

*Olbiorchilus hiemalis pacificus*. Western Winter Wren. This is the commonest bird in the great redwood forests, where it is thoroughly at home and sings frequently. Humboldt Bay and Crescent City.

*Cistothorus palustris paludicola*. Tule Wren. I found the tule wren in a small open treeless boreal swamp at Crescent City. [Reported from "marshes of Humboldt Co." C. H. Townsend, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. X. 227.]

*Certhia familiaris occidentalis*. California Creeper. Observed at Humboldt Bay. [Collected at Crescent City. T. S. P.]

*Parus rufescens*. Chestnut-backed Chickadee. A common and characteristic bird of the redwood swamps, more open forest, and thick groves of shore pine close to the coast. The species probably does not breed farther south than the limit of the Sitka spruce.

*Chamæa fasciata phæa*. Coast Wren-tit. Not uncommon in thick brush close to the coast where it is oftener heard than seen.

*Hylocichla ustulata*. Russet-backed Thrush. An abundant and musical species in the shady moss-hung forests. I also found it in groves of shore pine, within sound of the surf. Humboldt Bay and Crescent City.

*Ixoreus naevius*. Varied Thrush. This superb bird undoubtedly breeds in the dense redwood forest where I secured a specimen June 11, and again saw one June 28. It is, however, rare and so retiring that it has heretofore escaped detection in this region. The specimen, an adult female, is typical *naevius*, the back being a rich brown.

*Merula migratoria propinqua*. Western Robin. An abundant breeding bird, Humboldt Bay to Crescent City.

*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*. Western Blue Bird. Not uncommon in cleared land.

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### A List of Birds Collected in Norton Sound, Alaska.

BY RICHARD C. MCGREGOR.

ON June 13, 1900, the Coast and Geodetic Survey steamer *Pathfinder* left Seattle, Washington, for Norton Sound, Alaska, where she had been detailed to make a survey. Our trip up was a quick one. Several days at Dutch Harbor, and a few hours at Nome City were the only stops in our voyage. With the exception of a very few days we were not inconvenienced by rain, fog or wind. As to temperature we found it very agreeable during our whole stay in Norton Sound, from June 27 to September 25.

From afar the shores of Norton Sound for the most part are uninviting, the great scarcity of trees giving the whole country a desolate appearance. The tundra plain extends a distance of one to three miles from the beach, where it rises on low ranges of hills, barren except for patches of brush and tundra moss. Viewed at close quarters the tundra is found to support an extensive and varied flora, and to be as full of water as a wet sponge.

Along the shore and for several miles east of Thor and extending inland for from one to five miles are thick spruce woods, and just east of Cape Denbigh there is a small patch of the same species.

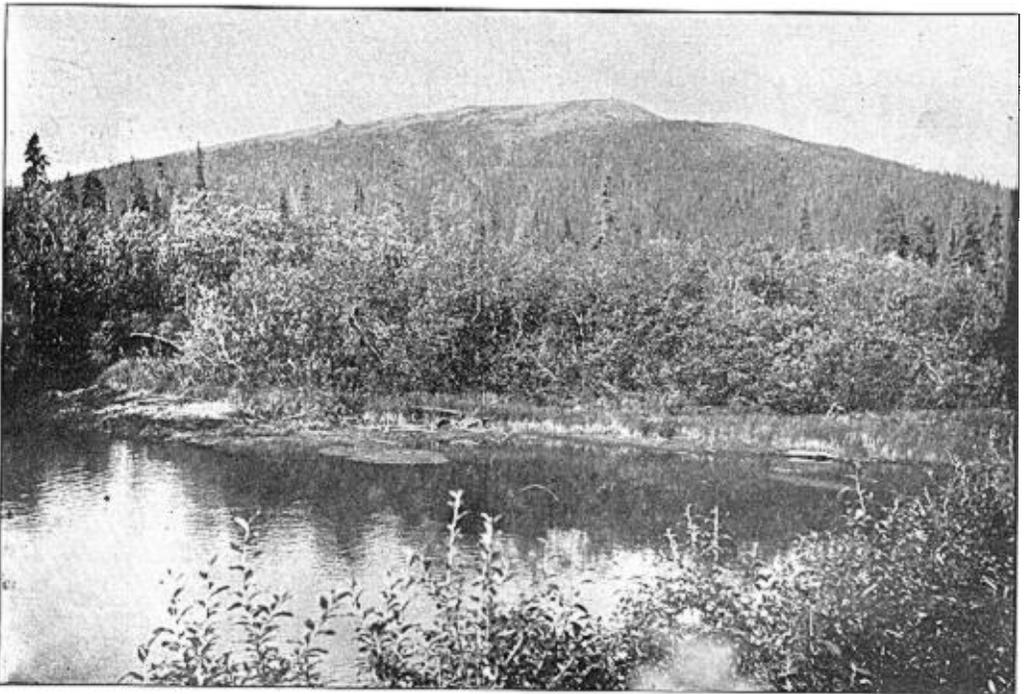
1. Dutch Harbor is a small bay on the eastern side of Amaknak (=Amaguak) which is a small island separated from Unalaska (=Oonalaska) Island by a narrow strait. All these names refer to practically the same locality. I have included in this paper notes on several species observed at Dutch Harbor, tho they do not belong to Norton Sound.

