

on the beach that the Eskimos shot hundreds of them for food. He could have taken all he wanted but collected only what he could personally save as specimens, some of which he sent to me.

He says that the Ivory Gulls were scarce this fall and did not come in to the shore at all. Boats that were out whaling reported seeing many of them as well as the Ross's Gulls.

As the birds in this series, which are in fresh, adult winter plumage, are so much more richly colored than any I have seen, it seems worth while to place on record an accurate description of the colors before they fade. This plumage is illustrated by Murdoch in his report on the natural history of the Point Barrow Expedition (1885) but the pink colors on my birds are much deeper and more extensive than appears on this plate; furthermore the bird in the plate has a white tail whereas my birds all have decidedly pink tails. During my absence Mr. Ludlow Griscom has kindly sent me the following description:

"General color shrimp pink of Ridgway, a warmer shade on the chest, sides, and under surface of tail, palest or dullest on the sides of the head and hind neck; auricular region and area around the anterior half of the eye tipped with blackish, the pileum and sides of the head elsewhere tinged tipped or clouded with pale gray; hind neck and fore part of the mantle pale shrimp pink, the feathers more and more tipped with pale gray, the mantle appearing gray faintly suffused with pink; wings pale neutral gray suffused with pink along the bend of the wing, tertials and scapulars; outer webs of outer secondaries and some of the greater coverts pale shrimp pink; shafts of three outer primaries dull pink above, bright pink on the under surface; entire under surface of the wing strongly suffused with pink; tail shrimp pink, the longer central tail feathers tipped for a short distance with very pale gray."—ARTHUR CLEVELAND BENT, *Taunton, Mass.*

**The Fall Flight of Geese to Louisiana.**—The uniformly early arrival of Geese along the gulf coast of Louisiana has always interested me, but I was never fortunate enough to be in the field when the Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) arrived on their wintering grounds, until the fall of 1928. These birds have a very limited range, the bulk of them making the coastal marshes of Louisiana their winter home. A great flock of thousands of individuals works the salt marshes at the mouth of the Mississippi River, and others are found near Marsh Island and Chenier au Tigre, about midway to the Texas border. As one travels west from Chenier au Tigre, fewer Blue Geese are seen and the Lesser Snow Goose becomes more common. At the mouth of the Mississippi, during the fall of 1928, we found about forty Blue Geese for each Snow Goose (*Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus*), while the ratio was reversed in Cameron Parish in western Louisiana, the first of November.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Joseph Leiter of Chicago, I was able to spend ten days on his estate at the mouth of the Mississippi River. He owns and leases some 15,000 acres of coastal marsh on the north side of

Main Pass, and this land is in the heart of the wintering grounds of the Blue Geese. On my arrival, October 20, I found the Blue Geese had not arrived. We saw a flock of possibly one thousand Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis* sub-species) and White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons* sub-species) on this date, and birds of both species were seen during the following ten days.

The first Blue Geese were seen October 25 when we flushed a great flock of possibly two thousand birds, from the marsh. The noise of our boat evidently disturbed them, for they arose from their feeding grounds, and after milling about for fifteen minutes, drifted down the coast to the mouth of Main Pass where they rested in a great sea bend. I believe they arrived during the night.

We entered our photographic blind at nine o'clock, and for the next few hours, witnessed the most interesting migration it has been my fortune to see. The Blue Geese, with an occasional Snow Goose, were coming in, following down the coast. A strong northwest wind had been blowing, which in the early morning changed to northeast, so the Geese had a fair sailing wind, and they came, flock after flock, the white heads of the adults agleam in the sun. We could distinguish the juvenile note from that of the adult, as the hosts sent their quavering calls back to those following. There were from one to three flocks in sight all day, ranging from 25 to 200 individuals, and they all came from the north and passed over practically the same route, as though the flocks were following each other. Had we anticipated such a flight, it would have been easy to count the flocks and estimate the number of birds.

Marsh men, in the employ of Mr. Lutchter Stark in Cameron Parish, western Louisiana, told me that the Snow Geese also arrived from the north on October 25, so the two species arrived on the Gulf Coast at the same time.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Chicago Academy of Sciences*.

**Migrating Water Birds on a New Artificial Lake in Piedmont Virginia.**—In the summer of 1926 an artificial body of water known as Timberlake, containing forty or more acres, was developed by realtors near Lynchburg, Virginia. The new lake is about forty miles east of the Blue Ridge mountains, and is ten miles southwest of the city of Lynchburg and the James River. The country surrounding the lake is typical Piedmont as regards climate, topography, flora and fauna.

For three seasons we have been watching the migration of Ducks and other water fowl at the lake. During the fall and winter of 1926-27, few migrants visited the lake. A Pied-billed Grebe and a few Lesser Scaup Ducks were the only species observed. We were considerably misled that year into believing that a number of Mallards and four Canada Geese were wintering at the lake. We soon found out that they had been transferred from a park at Roanoke, Virginia, and were thoroughly tamed. These tame birds had much to do with attracting wild species.

During the autumn of 1927, Mrs. Freer and I made many trips to the