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BIRDS OF THE MT. KATAHDIN REGION OF MAINE

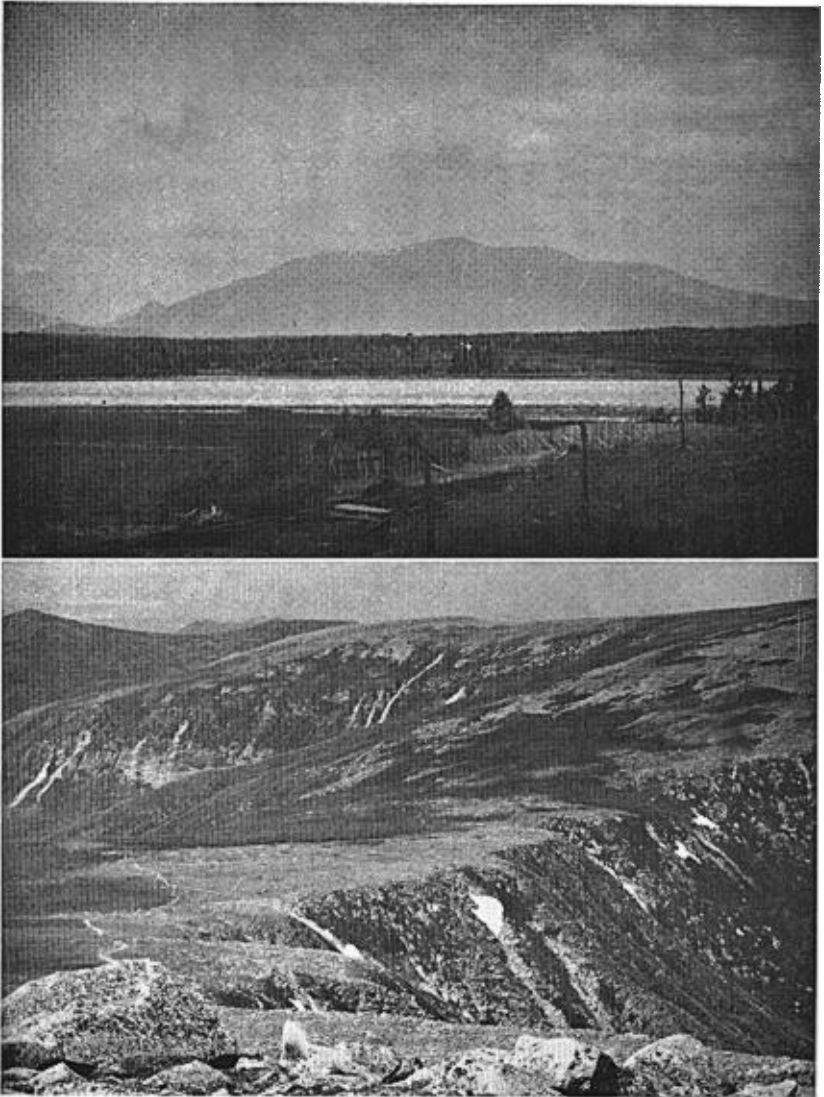
BY RALPH S. PALMER AND WENDELL TABER

Plate 8

MOUNT KATAHDIN in Piscataquis County is the highest mountain in Maine and lies some 50 miles north-northeast of the geographical center of the state. The higher levels of the mountain form the largest and most elevated of the several subalpine areas in Maine and the most northern subalpine district in the United States east of Montana. It is about 115 statute miles, or almost two degrees of latitude, farther north than Mt. Washington in New Hampshire. In this general sector the only other extensive subalpine areas are those on Tabletop, Mt. Albert and Mt. Logan on the Gaspé Peninsula.

Situated in an extensive forest, Mt. Katahdin (Plate 8) rises from a base level of about 600 feet to an altitude of 5,267 feet, with six peaks over 4,600 feet high, and a relatively plain plateau, the Tableland, nearly three miles long, elevated above 4,000 feet. The crest-line of the mountain might be likened to a gigantic fishhook with Pamola Peak the barb, Baxter Peak at the curve, and the chain of northerly peaks the shank. The distance from tree-line to tree-line over this route is approximately eight miles and involves a traverse of the six highest peaks. Baxter Peak, the summit of the mountain, is very nearly at 45° 54' north latitude and 68° 55' west longitude.

Many projecting arms box in numerous glacial cirques or basins. On the eastern side of the mountain are three of these, the Little North Basin with floor at about 2,600 feet, the Big North Basin with sloping floor at 3,100-3,300 feet, and the Great (including South) Basin with floor at 2,900 feet. The last-mentioned, originally well forested with spruce, was lumbered to about a half mile from Chimney Pond (alt. 2,914) early in the decade following 1920. With the light and sun now penetrating this area, an invasion of open-country



(Upper), MT. KATAHDIN FROM THE SOUTH. (Lower), EDGE OF THE SADDLE, JUNE 16, 1937. NOTE SNOW PATCHES.

birds and other animals has recently taken place here. On the north-western side are the Northwest Basin with floor at 2,900 feet, where snow may lie three feet deep on the shaded wall into mid-June, and the Klondike Basin with floor at about 3,400 feet. On the west, Katahdin falls off to a great boggy valley, the Klondike, at about 2,800 feet altitude. This bog is bounded on the south by Barren Mountain (alt. 3,681 ft.) and on the west by The Brothers (up to 4,143 ft.). There are, all told, ten satellite peaks above 3,000 feet high to the northeast, north and northwest of the mountain, with mountainous terrain continuing northerly for some 12 miles and culminating in the several peaks of the Traveler.

