

out of the way, since they have been taken as far south as Chili by the end of June; but still it looks as if the much-sought-after breeding grounds of these mysterious birds lie not so very far north. Black Turnstones which breed south of the Yukon-mouth do not arrive from the north until the middle of July.

I have a theory that many of the females of the Limicolae, especially when they are larger and handsomer than the males, do not remain on the breeding grounds after the young are hatched, but turn them over to the care of the males and start on their southbound journey at once. There is considerable evidence to corroborate this, covering a number of species.

*Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, July 30, 1921.*

## BIRD NOTES FROM SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA

By G. WILLETT

**D**URING several years spent in southeastern Alaska, principally on the more southern islands of the Alexander Archipelago, the writer has accumulated considerable data on the birds of the region, some of which seems to add to previously published knowledge of their distribution and habits. During the past winter he has also enjoyed the privilege of access to the notes and collection of mounted birds of Mr. Fred H. Gray, of Wrangell. Mr. Gray has resided in that locality continuously since 1899, during which period he has covered a great deal of the surrounding territory and acquired much interesting information on local birds, considerable of which is, through Mr. Gray's courtesy, included herein.

In the following notes the intention of the writer is to include only species regarding which some fact or facts have come to light that add to previously published matter regarding them.

*Stercorarius pomarinus*. Pomarine Jaeger. *Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*. Pacific Kittiwake. These two species are apparently striking examples of birds that use different migration routes fall and spring. The first is common and the last abundant in fall migration, but both are rare in spring.

The Pomarine is the only one of the jaegers that the writer has met with in any numbers along inside channels, the migrations of *parasiticus* and *longicaudus* appearing to be almost entirely made over the open ocean. The earliest fall record for *pomarinus* is of a bird in the dark plumage taken near Howkan, Long Island, August 30, 1919. The latest record is of several birds seen between Shakan and Point Baker, Prince of Wales Island, October 3, same year. The species has been taken at Craig from September 5 (1919) to September 15 (1920), and four birds were seen off Zarembo Island September 25, 1920. The only spring record is of a single bird seen at Craig May 16, 1921.

The Pacific Kittiwake is an abundant fall migrant, being most plentiful during the month of September. The earliest record for the fall migration is August 8, 1919, on which date it was common at Waterfall, Prince of Wales Island. During the fall of 1920 it remained fairly common at Wrangell until October 28 and several birds were seen as late as November 12. Immature birds are occasional during the summer months, but the writer has seen no adults at this season south of Sitka Sound. The only spring record is of a single bird seen at Waterfall April 23, 1916.

*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*. Black Tern. Nine birds seen (two collected) by Gray near Wrangell September 18, 1903.

**Phalacrocorax auritus cincinatus.** White-crested Cormorant. The writer has been unable to locate any breeding grounds of this bird and believes that it occurs in the southern part of the archipelago only as a winter visitant or migrant. It is rather common at Craig during the winter months, being recorded from September 17 (1920) to April 20 (1920). Apparently rare at Wrangell, a single bird November 4, 1920, being the only one seen during the winter. It was seen daily at Port Santa Cruz, Suemez Island, from February 21 to March 10, 1920. Spring records are of three immatures seen at El Capitan, Prince of Wales Island, May 5, 1921, and two or three adults seen at Forrester Island May 23, 1920.

Gray states that he has seen the species at Cape Ommaney, Baranof Island, in summer, so it is possible that it may nest in that vicinity.

**Lophodytes cucullatus.** Hooded Merganser. According to Gray, occurs occasionally in the vicinity of Wrangell in the fall, being less plentiful in winter and summer. A female (now in Gray coll.) was taken at Olive Cove, Etolin Island, in November, 1917. Two males were taken at Wrangell January 15, 1907, and a female with several half-grown young was taken at the Stikine Mouth September 15, 1903. Two birds were seen by Winfield Wood, of Craig, near Howkan in late May or early June, 1914.

**Mareca penelope.** European Widgeon. Gray took an adult male on the Stikine Flats November 10, 1901.

**Mareca americana.** American Widgeon. The writer examined in the flesh a female and immature male of this species that were shot by Ralph Prescott near Wrangell January 15, 1921. Gray states that it is not rare in winter in favorable localities.

**Glaucionetta clangula americana.** American Golden-eye. **Glaucionetta islandica.** Barrow Golden-eye. Golden-eyes are abundant in the region throughout the winter, beginning to appear early in October and some remaining as late as May 5. Owing to difficulty in differentiating between the two species at a distance, the writer is unable to give as exact data on their comparative abundance as would be desirable. *Islandica* is common all winter, and the great majority of golden-eyes taken from October to January 1 are of this form. Of eighteen birds shot near Wrangell between November 1 and December 31, 1920, seventeen were *islandica*, the other being an adult male *americana*. During early January there appears to be an influx of the latter species and thereafter it is as common as *islandica* and in some localities even more so. *Americana* was abundant at Craig March 17-31, 1920, feeding on herring spawn. The males were courting at this time. They remained in some numbers until May 2.