The low land bordering Norton Bay is cut by numerous creeks and tide guts and dotted with hundreds of small ponds of fresh water. These features are especially characteristic of the marshes about Fallax Point.

Occasional patches of old snow were found in sheltered spots of the higher hills and we had a slight flurry of snow on September 25.

The present paper is based upon such birds as I was able to collect, numbering about two hundred skins. No effort was made to secure the ducks, geese and gulls of which there were seen several species not here recorded. I preferred to confine my efforts to the smaller species as being a more fruitful expenditure of time than the skinning of larger and more common birds.

The notes are fragmentary and unsatisfactory, a result of being made, for the most part, while engaged in other work, yet they may be of value as showing the



STREAM NEAR SIGNAL CAIRN SHOWING BRUSH IN FOREGROUND AND SPRUCE WOODS ON MOUNTAIN SIDE

exact distribution of land species in the territory visited. Even so much had been impossible but for the courtesies of my fellow officers, who spared no pains to afford me every aid consistent with the execution of their duties. I wish to record my obligations, especially to Captain Gilbert, chief of our party; to Assistant Harry F. Flynn, who has always taken great interest in my work; and to Mr. Arthur H. Dutton, our genial executive officer.

The names of localities in this paper, are, for the most part, the same as were used by our triangulation party.

SPECIES OBSERVED ON EGG ISLAND.

*Lunda cirrhata*  
*Fratereula corniculata*  
*Uria troile californica*

*Corvus corax principalis*  
*Zonotrichia coronata*  
*Ammodramns sandwichensis alaudinus*

*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*  
*Arctonetta fischeri*  
*Tringa couesi*

*Acanthis linaria*  
*Hirundo erythrogastra palmeri*

## SPECIES OBSERVED ON BESBORO ISLAND.

*Lunda cirrhata*  
*Fratercula corniculata*  
*Cephus columba*  
*Phalacrocorax pelagicus robustus*  
*Corvus corax principalis*  
*Zonotrichia coronata*

*Passerella iliaca*  
*Ammodramus sandwichensis alaudinus*  
*Acanthis linaria*  
*Dendroica æstiva rubiginosa*  
*Anthus pensilvanicus*  
*Hylocichla alicie*

*Gavia lumme* (Gunn.).—Loons were seen at various points along the coast wherever there were pools. The only species identified was the red-throated, of which a male was taken at Fallax Point, August 24.

*Lunda cirrhata* (Pallas).—This species was found nesting on Egg Island, Besboro Island, Pathfinder Rock and at Cape Denbigh. The nesting habits of the tufted and horned puffins are so similar that they will be treated of together under the latter species.

