oct. 18. Occasionally along the coast in August.

120. *Passer domesticus*. ENGLISH SPARROW.—Absent between Oct. 2 and May 10. Found in door yards all along the coast.

121. *Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*. CLIFF SWALLOW.—Several over the Mont Louis River June 19. A month later fledged young in nests in the village.

122. *Hirundo erythrogastra*. BARN SWALLOW.—While less common than the preceding, several were always to be seen flying over the river.

123. *Iridoprocne bicolor*. TREE SWALLOW.—Just before dark on June 15 a lone bird was darting and sailing over the trees across the river from camp. Two weeks later another came and July 5 there were five flying over the cabin. They were attracted by a caribou skin I had drying on the wall of the wood house and each would come down in turn and pull off a tuft of hair. I never located their nests but they evidently were near one of the ponds behind our camp.

124. *Riparia riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.—At least two pairs nested in a fifty-foot sand bank where the river cut the base of one of the marine beaches in the village.

125. *Bombycilla cedorum*. CEDAR WAXWING.—A pair at St. Yvon Aug. 15. Taverner saw a few at Percé.

126. *Lanius borealis*. NORTHERN SHRIKE.—May 9 one perched in a treetop at the edge of the woods, two miles below the forks of the Mont Louis River. Near Mont Louis Lake on July 12 I located a bird by its loud whistling. Lewis saw one on Bonaventure Island, Dec. 10.

127. *Vireosylva olivacea*. RED-EYED VIREO.—A pair seen in a large poplar tree a mile above camp, June 16. After the 20th they were common between the forks and Mont Louis.

128. *Vireosylva philadelphia*. PHILADELPHIA VIREO.—This and

the following species reported common along the coast by Townsend. I had seen none until I reached Little Pabos, on the south side of the Peninsula, the last of August. In a small grove of willows at this place there was a flock which included a dozen or more Vireos and two or three Black and White Warblers.

129. *Laniivireo solitarius solitarius*. BLUE-HEADED VIREO.

130. *Vireo griseus griseus*. WHITE-EYED VIREO.—A breeding pair found July 23 near the large lake at L'Anse Pleureuse.

131. *Mniotilta varia*. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.—One near the forks July 9, and the 13th I saw one across the river from camp.

132. *Vermivora peregrina*. TENNESSEE WARBLER.—The last of June on the trip from camp to the village this was found to be the common warbler all along the trail. The birds showed preference for the birches that were scattered sparsely through the coniferous woods.

133. *Compsothlypis americana usneae*. NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER.—One passed camp June 28, fluttering from bush to bush on the opposite side of the river as he made his way up stream.

134. *Dendroica tigrina*. CAPE MAY WARBLER.—At Gaspé Basin three birds were seen in an elm tree, the latter part of August.

135. *Dendroica aestiva aestiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.—Several pairs nesting in bushes bordering the Mont Louis River. Common at Grande Vallée.

136. *Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—An individual seen by Townsend in 1919 at Grande Grève; three years later another recorded there by Lewis.

137. *Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla*. NASHVILLE WARBLER.—Not uncommon at several towns along the shore, Rivière Madeleine, Grand Etang and Fox Rivers.

138. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER.—Several of this species, together with Juncos and a single Brown Creeper reported by Keays alighting on the rigging of the SS. *Gaspesia* during a heavy fog off Ste. Anne des Monts, Sept. 22. A small flock in alders bordering the Mont River, May 15. Six days later individuals were seen at Mont Louis Lake and the last of the month a pair at North Branch. The common Warbler.

139. *Dendroica magnolia*. MAGNOLIA WARBLER.—June 10 a pair in spruce trees near camp; frequently seen along the trail.

140. *Dendroica castanea*. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER.—An individual in birch tree at the forks, June 24.

141. *Dendroica striata*. BLACK-POLL WARBLER.—Several in spruce near Mont Louis Lake, May 16. A month later one was seen near camp.

142. *Dendroica fusca*. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.—These and Black-polls were sometimes found migrating along the coast the last of August. A pair at one of the North Branch Ponds, July 2.

143. *Dendroica virens*. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.—None inland but found at Chlorydormes and several points on the south shore.

144. *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*. YELLOW PALM WAR-

BLER.—One reported by Taverner at Percé, June 10, 1915. No other records.

145. *Seiurus aurocapillus*. OVEN-BIRD.—A song at the forks June 20 and two days later a bird was seen. Another near Mont Louis Lake.

146. *Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis*. WATER-THRUSH.—A pair three miles above the Grand Falls of the Madeleine River, Aug. 13.

147. *Oporonis philadelphia*. MOURNING WARBLER.—Townsend has a record for one at Cross Point, July 5, 1919.

148. *Geothlypus trichas trichas*. MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT.—Two pairs at Grande Vallée and a single bird at Little Fox River, the middle of August.

149. *Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*. WILSON'S WARBLER.—A pair with young found at Ste. Anne by Townsend early in July. Aug. 16 at Pointe Jaune I saw five birds in birches at the road side.