Mt. Katahdin is composed of a mass of coarse granite which disintegrates freely under the action of the weather, producing a coarse gravel which, with the accumulation of vegetable debris, forms a porous soil wherever the slope is not too steep to retain this cover. Above 3,000 feet, the sides of the mountain are abrupt, and wherever unprotected by vegetation are being constantly worn by moisture, wind and changes of temperature. In ancient times these flanks were severely eroded by glaciers. The Tableland is freely strewn with blocks and slabs of granite, quarried from the parent ledge through long ages of exposure.

The trees of the forest, predominantly spruce and fir, lose stature at the upper levels until they become a mass of scrub before reaching the edge of the Tableland. In the Saddle, a valley with its bed about 4,300 feet in altitude and between the parts of the mountain sometimes known as the North and South mountains, the scrub from the western flank continues nearly across to the eastern end of the valley. Another vast scrub area reaches to an altitude of nearly 4,500 feet at the north peaks. At higher levels, considerable areas of turf are found, formed of grasses, sedges and the rush, *Juncus trifidus* Linnaeus.

The country surrounding Mt. Katahdin contains innumerable bodies of water. Evaporation from these and from the forest ascends the mountain and, condensed as fog and heavy clouds, sweeps over the heights with great frequency or remains there for a few hours or even days. Rainfall is frequent and often almost torrential (Blake, 1927: 379). The total amount of moisture which falls upon the mountain is believed to exceed that of Mt. Washington (Williams, 1901: 161), but the clouds are less persistent and the amount of sunshine consequently is greater.

Winds of high velocity sweep over the mountain, along its flanks and through its basins throughout the year, probably during some

part of almost every day, though calm periods of a few hours' duration are frequent, even at the summit. Charles B. Fobes, a student of New England weather, stated (*in litt.*, March 6, 1945): "Although the average and extreme velocity of the winds of the Presidential Range in New Hampshire may be greater, a detailed study will probably reveal that the biotic conditions, level for level, are more severe on Mt. Katahdin." These wind conditions result in a scarcity of summer resident birds on the Tableland, although this area is well known as a "favorite hunting ground for strong-winged birds of prey," according to Blake (1931: 420) and to many observations made by Taber.

In dealing with the White Mountains, Glover Allen (1903) used the well-known terms proposed by C. Hart Merriam and called the three areas distinguished by earlier naturalists (summarized by Pease, 1924) Upper Canadian, Hudsonian and Arctic-alpine. He did not, however, make any reference to Katahdin in this connection. Aaron Young (1847) wrote the first specific remarks on zonation of the plant life on Katahdin. Antevs (1932), who summarizes much literature, refers to the mountain as having an Alpine zone. Knight (1908a) made a peculiar mistake in calling the upper zone "Hudsonian," basing his conclusions upon the evidence of ten plants. His claim for an avifaunal element rested upon the presence of Bicknell's Thrush—a bird pre-eminently Upper Canadian, in the Merriam sense of the term, in its faunal affinities. He repeats this error in his volume on Maine birds (Knight, 1908b: map in front of volume). Dr. Blake (1927), in his ecological studies at Katahdin, found the "Krumholz" (scrub or Hudsonian zone) too narrow in its altitudinal extent to harbor a fauna peculiar to itself, but to be populated by an overlapping of animals from above and below. This narrow band encircles the mountain and penetrates well into the sheltered section of the Saddle where the avifauna is scantily represented by such birds as Bicknell's Thrush, Black-poll and Myrtle Warblers, Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow. The only "alpine" bird believed to nest on the barren portion of the Tableland, is the American Pipit.

In unpublished notes on Katahdin, dating about 1937, the late Arthur Norton (*See Auk*, 60, 315-317) summarized the abundant and varied flora of the mountain as follows: "The flora has been well explored, showing about 62 lichens, 59 hepatics, 60 mosses, and about 250 flowering plants. Among the lichens the Families Lecidiaceae, Parmeliaceae and Cladoniaceae are conspicuously abundant, covering the rocks and scantier soil. The mosses are chiefly apocarpus,

and many lithophitic; some colonize the scanty soil and others the wet places and slopes. A few club mosses are common. Among the flowering plants are 23 species of grasses, 29 sedges, a few rushes, several dwarf willows and birches, a dozen species of Rosaceae, two crowberries, 24 heathworts, and various herbaceous plants including 13 Compositae." Some lichens have since been added by Degelius (Archiv für Botanik, 30: 1-62, 1942). This plentiful vegetation provides homes and shelter for various insects which, with the supply of fruits and seeds of various kinds, afford food for birds.

While the botanical literature for Katahdin is extensive, the bird literature is comparatively brief. Blake (1927) listed 35 species. The junior author's check-list (Taber, 1945) with brief annotations, lists 134 names and covers a wider area. Not all birds contained in the latter list are here included, since the present paper deals only with the mountain and its approaches, nor is his list cited in the many instances where records there presented are here elaborated or revised. Aside from these two papers, there are only a few scattered notes. All known important primary references are included in the appended bibliography.

Since only the "Katahdin, Me." quadrangle and not surrounding areas are available in U. S. Geological Survey topographic maps, a useful map covering a wider area is that accompanying the eighth edition (1945) of the Appalachian Mountain Club's "A Guide to Paths on Katahdin and in the Adjacent Region." Leavitt (1942) gives an excellent description of the region and some of its history; Antevs (1932) discusses its geology; and Smith and Avery (1936) compiled much of the literature on the mountain. These maps and publications are essential equipment for any student of the area.