*Fratercula corniculata* (Naum.).—Horned puffins were found nesting on Besboro Island and probably they nested at Cape Denbigh, but the cliffs are so high at both these localities that it is impossible to collect eggs. I shall therefore describe their habits first, as observed on Egg Island and second, as seen on Pathfinder Rock. The puffins, as I stood on top of the bluff overlooking their nesting place on Egg Island, flew by in a steady stream. Looking over the water they were seen to return to the left, to pass again before the face of the cliff. In their flight they described a slightly flattened circular figure with a long diameter of about 200 yards parallel to the shore line. In leaving the cliff the legs were spread far apart and extended horizontally behind, the wings beating rapidly.

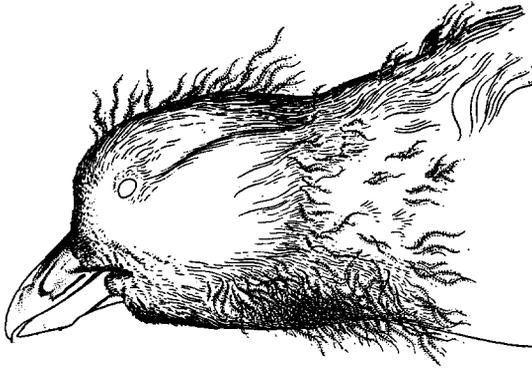
Mixed with this species but far less numerous were tufted puffins. The nests of both species are similar and are placed in various positions. Most of the birds inhabit true burrows made in the soft soil. These are from one to four feet long and though usually fairly straight are, in some cases, winding. Other burrows are made next to a rock so that the stone forms one of the side walls. Small caves among rock slides are also utilized as nesting places, and I saw one puffin fully twelve feet from the outside in a vertical crack of a large rock.

The nest is made of the dead stems of a plant growing abundantly on the hill side. The soil here is very damp and the eggs become more or less stained. Either sex was found incubating and the setting bird bit savagely when disturbed, making no effort to escape while the entrance was barred. On Pathfinder Rock I found both species of puffins, but a hurried run over the island did not show any burrows. The first egg I found was under a rock and after working carefully twice around the island, I came off with twenty-one eggs. The description of the nesting is taken from my note book as set down at the time. "These nests are very different from those on Egg Island. No eggs were found except under rocks and most eggs were under small rocks which stood high enough to admit the bird. Other eggs were far back under large rocks so that they were out of reach, but I managed with a rib bone of some mammal lashed to a lath to draw out all eggs which I found. These nests are, in most every instance, well made of coarse dry grass, with a deep cavity. The soil is dry and the nests being better made and among rocks the eggs are less stained than on Egg Island."

Eggs collected July 17 were nearly all fresh, or but slightly incubated.

A visit to the puffin nesting place on Egg Island, September 24, found the old grounds nearly deserted, yet most of the old birds must have been feeding young, as nearly every puffin was carrying small fish crosswise in its bill. These were from two to five inches long and consequently extended conspicuously at either side. A horned puffin flying over me as I sat concealed beside a boulder, was evidently greatly startled, for he gave a squawk and scattered his mouthful of fish, some of which were alive. Three species have been identified for me by Dr. C. H. Gilbert as: *Ammodytes personatus* (sand-lance), *Pygosteus pungitius* (stickleback), and *Mesopus olidus* (smelt).

A well feathered young bird taken from its burrow on Egg Island, September 24, may be described as follows: Top of head, sides of neck, back, wings, and tail, glossy black; chin and throat dull black; cheeks light gray; breast and abdomen white; a narrow line of white along uppermost lesser wing coverts as in the adult; lower part of back, upper tail coverts, and flanks thickly covered with dark down; thin patches of down on head, sides of throat, and upper breast; a little white down in middle of lower breast.



YOUNG HORNED PUFFIN.  
(One half natural size.)

*Cepphus columba* Pallas.—Near Besboro Island on August 6, there were two or three birds of this species.