**Charitonetta albeola.** Buffle-head. An abundant winter resident. First seen at Wrangell October 7 (1920), common two days later, and remaining in some numbers as late as May 9 (1920, Craig).

**Erismatura jamaicensis.** Ruddy Duck. Two seen (male taken) by Gray at Totem Bay, Kupreanof Island, August 15, 1916.

**Chen rossi.** Ross Goose. One shot by Gray from band of thirty, apparently of same species, on Stikine Flats April 15, 1907.

**Philacte canagica.** Emperor Goose. Four seen by Gray at close range near Wrangell, February 16, 1917.

**Olor columbianus.** Whistling Swan. In *Auk*, xxxviii, January, 1921, p. 128, the writer gave several winter records for this bird from Dall and Long islands. In addition to these, Mr. F. H. Gold, of Wrangell, states that from fifty to one hundred swans winter regularly on lakes at Lake Bay, northeastern Prince of Wales Island. Gray corroborates this and states further that the species formerly wintered in small numbers in Wrangell Narrows, near Petersburg.

**Botaurus lentiginosus.** Bittern. Gray has seen and heard this bird occasionally during summer and fall on Stikine Flats, and took a specimen in that locality September 30, 1903. The writer examined a mounted bird in Wrangell that was shot by W. M. Taylor in the same locality October 1, 1919.

**Grus canadensis.** Little Brown Crane. According to Gray, abundant in fall on Stikine Flats from September 20 to October 10; much less plentiful in spring. Two breeding records for the crane are as follows. Two adults and two young, the latter unable to fly, seen by Gray at Totem Bay, Kupreanof Island, in July, 1907. Two eggs taken by Claude Blackington in Big John Bay, Rocky Pass (between Kupreanof and Kuiu islands) in June, 1907. The writer questioned Mr. Blackington in regard to this

latter record and is satisfied as to its authenticity. Mr. Blackington is reliable, is perfectly familiar with the bird, and gave a very accurate account of the nest and eggs. He stated that he took the eggs to eat but found them addled. As no specimens of breeding birds from this region are available, it might be unwise to consider these records as definitely referable to *canadensis*, as a study of the breeding ranges in the last A. O. U. Check-List shows this locality to be almost as close to the northern limit of *mexicana* as it is to the southern limit of the breeding range of *canadensis*.

**Fulica americana.** American Coot. According to Gray, fairly common most falls at Stikine Flats. Two specimens (now in Gray coll.) taken in this locality, one in October, 1902, the other in October, 1906.

**Gallinago delicata.** Wilson Snipe. The writer has previously recorded (loc. cit., p. 128) the occurrence of this species in southeastern Alaska as late as December 7 (1919). In addition to this, a single bird was seen at Wrangell January 15, 1921, and another (possibly the same individual) February 17, following.

**Totanus melanoleucus.** Greater Yellow-legs. Two breeding records by Gray. Nest containing four eggs found at Anita Bay, Etolin Island, July 15, 1913, and four half-grown young with adults seen at Totem Bay, Kupreanof Island, August 15, 1914.

**Aphriza virgata.** Surf-bird. Though well known to be a rather common migrant throughout the region, it was not until the past winter that the writer learned of the Surf-bird wintering in this latitude. About one hundred birds were seen at Shoemaker Bay, four or five miles south of Wrangell, December 4, 1920, and seven specimens taken. Though there was apparently a considerable decrease in numbers shortly after this date, a few remained in company with Black Turnstones (*Arenaria melanocephala*) and Aleutian Sandpipers (*Arquatella maritima couesi*) throughout the winter. They were seen every few days until April 9, shortly after which date the writer left the vicinity and observations were suspended. Specimens were taken on following dates: December 9, January 14, February 21 (two), February 22, March 7, April 9. The latest bird taken showed no indications of acquiring spring plumage.

**Oxyechus vociferus.** Killdeer. A specimen taken by Gray on Stikine Flats May 10, 1907, was sent to the University of Washington.

**Zenaidura macroura marginella.** Western Mourning Dove. Gray has many records for this species, mostly from the Stikine Flats, where on one occasion he saw two young birds that could fly very little. One bird stayed near his house in Wrangell most of the summer of 1902, feeding in gardens. Mr. Parrott, of Wrangell, states that two birds stayed at his ranch, Stikine Flats, for three weeks during September, 1920.

**Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus.** Northern Bald Eagle. A peculiar habit of this bird was brought to the attention of the writer by Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Wood, of Craig, who stated that, during the spawning season of the herring, the bald eagles, which are very abundant at that time, occasionally alighted on the water and remained for several minutes. The writer, knowing Mr. and Mrs. Wood to be reliable and accurate observers, watched the eagles closely the spring of 1920 with the result that this fact was verified on several different occasions. Eagles were seen to alight on the water in company with gulls and, after floating for several minutes, seemed to experience no difficulty in again taking wing.

**Falco sparverius sparverius.** American Sparrow Hawk. Two taken by Gray on Stikine Flats May 10, 1907.

**Scotiaptex nebulosa nebulosa.** Great Gray Owl. One taken by Gray on Stikine Flats October 25, 1910.

**Nyctea nyctea.** Snowy Owl. Of two specimens in the Gray collection, one was taken at Olive Cove, Etolin Island, fall of 1901, and the other on Yakobi Island, near Cape Spencer, fall of 1915. Additional records are one shot by Frank Waterbury on Stikine Flats October 30, 1917, and another by W. M. Taylor at Wrangell Narrows in December, 1918.

**Surnia ulula caparoch.** American Hawk Owl. Gray has five records for this bird, as follows. Two taken on Sergieff Island in September, 1904, one taken at Farm Island, Stikine Mouth, October 1, 1905, one taken at Wrangell in September, 1917, and one seen in same locality September 25, 1918.

**Glaucidium gnoma grinnelli.** Coast Pygmy Owl. The writer has previously recorded (loc. cit., p. 128) the occurrence of the pygmy owl on Dall and Wrangell islands.

Since the publication of that note several other specimens from Wrangell Island have been examined and they all seem to be referable to the form *grinnelli* (*californicum* of A. O. U. List). H. S. Swarth writes me that the same conclusion has been reached in regard to a specimen from Wrangell now in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. This bird seems to be far more plentiful near Wrangell than in any other part of the region. Two were taken and three others seen during the winter of 1920-21. Gray states that he has about thirty records for the species during his residence there.

**Ceryle alcyon caurina.** Western Belted Kingfisher. Winters in small numbers, though less plentiful at this season than in summer. During the winter of 1920-21, at Wrangell, birds were seen on following dates. December 7, 20 (two), January 4, February 10. Several were seen April 14 and the species was common April 20.

**Colaptes auratus luteus.** Northern Flicker. One shot, but lost in dense brush, at Craig October 21, 1919; one seen at close range at Wrangell October 11, 1920. Gray states that he has twice taken this bird at Wrangell.

**Chordeiles virginianus** (subsp. ?). Nighthawk. On the evening of September 11, 1920, and again the following evening, a nighthawk was seen at Wrangell by the writer's son, G. Willett, Jr. Gray has three sight records for Wrangell, all in September.

**Stellula calliope.** Calliope Hummingbird. According to Gray, quite common at Wrangell in spring and fall during some years; other years apparently absent.

**Nuttallornis borealis.** Olive-sided Flycatcher. One of these birds examined at close range at Craig May 18, 1921.

**Euphagus carolinus.** Rusty Blackbird. Two taken at Wrangell October 10 and one seen November 30, 1920. One seen January 2, 1921, and another January 4, following.

**Loxia curvirostra sitkensis.** Sitka Crossbill. During seven summers and one winter spent by the writer in southeastern Alaska previous to 1920 there was no time when this bird was not in evidence and in most localities it was very common. From observations covering this period it developed that the young were raised in both spring and fall, though whether the same birds nested twice each year was not determined. In late August, 1919, vicinity of Craig, birds were paired and males singing. Fully fledged young were plentiful in late September and early October. Again in late March and early April, 1920, many birds were paired and evidently nesting. A pair of breeding birds was taken April 1 and another pair, also breeding birds, April 2. On April 27 a pair of adults were seen feeding full-grown young on the ground. Since early summer of 1920, though the writer has covered hundreds of miles of territory, not a single crossbill has been met with, and they are apparently absent from the region at present writing. The species is known to be very irregular in its habits, but that it should desert such a large section of territory in which it is normally abundant and should remain absent for such an extended period seems worthy of record.

**Lanius borealis.** Northern Shrike. Occurred at Wrangell in small numbers throughout the winter of 1920-21. First seen October 12; noted every few days from December 5 to March 5; specimen taken December 7 and another March 5.

**Bombycilla cedrorum.** Cedar Waxwing. Gray found a nest containing two young and two addled eggs in an apple tree in Wrangell in June, 1906. Four birds were seen in the same locality in June 1907. The Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrula*) is irregularly abundant, generally during winter months, but the above are the only records Gray has for *cedrorum* in more than twenty years observation.

**Myadestes townsendi.** Townsend Solitaire. Gray reports three specimens taken at Wrangell in spring. One of these was given to Ernest P. Walker, now of the U. S. Biological Survey.

*Craig, Alaska, May 24, 1921.*