Two localities, referred to below, need an explanation. Taber (1945: 366) called a small unnamed pond in Township 4, Range 11, Duck Pond. Eastward of the road and "barely if at all visible" from it, this pond is henceforth designated as 'Duck Pond' so as not to confuse it with the pond of the same name located at the western end of Upper Togue Pond. Some distance beyond 'Duck Pond,' and a half mile from the road along an unnamed brook, is 'Duck Pond Marsh' also so called by Taber (*ibid.*).

The late Arthur H. Norton was compiling a list of birds of the Katahdin region, which Palmer has continued. This paper includes their observations plus those of W. G. and Russell Fanning, E. H. Perkins, Mrs. I. H. Blake, A. S. Pope, W. H. Rich, Arthur Stupka, Mrs. Frank Lowe and the late J. F. Fanning. Taber's data include

observations made by himself, A. C. Bagg, G. L. Perry, O. K. Scott and H. McClure Johnson. To these persons the writers are greatly indebted.

There remains a dearth of winter and spring records for the region, while large areas on the lower levels of the mountain, in the surrounding forests, and on other satellite peaks have not been visited by an ornithologist at any season of the year. There is also need for judicious collecting to supplement the present list of sight records and to determine whether certain additional northern subspecies occur here, especially during migrations. Since Mt. Katahdin as a state park and the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail will attract many people in the future, the authors feel that the present paper may arouse more interest in the birds of this region.

COMMON LOON, *Gavia immer immer*.—Summer resident and migrant, breeding on lakes near the mountain.

PIED-BILLED GREBE, *Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*.—Occurs regularly in summer on near-by lakes and ponds; probably nests.

DOUBLE-CRESTED COMORANT, *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*.—A flock of about 100 "comorants," undoubtedly this species, was reported seen at Sourdnhunk Lake, August 27–28, 1934 (Bosson, 1934). Norton saw a single bird at Millinocket Lake, August 12, 1936.

GREAT BLUE HERON, *Ardea herodias herodias*.—Of frequent occurrence in summer and more so in early fall. No nesting places located.

LITTLE BLUE HERON, *Ardea caerulea caerulea*.—A white-plumaged immature bird was collected at the eastern end of Millinocket Lake, August 25, 1936 (Mendall, 1937).

EASTERN GREEN HERON, *Butorides virescens virescens*.—"Bagg informs me one was shot in Sourdnhunk region" (Taber, 1945: 367). This is presumably the mounted bird referred to by Ritchie (1927: 14), which was found in a camp at Sourdnhunk Lake and was shot about ten years previously.

AMERICAN BITTERN, *Botaurus lentiginosus*.—Seen and heard by Bagg at Sourdnhunk Lake, May 29–June 3, 1940. One was recorded at 'Duck Pond Marsh,' September 2, 1939, by Taber.

COMMON CANADA GOOSE, *Branta canadensis canadensis*.—A small flock was seen and heard by Palmer at Windey Pitch, October 17, 1945.

BLACK DUCK, *Anas rubripes*.—Common summer resident and migrant on lakes and ponds near the mountain.

GADWALL, *Chaulelasmus streperus*.—One seen with Black Ducks at 'Duck Pond' September 12, 1933, by Taber and others. A bird seen in flight, June 22 and 29, 1945, at Sandy Stream Pond by Johnson, was probably of this species.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL, *Anas discors*.—One was seen by Bagg at Sourdnhunk Lake, between May 29 and June 3, 1940.

WOOD DUCK, *Aix sponsa*.—Occasional in summer and in migration. Nearest records to the mountain are those seen by Taber; one at Millinocket Lake, August 24, 1945, and a pair at 'Duck Pond,' September 12, 1933.

RING-NECKED DUCK, *Aythya collaris*.—A pair of adults and four young at 'Duck Pond,' September 2–3, 1939 (Taber, 1945: 367).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE, *Glaucionetta clangula americana*.—Found regularly, during the decade before 1932, on lakes and ponds near the mountain by Norton and others; observed less frequently since then. Mrs. Blake saw a small flock alight on Upper Basin Pond (alt. 2,450 ft.) during a storm, July 19, 1923.

BUFFLE-HEAD, *Glaucionetta albeola*.—A flock of nine was reported "spending the summer" at Dacey Pond where they were seen in July, 1921 (Fanning, 1921).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, *Melanitta fusca deglandi*.—A single bird was seen at Millinocket Lake by Taber, August 17, 1942.

HOODED MERGANSER, *Lophodytes cucullatus*.—Common in summer; undoubtedly nests. There has been a marked increase in numbers during the past twenty years.

AMERICAN MERGANSER, *Mergus merganser americanus*.—Common in summer. Norton found it nesting at Togue Ponds in 1923. Mrs. Lowe saw a female with about a dozen flying young daily at Wassataquoick Lake, August 30–Sept. 6, 1940.

EASTERN GOSHAWK, *Accipiter gentilis atricapillus*.—Taber has three records: Frost Pond, September 16, 1933; an immature bird by the cliffs above Chimney Pond, August 19, 1942; and an adult above Pamola, August 12, 1945.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, *Accipiter striatus velox*.—Probably a summer resident; not rare.

COOPER'S HAWK, *Accipiter cooperii*.—Seven summer records between June 1 and September 15. The highest record is of one seen from Hunt trail, September 3, 1937, by Stupka.

EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK, *Buteo jamaicensis borealis*.—Increasing and now seen regularly in summer. It may breed. The highest record is of one seen by Taber over Chimney Pond, August 19, 1942.

NORTHERN RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, *Buteo lineatus lineatus*.—One was seen by Mrs. Blake at Pamola Pond Bog (alt. 2,600 ft.), August 16, 1923. One at 'Duck Pond' and one at Ripogenus Dam, September 12, 1933; and two at Harrington Lake on September 15, 1933, all seen by Taber. Bagg has no records for his visits to the Sourdnhunk region.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK, *Buteo platypterus platypterus*.—Common in summer; nests. Mrs. Blake's high stations for 1923 are: Basin Ponds, August 1; Pamola Pond Bog, August 12; and near North Peak, circling at about 4,500 feet, August 31.