*Uria troile californica* (Bryant).—Murres were very abundant on Egg Island where there was a large nesting colony. The majority of eggs were on any convenient ledge or flat rock. Others were found on the floor and rock shelves in natural caves large enough to admit a man. Many eggs were knocked off their resting places by the birds in their haste to escape. Eggs taken here July 10 were fresh. September 24 a few murres were brooding small young.

On the cliffs at Cape Denbigh there was a large colony of murres, and on August 8 most of them were brooding young. No eggs were observed at this date.

The only specimen of murre preserved is *californica*.

*Stercorarius longicaudus* Vieillot.—Two long-tailed jægers were among the first birds seen at Golofnin Bay, June 28, where they were walking about in a small marsh. Later they were seen commonly in St. Michael harbor. They prefer to rob the gulls rather than pick up fish or ship refuse for themselves. It was a common occurrence to see three or four jægers in pursuit of a small gull which had secured a choice bit of food too large to be swallowed at once. In fact, it was the case of the man-o'-war bird and booby over again.

There may have been other species of jagers at St. Michael but no specimens were taken.

*Larus glaucescens* Naum.—About the bay at St. Michael, these large gulls were always present. A few were seen at Cape Denbigh where they had nests, judging from their actions. Large gulls were common also at Dutch Harbor and there were a few about the beach at Nome City.

*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris* Ridgway.—This elegant gull was very abundant in St. Michael Bay from the time of our arrival, and considerable numbers were about the ship at all times. At Egg Island, July 14, they were nesting in a small colony apart from the murre and puffins. Their nests were of dry weeds on the face of a low cliff. September 24 another visit was made to the same colony and the gulls were abundant, resting on their old nests. When driven off they sailed up the wind in a compact flock. About one-half of them were in immature plumage. The species was nesting abundantly at Cape Denbigh.

*Sterna paradisæa* Brunn.—The arctic tern was observed most abundantly at Pathfinder Rock where several examples were taken July 17. A typical nest was a depression one inch deep by five inches in diameter, lined with dry grass and weed stalks. One nest was on top of a flat rock; all others were on the ground surrounded by grass. Occupied nests contained complements as follows: No. 1—one pipped egg; No. 2—one pipped egg and one young; No. 3—two eggs, incubation advanced; No. 4—two eggs, incubation begun; No. 5—one egg, incubation advanced; No. 6—one egg, incubation advanced.

There were a great many empty nests, probably explained by the fact that some prospectors had been over the island. I found a dozen single eggs on top of a rock where some one had left them. They ranged from fresh in one specimen to heavily incubated. Measurements of six of these are here given in inches and hundredths: 1.48x1.16; 1.52x1.10; 1.58x1.21; 1.61x1.13; 1.65x1.13; 1.56x1.16. The species was also secured at Toik Point and was seen in Norton Bay.

A chick just out of the shell may be described as follows: throat black; breast white, becoming very dusky on abdomen; upper parts and flanks mottled with about equal parts of black and buffy; lining of wing white.

*Sterna aleutica* Baird.—A single female of this species was secured at Pathfinder Rock, where it was shot from a large flock of arctic terns. I believe the species was nesting on the island although no eggs were identified with certainty.

*Phalacrocorax pelagicus robustus* Ridgway.—As Bishop<sup>†</sup> records the Violet-green Cormorant from Whale Island, I refer all I saw to this species. They were seen in abundance only on Besboro Island, though a small colony may have nested on Egg Island. A sprinkling of cormorants nested among the gulls and murre on the bold head of Cape Denbigh and single birds were seen at various localities along the coast. No specimens were taken.

*Anas boschas* Linn.—Numerous ducks were bought for the messes of our ship. The only species identified was a mallard taken in September.

*Arctonetta fischeri* (Brandt).—A single duck of this species was shot on Egg Island, September 24. When first seen it was resting on a point of rocks and was shot while swimming away. At St. Michael in July I saw a duck which may have been *Somateria v-nigra*.

*Somateria v-nigra*. Gray.—Several downy ducks were taken on the ponds near Island Point, August 24. One of these has been identified as the Pacific eider by Dr. C. W. Richmond.

