

## NOTES ON SOME GREENLAND BIRDS

BY A. L. RAND

THE avifauna of Greenland is wonderfully well documented, compared with the other Arctic islands in the Western Hemisphere, and in addition to such summaries as that of Schiöler in 1926, and Oldendow's 1933 paper, and such recent reports on various areas as those published in the 'Ibis' and in 'Meddelelser om Grønland' and elsewhere, Salomonsen in 1935, and Hørring and Salomonsen in 1941 have summarized the records of many species of rare or unusual occurrence in Greenland, with many new records.

The National Museum of Canada has accumulated a number of Greenland bird specimens from various sources, some of them representing records worthy of note. In presenting them it is advisable to summarize briefly the origin of the Greenland collections in the National Museum. The following are the sources from which the Greenland material has been received:

Previous to 1914, about six skins of four species were purchased from Ward's Natural History Establishment, Rochester, New York. They were collected in 1909 and 1910, but no collector is given. The localities represented are: Sarfaugnak, Godthaab, and Nanortalik.

In 1923, J. Dewey Soper for the National Museum of Canada accompanied the C.G.S. 'Arctic' on its annual cruise, during which stops were made in Greenland at Godhavn, July 30, Melville Bay, August 4, Smith Sound, August 7, and Etah, August 8, and about 40 bird skins of eleven species were collected.

In 1928, Dr. R. M. Anderson of the National Museum of Canada accompanied the Canadian Eastern Arctic Patrol, and about 69 specimens of three species were collected at Hakluyt Island, Smith Sound, on August 7.

In 1929, Mr. P. A. Taverner of the National Museum of Canada accompanied the Canadian Eastern Arctic Patrol on the S.S. 'Beothic' and collected about 15 specimens representing five species at Etah, August 4, Robertson Bay, August 4, and Smith Sound, August 7.

In 1941, A. E. Porsild of the National Museum of Canada, on loan to the Canadian Department of External Affairs as Canadian Consul of Greenland, brought together a series of bird skins by personal collection and by purchase from the collections of the Seminary Museum at Godthaab (the latter mostly collected in the period 1925-1935), and again, in 1944, sent to the Museum a collection he made in 1942 and 1943. These collections totalled about 74 skins and represented about 37 species. The localities represented are:

Ameralik Fjord	Kangek, Godthaab
Angmagssalik	Kronprinsens Island (= Disco Bay)
Disco Bay	Nanortalik
Godhavn	Napossok
Godthaab	Nordlandet (= Godthaab Fjord)
Godthaab Fjord	Nunarssuak, Julianehaab Distr.
Holsteinsborg	Prøven
Julianehaab	Sukkertoppen
Kagssimiut	Tuapait, Nanortalik

In 1944, Dr. M. J. Dunbar, Canadian Consul to Greenland, secured about a half dozen skins representing five species and sent them to the National Museum from Godthaab in 1945.

The total Greenland collections in the National Museum thus consist of about 210 skins, representing about 48 species.

A considerable number of the species represented are of regular occurrence in Greenland and need no comment. Some others, received through the Greenland Seminary Museum at Godthaab, though they represent important records, have already been included in Oldendow's or in Hørring and Salomonsen's papers. The following specimens are worthy of special comment.

COMMON LOON, *Gavia immer* (Brünnich).—Nordlandet, Godthaab: 2 ♂ ad., May 31, 1943, June 10, 1926; from A. E. Porsild.

Wing (chord): 337, 355 mm.

Exposed culmen: 72, 76 mm.

Greenland is usually included in the range of *G. i. immer* (Brünnich) characterized by its larger size. However the present specimens are about as small as North Dakota specimens of the species that are usually referred to as *G. i. elasson* Bishop. Elsewhere (Canadian Field-Naturalist, *in press*) I am discussing geographical variation in this species in regard to the two clines, with different directional trends, represented by wing length and bill length, and the difficulty of recognizing any populations by subspecific names.

EUROPEAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL, *Anas crecca crecca* Linnaeus.—near Godthaab; 1 ♂ ad., 1 ♂ imm.; no date; from A. E. Porsild.

Wing (chord): ♂ ad., 179; ♂ imm., 178 mm.

Exposed culmen: ♂ ad., 35; ♂ imm., 36 mm.

These seem to be in addition to the many records summarized by Hørring and Salomonsen, 1941, pp. 5-7.

The adult male specimen is a fragmentary skin, with the head markings of this race. The immature male, with a few adult feathers coming in on the back, has the distal half of the light bar above the speculum white, the basal half brownish. While the character of this stripe being brownish for its entire length in *A. c. carolinensis* Gmelin appears to be fairly reliable, it is not infallible. Phillips, p. 232, has pointed out that it is probable that at least nine out of every ten specimens can be correctly placed by this character alone.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER, *Mergus serrator* Linnaeus.—Godthaab; 2 ♂ ad., 1 ♀; May 13, 21, Sept. 18, 1943; from A. E. Porsild.

Wing: ♂ ad., 245, 248 mm.; ♀, 220.