GOLDEN EAGLE, *Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*.—One was seen by Dr. Francis Harper from Index Rock on Pamola Peak, September 10, 1928. Another observer saw it at the same time and place [(Anonymous), 1928].

NORTHERN BALD EAGLE, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus washingtoniensis*.—Found regularly about the mountain and surrounding ponds and streams.

MARSH HAWK, *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*.—One was seen by Taber at 'Duck Pond Marsh' on September 2, 1939.

OSPREY, *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*.—Seen regularly on surrounding ponds and lakes all summer. More numerous in fall migration. On September 7, 1937, Stupka saw one high over Chimney Pond, buffeted by strong winds and apparently trying to cross Katahdin in the region of the Saddle.

DUCK HAWK, *Falco peregrinus anatum*.—Has undoubtedly nested on Katahdin for many years. Breeding on the eastern side of the mountain (Carpenter, 1884b). Mrs. Lowe saw a pair calling anxiously as they flew about The Owl on August 4, 1926. Seen harrying a Golden Eagle on September 10, 1928 [(Anonymous), 1928]. Taber has seen the species regularly during the summers of 1926–1945, in particular noting that it is seen frequently over the Tableland.

EASTERN PIGEON HAWK, *Falco columbarius columbarius*.—Occasional in summer. High records are of one seen near Saddle Slide by Norton on August 10, 1926, and two seen by Taber, one of which attacked a Duck Hawk over North Basin, August 18, 1945.

EASTERN SPARROW HAWK, *Falco sparverius sparverius*.—Occasional in clearings about the base of Katahdin; no breeding records. Rich saw one passing over the summit on August 10, 1926.

CANADA SPRUCE GROUSE, *Canachites canadensis canace*.—Resident but not numerous. The highest record is of one seen by Norton on the trail from Chimney Pond to Hamlin Ridge at about 3,400 feet on August 31, 1923. Moorehead (1922: 17) has an excellent photograph of one on the mountain. Considering the facts that Katahdin is a sanctuary and that no lumbering is permitted, this bird may increase in numbers.

CANADA RUFFED GROUSE, *Bonasa umbellus togata*.—This species is plentiful during some seasons on flanks of the mountain and in surrounding woods.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER, *Charadrius hiaticula semipalmatus*.—Eight migrants were seen by Bagg at Sourdnahunk Lake on May 31, 1939.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK, *Philohela minor*.—Norton (1928: 70-71) records borings and tracks at City Camp, and a bird seen at Wassataquoick Stream on August 16, 1925. Taber heard the 'flight song' and saw the bird at Millinocket Lake in the evening of August 16, 1942.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER, *Actitis macularia*.—Regular summer resident and breeder on near-by ponds and lakes. Often seen along Wassataquoick Stream.

EASTERN SOLITARY SANDPIPER, *Tringa solitaria solitaria*.—Regular in spring and fall migrations on ponds and streams.

GREATER YELLOW-LEGS, *Totanus melanoleucus*.—A number of fall migration records; probably also occurs in spring.

HERRING GULL, *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*.—Found on surrounding lakes and ponds when ice-free. Not numerous. Said to nest at Millinocket Lake.

EASTERN SCREECH OWL, *Otus asio naevius*.—One was heard by Taber at Frost Pond on September 2, 1939.

GREAT HORNED OWL, *Bubo virginianus virginianus*.—Rather common. It undoubtedly nests. There are few records for late summer after the birds have ceased hooting. It was heard by Palmer near Chimney Pond on June 14, 1937. In view of the fact that three races of Horned Owl have been taken in Maine, it is probable that more than one race occurs occasionally in winter about the mountain.

NORTHERN BARRED OWL, *Strix varia varia*.—More numerous in summer than the Great Horned Owl and probably also in winter.

GREAT GRAY OWL, *Strix nebulosa nebulosa*.—No known records, although Carpenter (1884b: 9) suggested that it might breed in the vicinity of Katahdin.

SAW-WHET OWL, *Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*.—The most common raptor, at least in summer. A nest containing three young was found in a large birch near the base of Katahdin on April 30, 1881 (Carpenter, 1884a).

EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL, *Caprimulgus vociferus vociferus*.—Heard and seen at various points near the mountain in July and August. Taber heard one on Traveler Mountain on May 27-29, 1944.

EASTERN NIGHTHAWK, *Chordeiles minor minor*.—Breeds locally at lower levels. It is often seen in flocks during fall migrations. A flock of ten was seen by Johnson as early as July 3, 1945.

CHIMNEY SWIFT, *Chaetura pelagica*.—Frequently seen at all altitudes in summer. It undoubtedly nests here.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, *Archilochus colubris*.—Occurs regularly in summer up to at least 3,000 feet. Rich saw one flying in a northwesterly direction over the summit on August 29, 1924.

EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER, *Megaceryle alcyon alcyon*.—Common in summer, nesting in suitable places at lower levels.

NORTHERN FLICKER, *Colaptes auratus luteus*.—Common summer resident and common in migrations. High records are of one seen by Norton at Chimney Pond in August, 1923, and one seen by Taber at about 3,100 feet in North Basin on August 13, 1945.

NORTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER, *Coephaloecus pileatus abieticola*.—A common resident at lower levels.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, *Sphyrapicus varius varius*.—A very common summer resident in mixed and hardwood growths.