*Grus canadensis* (Linn.).—In the vicinity of Fallax Point and Castle Peak I often saw flocks of cranes, which were undoubtedly of this species.

*Phalaropus lobatus* (Linn.).—Specimens of this phalarope were taken at Golofnin Bay, June 28, and again August 17. Two were collected at Fallax Point, August 24, where they were abundant. Their stomachs contained quantities of entomostacans, legs and elytra of black and striped beetles, small green seeds, and slender grubs a quarter of an inch in length.

An individual was seen on the water at Thor, August 25, and several were seen in the ponds near Crater Mountain, July 11.

*Gallinago delicata* (Ord.).—The Wilson snipe was observed near a creek flowing into Golofnin Bay and again the same day in some marshy ground, on a hill side, some ten miles east of Dexter. Both were seen August 16.

*Tringa couesi* (Ridgw.).—The Coues sandpiper was obtained only on Egg Island September 24, although it may have been seen before.

*Tringa ptilocnemis* Coues.—Of this sandpiper I have three examples. The first one was taken on Pathfinder Rock July 17. August 29, another was shot from a bunch of three as they flew over the hills back of Dexter. The third was taken the same day in company with a pectoral sandpiper. These two were feeding on the beach in the evening. It was so dark I could just see them, it being then 8:15 P. M.

*Tringa maculata* Vieill.—A single male of this species was taken on the beach near Dexter, August 29.

*Ereunetes pusillus* (Linn.).—Two semipalmated sandpipers were taken at Golofnin Bay June 28.

*Numenius hudsonicus* Lath.—My record for this species is based upon part of a bird which was being eaten by a young duck hawk when the latter was shot.

*Charadrius dominicus fulvus* (Gmel.).—Since Bishop<sup>r</sup> gives this form as occurring at St. Michael, the golden plover seen by me in the hills above Cape Denbigh, July 30, and near Signal Doris, are probably the same. They were seen only on high ground a mile or two from the bay.

*Ægialitis semipalmata* Bonap.—A male of this species was taken at Golofnin Bay, June 28.

*Arenaria interpres* (Linn.).—Two turnstones were secured at Golofnin Bay the latter part of August.

*Canachites canadensis* (Linn.).—Grouse were first seen on August 18 at Cairn. They were abundant in the spruce woods a mile or so from the beach, and were usually found in flocks comprising one or two adults and three to six young. Occasionally an old bird was seen without any company. The young were in various stages of plumage, from those just able to fly to fully feathered. At Thor only a few miles away two half grown birds were shot August 28.

In the left pectoral muscle of one specimen was an encysted body half an inch long by a quarter of an inch in diameter. This body contained three pieces of spruce needles measuring respectively .45, .30, and .24 of an inch.

These grouse when flushed usually flew but a short distance to light in the lower branches of a tree or in plain sight on the tundra. It was then an easy matter to collect the whole flock without moving more than a few feet. In fact so tame were they that one of our men killed an old bird with his hatchet.

My specimens appear to be of the same form as those collected by Grinnell on the Kowak.

We found the flesh excellent, it being far superior to the ptarmigan in this respect and a delightful relief from canned meats.

**Lagopus lagopus** (Linn.).—Ptarmigan were abundant along the whole coast wherever landings were made, except in the spruce woods. Between the beach and the Signal Doris, on August 16 and 18, there were numerous flocks usually consisting of two adults and from four to eight well grown young, the former often feigning lameness that the young might escape.

**Accipiter velox** (Wils.).—The sharp-shinned hawk was seen once when one flew over the *Yukon* anchored off Scaffold.

[**Accipiter atricapillus striatulus** Ridgway.—At Fallax Point, August 24, a very dark example of this (?) species circled several times about the signal, but I was unable to kill it.]

**Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus** Towns.—The bald eagle was common about Unalaska Island where two were shot with rifles.