Exposed culmen: ♂ ad., 60, 60 mm.; ♀, 55.

Salomonsen, 1935, Aves, in 'Zoology of the Faroes,' p. 41, Copenhagen, recognizes *M. s. major* Schiöler on the basis of its average larger size (wing, 257.04 mm. against 248 mm. in *M. s. serrator*), and the warmer reddish brown on the sides of the neck of young birds and females, this color often extending farther down on the fore-breast. The present material does not support this separation, but compares well with Canadian material.

EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER, *Pluvialis apricaria altifrons* (Brehm).—Godthaab: 1 ♀ ad.; May 29, 1931; from A. E. Porsild. Godthaab: 1 ♂ ad.; May 29, 1944; from M. Dunbar. Godthaab: 1 sex ?, ad.; July 6, 1941 (fragmentary); from A. E. Porsild.

Wing: (chord): ♂ ad., 189; ♀ ad., 187 mm.

The 1931 specimen is included in the long list of occurrences presented by Hørring and Salomonsen, 1941, pp. 24–27; the other two are hitherto unrecorded.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER, *Pluvialis dominica fulva* (Gmelin).—Godhavn: 1 sex ?, imm.; Sept. 16, 1940; M. P. Porsild.

Wing (chord), 160.

Exposed culmen, 21.

Tarsus, 44.

Compared with a series of *P. d. dominica* in similar plumage, this specimen has much larger yellow markings and yellow edgings on the feathers of the upper parts, with the yellow more bright golden, less dull yellow; the sides of the head, neck and upper breast are heavily washed with pale golden yellow.

This specimen, compared with our series of 18 *dominica* in similar plumage, is strikingly different.

Hørring and Salomonsen, 1941, p. 29, give but two records for this subspecies from Greenland, both taken on the eastern side of the island, and they suggest that their arrival is from Siberia across Europe and the Atlantic Ocean.

This appears to be the first record for west Greenland.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, *Squatarola squatarola* (Linnaeus).—Godthaab; 1 sex ?; July 8, 1941; from A. E. Porsild.

Wing (chord), 190.

Exposed culmen, 28.5 mm.

This specimen adds another Greenland record to the 31 given by Hørring and Salomonsen, 1941, pp. 23, 24.

ROSS'S GULL, *Rhodostethia rosea* (Macgillivray).—Kronprinsens Island: 1 ad.; 4 June, 1942, Coll. T. C. Rosing, from A. E. Porsild.

Wing (chord), 273.

Exposed culmen, 20 mm.

There are 15 other records for Greenland (Hørring and Salomonsen, 1941, p. 53).

EUROPEAN BARN SWALLOW, *Hirundo rustica rustica* Linnaeus.—Disco Bay: 1 sex ?, ad.; June 14, 1943; from A. E. Porsild.

Wing (chord), 120 mm.

Exposed culmen, 8 mm.

This appears to be the fifth record for Greenland (Hørring and Salomonsen 1941, p. 66).

BLACK-BACKED ROBIN, *Turdus migratorius nigrideus* ALDRICH AND NUTT.—Kangek, Godthaab Fjord: 1 (♂) adult; between Oct. 7 and 21, 1944; M. J. Dunbar.

This specimen, in fresh, unsworn plumage, has the feathers of the back of the neck and the back black edged with olive gray. With wear the back would become black.

The specimen is much blacker than most breeding birds from Nova Scotia to Ontario, and compared with worn Newfoundland birds, loaned through Dr. H. C. Oberholser by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, appears referable to *nigriceps*.

Hitherto the species has been recorded three times in Greenland: Qornoq near Godthaab; Sukkertoppen and Graedefjord. Hørring and Salomonsen, 1941, p. 74, refer the earlier records to *T. m. migratorius* Linnaeus, apparently without considering the then newly described race *nigriceps*. It is probable that all the records belong under the heading *Turdus migratorius nigriceps* Aldrich and Nutt.

I am aware that occasional dark birds, as dark as *nigriceps*, occur in the populations of *T. m. migratorius*, as far west as the Mackenzie delta, and the Greenland specimen might be a dark example of *migratorius*, but it seems advisable to refer it to *nigriceps* on probability.

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## UTAH'S BOOK CLIFFS AND BIRD MIGRATION

BY ROSS HARDY

THE majority of the mountain ranges of western North America have their main axes running in a north-south direction. One of the most important exceptions to this is the Uinta Mountains of northeastern Utah which extend about two hundred miles eastward from the northern Wasatch Mountains into Colorado. The West and East Tavaputs plateaus, located about 100 miles south of the Uintas and running in a parallel direction, are not so well known. The southern face of the West Plateau is much eroded, forming many vertical cliffs varying from 300 to 1500 feet in height. These southern supporting ramparts of these plateaus, known as the Book Cliffs, form the northern boundary of Castle Valley in Carbon, Emery, and Grand counties and the southern boundary of the Uinta Basin. The Green and Price rivers pass through these mountains in narrow, winding canyons.