HAIRY WOODPECKER, *Dryobates villosus villosus*.—A common summer resident. Winter birds are probably migrants from farther north. Norton and Fanning noted a brood, lately out of the nest, near Chimney Pond, June 13–18, 1936.

NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER, *Dryobates pubescens medianus*.—Common at all seasons. Often seen as high as there are stunted trees except that none are reported from the Tableland.

ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER, *Picoides arcticus*.—Resident but not common. Norton saw three, apparently part of a brood, at Basin Ponds Camp from July 26–August 3, 1923. It was seen in February, 1912 (Sayward, 1915).

AMERICAN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER, *Picoides tridactylus bacatus*.—One seen in August, 1923, by Mrs. Blake, on the trail between Chimney Pond and South Basin Slide. This species was noted on the mountain March 12, 1926 (Allis, 1926).

EASTERN KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus tyrannus*.—Recorded only as a fall migrant in the immediate vicinity. It undoubtedly breeds at points not too far distant.

NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus crinitus boreus*.—Taber has noted it as follows: Frost Pond on June 11, 1933; Trout Brook on May 27, 1944; and at two localities on Traveler Mountain on May 28–29, 1944.

EASTERN PHOEBE, *Sayornis phoebe*.—One was seen by Taber at either Crommet Farm or Shin Ponds on May 30, 1944. Two were seen by Bagg at Sourdnhunk Lake on May 31, 1940.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax flaviventris*.—Common summer resident up to Chimney Pond.

ALDER FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax traillii traillii*.—The record nearest to the mountain is of one heard by Taber on May 27, 1944, at Trout Brook, at the base of Traveler Mountain.

LEAST FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax minimus*.—Abundant summer resident in forests.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE, *Myiochanes virens*.—Common in suitable localities. Taber heard one on the lower slope of Hamlin Ridge, above 3,100 feet, on August 13, 1945.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, *Nuttallornis borealis*.—A regular summer resident as high as 3,000 feet in South Basin. A brood in South Basin was seen by Norton on July 30 and by Mrs. Blake on August 11, 1923.

NORTHERN HORNED LARK, *Otocoris alpestris alpestris*.—A single bird, at the base of Baxter Peak on August 19, 1942, was probably this race (Taber, 1945: 369). Found "wintering in the Katahdin area around the first of April, 1940" by Dr. O. K. Scott (Taber, *ibid.*).

TREE SWALLOW, *Iridoprocne bicolor*.—Locally common summer resident at lower levels.

BANK SWALLOW, *Riparia riparia riparia*.—Several were seen at Millinocket Lake by Taber on June 17, 1933, and by Johnson from June 24–July 5, 1945. On August 24, 1945, Taber found 41 nest holes in an old sawdust pile on the northern shore of Ambajejus Lake.

BARN SWALLOW, *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*.—A locally common summer resident at lower levels.

NORTHERN CLIFF SWALLOW, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota pyrrhonota*.—Some were noted in a mixed flock of swallows at Russell Pond on August 18, 1925 (Norton, 1928: 73); an unrecorded number were seen by Bagg at Sourdnahunk Lake on May 31, 1939; a colony was noted by Taber either at Crommet Farm or Shin Ponds on May 30, 1944.

PURPLE MARTIN, *Progne subis subis*.—Taber saw a single individual below Chimney Pond on June 14, 1933. There are no other records nearer than Millinocket.

CANADA JAY, *Perisoreus canadensis canadensis*.—Resident and probably a local migrant. It was seen at the north end of Katahdin in February, 1912 (Sayward, 1915). In 1937, Stupka was told that a flock of 25 to 30 spends the winters at McCarty's Camp and vicinity. Mrs. Blake records a "small flock" in the South Basin on August 28, 1923. Norton saw six together at the lower end of Sourdnahunk Lake on August 31, 1924. Ellicott (1908) has a photograph of one at a camp table at this same lake.

NORTHERN BLUE JAY, *Cyanocitta cristata bromia*.—Resident. It appears to have increased in the past 20 years. The highest record is of one seen by J. Fanning at Chimney Pond on June 17, 1936.

NORTHERN RAVEN, *Corvus corax principalis*.—Seen twice, "possibly the same bird both times," at an unstated locality (W. G. Fanning, 1921). Seen by Bagg at Sourdnahunk Lake (date not recorded). One was seen by Palmer at Windey Pitch on October 17, 1945.

EASTERN CROW, *Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*.—An uncommon summer resident. Very infrequent above 2,700 feet. Norton points out (1928: 72) that the crow is scarce in forested sections of Maine.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, *Parus atricapillus atricapillus*.—An abundant resident as high as Chimney Pond. It is often seen at higher wooded points but has not been reported from the Tableland.

ACADIAN CHICKADEE, *Parus hudsonicus littoralis*.—Occurs regularly in small numbers. It was seen at the north end of Katahdin in February, 1912 (Sayward, 1915). On September 3, 1937, Stupka saw several at about 3,500 feet on the Saddle Trail.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, *Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*.—One was seen by W. G. Fanning at Basin Ponds on July 30, 1923, and one by Johnson at Chimney Pond on June 24, 1945.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, *Sitta canadensis*.—Common resident. In summer this species is often seen at high elevations in scrub growth. While on the Saddle, September 12, 1933, Brower saw one alight on the leg of a member of his party. The species was seen at northern end of Katahdin in February, 1912 (Sayward, 1915).

BROWN CREEPER, *Certhia familiaris americana*.—One was seen by Mrs. Taber at Abol Pond on June 16, 1933; one by Taber at Roaring Brook on August 21, 1942. Reported from Sourdnahunk Lake by Bagg at an unstated date.