**Falco rusticolus gyrfalco** (Linn.).—The gyrfalcon was observed but once, when a nest containing three downy young, was found on the side of Crater Mountain, east of St. Michael. The nest was nothing more than a number of loose sticks. A half grown ptarmigan was beside the young birds in such good order that I made a skin of it. Pellets scattered about the ground contained hair and teeth of a small rodent and numerous feathers. Remains of ptarmigan were also scattered about.

The youngest falcon was carried on board ship where he lived for a month or more, being fed on meat from skinned birds. The nest was found July 11.

**Falco peregrinus anatum** (Bonap.).—An adult duck hawk was seen at Cape Denbigh, and a young full grown female was shot, August 8, at the same locality. A partially devoured specimen of Hudsonian curlew was secured, upon which the young bird had been feeding.

**Pandion haliaetus carolinensis** (Gmel.).—As Grinnell<sup>1</sup> records the osprey from the Kowak River, it is probable that it is to be found in the interior of the Norton Bay region. I did not observe the species myself, but members of the Geological Survey reported it as common along the rivers of Norton Bay.

**Asio accipitrinus** (Pall.).—The short-eared owl was observed on Amaknak Island June 23, where one was flushed from its nest containing two eggs. The nest consisted of a deep hollow on a hill side, and was neatly lined with grass. I was told that the day before several eggs had been removed from the nest. The original set was probably five or six.

**Surnia ulula caparoch** (Muell.).—This species was reported by members of the Geological Survey as being common in the woods of the interior along the rivers of Norton Bay. I observed the species but once when a male lit on the top of our tripod while we were building the signal scaffold. The stomach of this bird contained bones and hair of the mouse *Eutamias dawsoni alascensis* Miller.

**Picoides americanus** (Swains.).<sup>2</sup>—August 18 a female of this species was shot in the woods near Cairn; no other woodpeckers were seen during the summer.

**Perisoreus canadensis fumifrons** Ridgw.—The Alaskan jay was seen only in the thick spruce woods near Cairn. A female, taken August 18, agrees with a large series from the Kowak River.

**Corvus corax principalis** Ridgw.—The raven was regular in its occurrence throughout the region. It was found at nearly all the triangulation stations and several were seen about each of the islands visited. At Amaknak they seem to

1. Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 1, p. 37.

2. See Bangs, *Auk*, XVII; 1900, p. 132.

feed extensively on a green sea-urchin. Quantities of the shells were found well above high water and some on the hills. In all these the oral surface was broken. This echinoderm makes no hole in the rock as our Californian purple species does, so it can easily be taken at low tide.

While on top of Besboro Island, August 6, we witnessed a peculiar performance. A raven was flying around the island high above the water. Every ten or fifteen seconds he folded one wing and fell five or six feet like a tumbler pigeon. While falling he gave a peculiar call, then righting himself continued on his course.

*Leucosticte griseonucha* (Brandt).—The Aleutian leucosticte was found only at Dutch Harbor. June 21 they were seen feeding about the wharves much as the English sparrow does in San Francisco. Two days later several were taken in the low hills on Amaknak, and a single specimen in young plumage was taken near the beach, October 4.

*Acanthis hornemanni exilipes* (Coues).—The hoary redpoll was taken but twice, a pair at Golofnin Bay, June 26, and a male on Pathfinder Rock, July 17.

*Acanthis linaria* (Linn.).—The redpoll was fairly abundant in many localities and was usually found in flocks of a dozen or more. Young birds predominated. Occasionally one or two adults were seen. A large flock of old and young were located in an alder thicket on Cape Denbigh and a few were found in the alders of Besboro. The species was also seen at Cape Darby, Fallax Point, Castle Rock and near Dexter. A dead male was found on Egg Island.

*Calcarius lapponicus alascensis* Ridgw.—Longspurs were very numerous and probably nesting on Amaknak June 23, and were among the first birds seen at Golofnin Bay June 28. They were also abundant on the tundra plains about St. Michael. Adults and partly grown young were taken near Crater Mountain July 11, and at Fallax Point they were seen in flocks August 24. The specimens taken about Dutch Harbor are considerably discolored with coal dust.