150. *Wilsonia canadensis*. CANADA WARBLER.—A flock of ten behind camp, Sept. 25. June 18, I found numbers between Mont Louis Lake and the village. A week later they were at North Branch.

151. *Setophaga ruticilla*. REDSTART.—Several seen along the coast; one at the forks, July 8.

152. *Anthus rubescens*. PIPIT.—Twenty late migrants were found on the lower shoulder of Dunraven, Sept. 28. A male was collected on the top of the mountain, June 28, and a colony consisting of about fifteen pairs nested in the vicinity of the Horned Larks.

152. *Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*. WINTER WREN.—One in full song Sept. 26, near largest of the North Branch Ponds. The next day a bird was found along the trail half way to the mountains. May 2, one was heard near the same place; at that time there was four feet of snow. After May 23 their songs were heard all along the trail. Its vivacious warble was matched for frequency only by the Ruby-crowned Kinglet's during the first two weeks of June. July 16, a nest found near the trail four miles south of camp; the young partly fledged.

153. *Certhia familiaris americana*. BROWN CREEPER.—Nov. 2 three were found along the trail to Tabletop grubbing over the trunks of spruce trees and exchanging low calls. First spring arrivals at the forks April 12, continuing there two weeks later. At North Branch, May 2.

154. *Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—July 9, an individual was seen a mile below the forks.

155. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Several heard calling near the forks, April 22. June 24, a pair was seen on the trail to Mont Louis Lake.

156. *Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*. CHICKADEE.—On Sept. 24, I met with a flock of thirty in birch woods on the lower Mont Louis River. They were uncommon upland, although often as far as Mont Louis Lake. Nov. 2, a pair was found in heavy spruce growth filling the valley between two mountains of the Tabletop section. Resident in small numbers, increasing after March 15. A nest found June 6.

157. **Penthestes hudsonicus littoralis.** ACADIAN CHICKADEE.—Plentiful all through the interior. A nest found near camp was lined with bits of rabbit hair.

158. **Regulus satrapa satrapa.** GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.—Several seen near camp in September and October, returning in May. These modest creatures prefer the dense foliage of large spruce or balsam, while the Ruby-crowned is very active and melodious in the underbrush, or perched on the top of some pointed spruce.

159. **Regulus calendula calendula.** RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.—Common after May 15. A pair nesting behind our camp, June 12. Only Juncos and Chickadees are more widely distributed than this species inland.

160. **Hylocichla mustelina.** WOOD THRUSH.—This unexpected song was heard May 15 near the edge of the woods on the trail down from the forks. June 4 at North Branch two were heard exchanging calls along the trail. I was able to mark the different positions as they moved down the valley in the direction I was walking, covering a distance of two miles. This was a clear record of migration inland from the coast. June 16, several were heard near the Madeleine River, ten miles south of camp.

161. **Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens.** VEERY.—One along the road near Newport, Aug. 30. Reported from Cross Point by Townsend.

162. **Hylocichla aliciae aliciae.** GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH.—One seen at the forks, July 8, and another at Grande Vallée.

163. **Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni.** OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.—Oct. 17, a bird in song three miles above Mont Louis Lake. The next day I came on a pair on the trail to Tabletop, and Oct. 19 near Madeleine River another bird. Several between the forks and Mont Louis Lake.

164. **Hylocichla guttata pallasi.** HERMIT THRUSH.—In the early evening of July 10, a bird flew to the window sill of the cabin at the forks, evidently attracted by the lamp light.

165. **Planesticus migratorius migratorius.** ROBIN.—Sept. 24, a pair at the forks and at North Branch camp as late as Oct. 29. Nov. 2, an individual was seen on the south slope of the snow-covered peak of McNab. Several songs near the village late in the afternoon of May 5. During the next ten days their numbers increased and they reached the forks, where snow was still on the ground. Nesting there June 18. The first to reach North Branch was on May 31. Lewis found a single bird on Bonaventure Island, Dec. 10.

The hundred and sixty-five species recorded here, supplemented by notes of other observers, are strictly of the Canadian type with certain of the Hudsonian and Transition forms. The possibility of this association, as has been suggested, is demonstrated by the sharp contrast to be found in the geography of the county. The southern portion of the Peninsula between Gaspé Bay and Mackerel Point, the boundary line of Bonaventure county, is

similar to the province of New Brunswick in climate, is largely deforested, and furnishes good farm land. This was one of the first sections of the Dominion to be colonized, its history going back to the days of Cartier.

On the north side, on the shore of the Gulf, the country has been changed only slightly by the handful of settlers; the primeaval state of things, I imagine, would go on indefinitely were it not for the paper industry. It was said that our cabin at the forks would next year be displaced by a power plant which would be linked with a pulp mill at the village. There is also agitation at present to build a railroad from Matane eastward over the plateau of the Shickshock Mountains, in order to give access to the rich mineral deposits known to be there. The first to be routed by these innovations will be the caribou and moose, because they have ranged their narrow mountains without restraint and have no experience with man's shrewdness. The birds have many strongholds.

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