EASTERN WINTER WREN, *Troglodytes troglodytes hiemalis*.—A plentiful breeder in forests, except birch and poplar areas, up to about 2,900 feet.

CATBIRD, *Dumetella carolinensis*.—One was seen by Johnson between Depot Camp and the park boundary on July 2, 1945.

EASTERN ROBIN, *Turdus migratorius migratorius*.—Not common. Small flocks occur in migrations as high as Chimney Pond. On a foggy day, September 4, 1931, Taber saw a migrating flock at an altitude of about 4,500 feet on the Tableland.

EASTERN HERMIT THRUSH, *Hylocichla guttata faxoni*.—A common summer resident at least as high as Basin Ponds. Stupka noted them feeding on fruits of *Prunus pensylvanica* near Katahdin Lake on September 6, 1937.

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH, *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*.—An abundant summer resident to about 3,000 feet. Theirs is the most conspicuous song at Chimney Pond in June.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH, *Hylocichla minima bicknelli*.—At least five individuals were singing at unspecified points along the South (or Abol) Slide and well up in the scrub on the Tableland from June 22–23, 1897 (F. H. Allen, 1898). The species was heard singing on the Tableland by Palmer on June 16, 1937. "Gross writes that he has seen the bird on Mt. Katahdin" (Wallace, 1939: 249). "Uncommon, above 2,800 feet" (Taber, 1945: 368). These and numerous recent records would indicate that the bird is probably a fairly common summer resident. It has been heard singing after dark.

VEERY, *Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens*.—Seen at the following localities: birch woods some five miles in from Millinocket on June 17, 1933; Trout Brook on May 27, 1944; and East Branch of Penobscot River just below the outlet to Matagon Lake, May 29 and 30, 1944 (Taber, 1945: 369).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD, *Sialia sialis sialis*.—A rare summer resident in suitable habitat at lower levels.

EASTERN GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET, *Regulus satrapa satrapa*.—A summer resident to the upper limits of tall spruces. Palmer found it in abundance from Windey Pitch to Chimney Pond and back, October 14–19, 1945. It was not seen by Scott on a trip from Millinocket to the summit of Katahdin and back, March 31–April 3, 1940.

EASTERN RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, *Regulus calendula calendula*.—Occasional in summer. Probably a rare and local breeding bird.

AMERICAN PIPIT, *Anthus spinoletta rubescens*.—Common at higher elevations in fall. Probably a summer resident. Dugmore (1901: 559) saw two birds together on the Tableland, apparently in August, 1900, although it is impossible to determine the date from his writings. In 1922, Norton and Perkins saw a small flock on the southern end of the Tableland on September 18. Mrs. Lowe saw five on the Tableland on September 5, 1932. A. E. Brower saw three north of Klondike Pond on September 12, 1933, and a single bird at Thoreau's Spring on July 9, 10 and 11, 1934. Arthur Stupka saw two near North Peaks on September 2, a flock of 25 and numerous small groups near the summit and along Knife Edge on September 7, and two on rocks at the margin of Chimney Pond on September 8, 1937. In 1939, several were seen on May 31 "near Katahdin" by Bagg (Taber, 1945: 370). In the same year, A. E. Brower was on the mountain July 8 and 9 and observed a pair which showed concern whenever he was anywhere within a considerable area. They had food in their beaks often enough for him to suspect that they might be feeding young. He failed to find a pipit's nest in the vicinity but did locate one of a junco. About July 10, at this same place, Dick Holmes (a Katahdin ranger) found the nest of a bird and he described the parent as having white in its tail and that, when walking, the bird wagged its tail. In late August, Maurice Sullivan

(a Park Naturalist at Acadia National Park) visited the site with Holmes and removed a remaining unhatched egg. This was submitted to Mr. Dean Amadon at the American Museum of Natural History for critical comparison with material there. Amadon's conclusions were that "the egg is typical of those of the Pipit, and considerably different than those of any other Maine-nesting species, though it might fall within the color range of a few sparrows." A knowledge of this matter, gained from Sullivan, is the source for the statement by Tyson and Bond (1941: 68) that this species is "said to nest on the summit of Mount Katahdin." On July 20, 1940, Bunting (1944) saw four pipits "on a rock-strewn meadow slightly above 4,000 feet, about one mile southwest of Baxter Peak on the Appalachian Trail." On June 24, 1945, Johnson saw a single bird on the northwestern side of Baxter Peak. On August 16, 1945, Taber saw one at the outer end of the south arm of the Northwest Basin. Parenthetically it may be noted that there are pipit records for Maine as follows: several in May, one on June 1, at least one in early August, one in late August, and numerous September dates. Further, a pair of these birds was seen by Howard Mendall near the summit of Mt. Madison, New Hampshire, on July 20, 1937. This species breeds on the Gaspé Peninsula (Townsend, Auk, 40: 85-87, 1923).

CEDAR WAXWING, *Bombycilla cedrorum*.—Common to abundant in summer about burned areas, clearings, ponds and streams.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, *Lanius excubitor borealis*.—One was seen at an unstated point between Millinocket and the mountain about April 1, 1940, by Dr. O. K. Scott.

STARLING, *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*.—A number seen by Taber at York's Garage on June 12, 1933. Bagg saw several at Sourdnahunk Lake on May 31, 1939, and May 29-June 3, 1940. They are, of course, plentiful in Millinocket.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO, *Vireo solitarius solitarius*.—Frequent in summer at lower levels.