*Ammodramus sandwichensis* (Gmel.).—In the rank grass growing on the sand spit north-east of Dutch Harbor Sandwich sparrows were very abundant the latter part of June. The species is also abundant on a flat to the westward of Dutch Harbor, near Captain's Bay. Notes under date of June 22 are: "Collected nine sparrows on the sand-spit. They were usually shot from the dead flower stalk of a large umbelliferous plant, the stalk serving as a good marker. Two were shot on the rocks along the beach. Their song was seldom heard, but they were often detected by their call note, a sharp faint 'tsp.' They are rather fearless and inquisitive. Ovaries and testes were large." On our return trip young birds were taken at Amaknak, October 4.

*Ammodramus sandwichensis alaudinus* (Bonap.). The western savanna sparrow was taken at Golofnin Bay, Fallax Point, Cairn, Crater Mountain, and on Besboro and Egg Islands. A young bird was taken at Cape Denbigh. The bill in the Norton Bay birds is slightly longer than in birds from California. The tail is also a little longer and there is still a greater difference in the wing measurements. The material I have, however, is very unsatisfactory; many being young birds or having the flight feathers greatly abraded.

*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli* (Nutt.).—The intermediate sparrow breeds commonly along the shores of Norton Sound in favorable localities. It is also abundant on Egg Island where breeding birds were taken. A specimen in streaked plumage was taken at Reindeer and birds in fall plumage at Cairn. It was found in breeding season at Golofnin Bay.

*Zonotrichia coronata* (Pall.).—The white-crowned and golden-crowned spar-

rows were to be found in any brush patch, much as in California. Young *coronata* was taken on Egg and Besboro Islands, and at Cape Denbigh. No adults were secured and the young show but a trace of the golden yellow at base of bill.

*Spizella monticola ochracea* Brewst.—Several western tree sparrows were seen near Cairn and one taken at Dexter, August 17.

*Junco hyemalis* (Linn.).—Snow birds were seen at but one locality, the spruce woods near Cairn. Two were taken from a flock of a dozen adults and young.

*Melospiza cinerea* (Gmel.).—The Aleutian song sparrow was abundant along the beach on Amaknak, early in October, feeding among the rubbish cast ashore. I found them unsuspecting and easily secured fifteen, during one afternoon, between the wharf and the north end of the sand spit. Mr. A. G. Maddren of the steamer *Corwin* remarked that they were not singing so much as when he was here the year before.

*Passerella iliaca* (Merr.).—The fox sparrow was fairly common wherever there was a patch of protecting brush or a grove of spruces. The species was first observed in company with *Zonotrichia* among the willows about Cape Denbigh and was taken in the spruce woods near that point. Specimens were obtained on Besboro Island and in the brush near Cairn. Two young from Besboro, August 4 still retain the first plumage on the head, neck, and upper back. A similar, specimen from Cairn, August 18, has the tail about one-half grown. Norton Sound skins do not differ from a large series of eastern winter birds in my collection.

*Hirundo erythrogastra palmeri* Grinnell.<sup>1</sup>—One swallow was taken at Amaknak Island, June 23. The specimen is a male and measures as follows: Wing, 4.75; tail, 3.68; depth of fork, 1.92. A number of swallows were seen hawking over the flats, but were neglected as being too common! They were also observed at Golofnin Bay on June 28 and again at Egg Island July 9. At Cape Denbigh, two were seen August 1.

*Tachycineta bicolor* (Vieill.).—Eight tree swallows flew over the signal at Cape Denbigh on August 8.

*Dendroica aestiva rubiginosa* (Pall.).—A single female yellow warbler taken at Cairn has been identified by Mr. Oberholser as of this race. The bird was shot on August 22 from among several others in willows near the creek. Another specimen was seen on Besboro Island, August 4.

*Dendroica striata* (Forst.).—An immature male of this species was taken at Cairn, August 18. Wing, 3.15; tail, 2.15; exposed culmen, .40; tarsus, .78. It will be noticed that the wing is abnormally long, the measurements given by Ridgway's Manual being 2.80-2.90. This specimen was shot from the lower branches of a spruce and was alone so far as I could see.