RED-EYED VIREO, *Vireo olivaceus*.—Very common in mixed woods around and on the mountain. Norton saw one at Chimney Pond on July 29, 1923, and heard one singing frequently between Depot Camp and Lower Basin Pond in June, 1936.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO, *Vireo philadelphicus*.—One was noted at Frost Pond on June 12, 1933. Bagg saw one at Sourdnahunk Lake on June 2, 1940. A mixed flock of these and Red-eyed Vireos, both species singing, was observed near Sandy Stream Pond on August 18, 1942, by Taber who thinks it quite possible that the Philadelphia Vireo breeds there (Taber, 1945: 370). Two were seen by him at different points along Roaring Brook on August 23, 1945.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER, *Mniotilta varia*.—A common summer resident in surrounding areas and on the slopes of the mountain to perhaps 3,000 feet. Norton observed one singing at Chimney Pond on July 31, 1923, and Taber saw one there on August 13, 1945.

TENNESSEE WARBLER, *Vermivora peregrina*.—One was seen by G. L. Perry about seven miles from York's Garage towards Ripogenus Dam on June 13, 1933. The species was seen by Taber at three different points in *Populus tremuloides* growth on Traveler Mountain, May 27-28, 1944, and at Ambajejus Lake on August 25, 1945.

NASHVILLE WARBLER, *Vermivora ruficapilla ruficapilla*.—An abundant summer resident, especially in areas once burned over. It was seen at Chimney Pond by Stupka on September 8, 1937, and by Taber on June 14, 1933, and August 23, 1945.

NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER, *Compsothlypis americana pusilla*.—A common summer resident in the area to perhaps 3,000 feet. Records indicate that this species may have increased markedly in the last 20 years.

YELLOW WARBLER, *Dendroica petechia*.—A bird of questionable subspecies, seen by Taber at Millinocket Lake on August 25, 1945, furnishes the record closest to the mountain.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER, *Dendroica magnolia*.—A common summer resident at least as high as Basin Ponds. On Abol Trail above 4,000 feet, Brower saw a bird apparently carrying food for young on July 11, 1934.

CAPE MAY WARBLER, *Dendroica tigrina*.—Observed four times by Taber: an abandoned farm near Spencer's Camp on June 17, 1933; an adult male near the lower end of Roaring Brook trail on August 21, 1942; one adult near Rum Brook on August 23, and two adults and one or more immature birds at Ambajejus Lake on August 24, 1945.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, *Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*.—Common in summer in open deciduous woods and mixed growths at lower levels. Taber saw an adult male at Chimney Pond on August 19, 1945.

MYRTLE WARBLER, *Dendroica coronata coronata*.—An abundant summer resident to 3,000 feet and a migrant throughout the area. Latest dates for the Tableland are September 7, 1934 (Bosson, 1934), and September 18, 1922, when one was seen by Norton.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, *Dendroica virens virens*.—An abundant summer resident and migrant. It was seen on the Saddle on September 7, 1934 (Bosson, 1934).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER, *Dendroica fusca*.—A fairly common summer resident. High records are from Chimney Pond where one was heard singing by Norton, June 13-16, 1936, and the Tableland where the mummified remains of an adult male were found by J. F. Fanning on June 17, 1936.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER, *Dendroica pensylvanica*.—A rare and local summer resident near the mountain. It is more numerous in migration.

BAY-BREADED WARBLER, *Dendroica castanea*.—A frequent summer resident in coniferous forests, apparently tending to be somewhat colonial.

BLACK-POLL WARBLER, *Dendroica striata*.—A common summer resident to points well above Chimney Pond. Abundant in migrations.

NORTHERN PINE WARBLER, *Dendroica pinus pinus*.—One, perhaps the same individual, was seen at Chimney Pond by Taber on August 19 and 22, 1945.

WESTERN PALM WARBLER, *Dendroica palmarum palmarum*.—One was seen with a Yellow Palm Warbler by Taber, Perry and Clarke near Harrington Lake on September 12, 1933 (Taber, 1945: 370).

YELLOW PALM WARBLER, *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*.—Five records by Taber: near Harrington Lake on September 12, 1933; one at 'Duck Pond' and one at York's Garage on September 2, 1939; one at Millinocket Lake on August 17, 1942; and one at the same place on August 25, 1945.

OVEN-BIRD, *Seiurus aurocapillus*.—A rare and local summer resident and migrant. Norton heard one singing above Basin Ponds on June 13, 1936.

NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH, *Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis*.—An abundant summer resident in suitable habitat throughout the region. The highest record is for Chimney Pond where one was seen by Johnson on June 25, 1945.

MOURNING WARBLER, *Oporornis philadelphia*.—One was seen at Frost Pond on June 12, 1933; one near the junction of Roaring Brook and Sandy Stream Pond trails on August 21, 1942 (Taber, 1945: 371). Johnson saw one at the end of the road at Roaring Brook on June 26, 1945.

NORTHERN YELLOW-THROAT, *Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*.—Common in suitable habitat as high as Basin Ponds.

CANADA WARBLER, *Wilsonia canadensis*.—A common summer resident. It appears to have increased in the past twenty years. It was seen by Taber at Chimney Pond on August 19, 1945.

AMERICAN REDSTART, *Setophaga ruticilla*.—A regular summer resident in small numbers. There are a number of August records for Chimney Pond.

BOBOLINK, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.—Bagg saw several near Sourdnahunk Lake on May 31, 1939, and May 29–June 3, 1940.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK, *Sturnella magna magna*.—Seen daily by Bagg at Sourdnahunk Lake, May 29–June 3, 1940.

EASTERN RED-WING, *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*.—A female was seen by Norton at Katahdin Lake on August 2, 1923. A number "appeared to be on a breeding ground" in a swamp at the southern end of Russell Pond, August 17–18, 1925 (Norton, 1928: 72). The species was seen by Bagg at Sourdnahunk Lake from May 29 to June 3, 1940.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE, *Icterus galbula*.—Seen at Sourdnahunk Lake by Bagg on an unstated date. One was seen by Johnson on July 3, 1945, between Depot Camp and the park boundary.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD, *Euphagus carolinus*.—Uncommon in marshy areas at lower levels in summer. It probably nests.