*Wilsonia pusilla* (Wils.).—Two warblers of this species are in the collection. A young bird was taken at Reindeer on August 12 and a female was shot near Dexter, in Golofnin Bay, six days later.

*Budytes flavus leucostriatus* (Hom.).—The following notes, made June 28, at Golofnin Bay, refer to this species at the only time I saw it. "The country is flat tundra for a mile or two back from the beach and the few bushes are not over six or eight feet high. The first birds seen were Siberian yellow wagtails. They circle overhead for ten or fifteen minutes and then alight two or three hundred yards away. Their flight is similar to the goldfinch's, with the waves very short and the direction irregular. They utter repeatedly a note not unlike that of *Otocoris* and occasionally a short pleasing twittering song, at the same time rapid-

1. CONDOR IV, p. 71.

ly vibrating the wings. They are very numerous and when they have alighted on top of a bush are not suspicious. Four stomachs examined contained remains of coleopterous insects."

Two of each sex were secured. The reproductive organs indicated the proximity of the breeding season.

*Anthus pensilvanicus*.—The American pipit is well distributed over the territory visited. A pair was observed on Crater Mountain July 11; several were seen on top of Besboro Island, August 6, and two days later it was common on the high point forming Cape Denbigh. The species was also observed at Fallax Point August 11, and at Signal Doris August 29. A specimen taken on Amaknak, June 23, is darkly colored.

*Parus hudsonicus evura* Coues.—Several chickadees from Cairn compared with those taken by Grinnell on the Kowak River are darker. Mr. Harry C. Oberholser has kindly examined them and says: "Your chickadees are immature *Parus hudsonicus evura* of which *P. h. stoneyi* is a synonym. \* \* \* Your birds, being immatures, are darker and more sooty above than the type of *P. h. stoneyi*, but are apparently identical."

Chickadees were abundant in the spruces at Cairn on August 19 and were again seen on the 22nd. They were always in flocks and their habits were not different from those of other similar species of the genus.

*Phylloscopus borealis* (Blas.).—Two willow warblers were secured near Cairn, August 19. I was watching small fish in one of the clear streams which flow through the woods below Cairn when my attention was attracted by an unusual note. Across the stream in the tops of the willows were four or five birds resembling vireos in color. Their actions were more kinglet like. They constantly moved about among the leaves or darted out over the water in pursuit of insects and returned to the trees. I felt these must be willow warblers and shot one across the stream fearing to wait lest they disappear altogether. My bird fell in the water but I managed to guide him to my side by aid of a convenient pole. Another bird was lured across the water by 'squeaking' and was at once secured although he lit so near me that I had to back away before firing. This was the only occasion upon which the species was seen.

*Hyalocichla aliciae* (Baird).—Four thrushes in fall plumage are like *H. aliciae* from the Kowak River.

The birds were silent and usually found in small brush or dense willow thickets. Specimens were taken near Cairn and Dexter in August. One in young plumage was taken near Cape Denbigh, August 12, and another in similar plumage on Besboro Island, August 4.

*Merula migratoria* (Linn.).—The robin was observed only at Castle Rock where a flock of a dozen or fifteen was located in the spruces, July 27.

*Ixoreus naevius meruloides* (Swain.).—The varied thrush was abundant in the spruce woods below Signal Cairn where four moulting examples were taken late in August.

*Saxicola oenanthe* (Linn.).—Several wheatears were seen near the summit of Castle Rock July 27 and another was observed on a rocky hillside near the Signal Doris, August 19.

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#### The Least Tern at San Diego.

**M**R. F. W. KELSEY of San Diego has sent us two admirable photographs of the nest and eggs of the least tern (*Sterna antillarum*), one

of which is reproduced. The pictures were taken at Pacific Beach near San Diego, June 21, 1902. Mr. Kelsey writes: During the last six weeks I have