BRONZED GRACKLE, *Quiscalus versicolor*.—The records from nearest to the mountain are from the southeastern end of Sourdnahunk Lake where Norton saw one on August 31, 1934, and Frost Pond where two were seen by Taber on September 2, 1939.

SCARLET TANAGER, *Piranga olivacea*.—A male was seen in the birch forest about two miles southeast of Millinocket Lake on June 17, 1933; one was heard at Howe Brook at the base of Traveler Mountain on May 27 and 28, 1944; one was seen at Roaring Brook on August 23, 1945, all by Taber; one was noted at the end of the road at Roaring Brook on June 27, 1945, by Johnson.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, *Hedymeles ludovicianus*.—One was seen by Taber at Frost Pond on June 12, 1933. Taber also found it common in a burnt-over area on Traveler Mountain in May, 1944. Stupka saw one at about 2,500 feet, below Chimney Pond, on September 8, 1937. One was seen at Sandy Stream Pond by Johnson on June 27, 1945, and one by Taber on August 14, 1945.

EASTERN PURPLE FINCH, *Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*.—A not uncommon summer resident at lower levels.

CANADIAN PINE GROSBEAK, *Pinicola enucleator leucura*.—One was seen by Taber at Chimney Pond on September 10, 1926. It was reported at Sourdnahunk Lake by Bagg at an unstated date.

COMMON REDPOLL, *Acanthis flammea flammea*.—Considered "common" on the mountain, March 31–April 3, 1940, by Dr. O. K. Scott (Taber, 1945: 371).

NORTHERN PINE SISKIN, *Spinus pinus pinus*.—One was noted on the Saddle on September 7, 1934 (Bossou, 1934). Stupka saw a small flock at Depot Camp on September 6, 1937. Taber saw a large flock at Chimney Pond on August 17, 1942, and a single individual on August 20, 1945. Johnson saw a single bird flying over Chimney Pond on June 24, 26 and 27, and one at Basin Ponds on June 27, 1945.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH, *Spinus tristis tristis*.—Of regular occurrence in summer, with stragglers reported as high as 4,200 feet.

RED CROSSBILL, *Loxia curvirostra* subsp.—Of regular occurrence, at least during July, August and September. It prefers solid stands of spruce where its presence is contingent on a good cone crop.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL, *Loxia leucoptera leucoptera*.—Of varying status in different seasons. Periods of abundance have been the late summers of 1922, 1923, 1925 and 1938.

EASTERN SAVANNAH SPARROW, *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*.—Records closest to the mountain are those made by Bagg daily at Sourdnahunk Lake from May 29 to June 3, 1944.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO, *Junco hyemalis hyemalis*.—The most abundant summer resident of the spruce growth on the mountain. It is often seen on the Tableland where it nests. In 1937 a pair was apparently nesting among large boulders about 100 feet southwest of the summit. Norton found a nest with young about a week old near Basin Ponds on June 13, 1936.

EASTERN CHIPPING SPARROW, *Spizella passerina passerina*.—Seen occasionally in summer in the forest near the base of the mountain. Common in open surrounding country.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia albicollis*.—An abundant summer resident, especially in low evergreen woods. It is probably more numerous than the junco, taking the park as a whole. One was seen near Caribou Spring on the Tableland by Palmer on June 16, 1937.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW, *Melospiza lincolnii lincolnii*.—An adult was seen with Song Sparrows at Roaring Brook by Taber on August 23, 1945.

SWAMP SPARROW, *Melospiza georgiana georgiana*.—One was seen at Harrington Lake by G. L. Perry on September 14, 1933 (Taber, 1945: 372). One was seen by Johnson in a marshy area near Sandy Stream Pond on June 27, 1945.

EASTERN SONG SPARROW, *Melospiza melodia melodia*.—Of regular occurrence in summer in clearings at lower levels. Taber observed one at Blueberry Knoll (alt. 3,060 ft.) in North Basin on August 13 and 14, 1945.

EASTERN SNOW BUNTING, *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*.—Probably occurs regularly in fall and winter. Dr. O. K. Scott reported it "common" on a trip from Millinocket to the summit of Katahdin and back, from March 31 to April 3, 1940. Charles J. Maynard (1871: 372) wrote: "This species may breed on the tops of some of the ranges of Maine and New Hampshire. I have a note of a well authenticated instance of a large flock being seen on Mount Katahdin, in early August, 1869." The supposed breeding of the bird in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine seems to have appeared in print as early as 1844, with DeKay, when "Snow Bird" was commonly used as a homonym for this species and *Junco hyemalis*. Such supposed breeding was dismissed—so far as Massachusetts and New Hampshire were concerned—by Brewster in a footnote in his edition of Minot's work (Minot, 1895: 193). In the interim the alleged record for Katahdin was well disseminated by inclusion in Minot (1877: 186) and Stearns (1881: 232). G. M. Allen (1909: 151) cites this report from Minot, not from the original source. Exploration of mountain areas in New England has shown the bird to be absent in summer, except perhaps casually. On October 31, 1923, Maynard wrote A. H. Norton as follows: "I have no recollection of the note . . . nor from whom I obtained it. I find nothing regarding it in any of my notebooks of that date. . . . I must have been satisfied of the authenticity of the information." There seems to be no record of an ascent of Katahdin in 1869, so that the source for Maynard's "well authenticated" report cannot be traced at this late date.

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