

lished in 'The Auk' (Vol. VIII, p. 233), I think perhaps an explanation is due to that gentleman and to other readers of this journal.

All assertions are in a way, I take it, comparative, and when I wrote that "there are absolutely no Heron Rookeries on the Gulf Coast of Florida, from Anclote Keys to Cape Sable" (Auk, Vol. VII, p. 221), I was fully aware of the small isolated breeding ground recorded by Mr. Jamison, as well as of a few others of similar character, though generally smaller, along the coast in question.

But I think that if any of your readers could have accompanied me over the same ground in 1874, in 1878, or even in 1880, they would have fully concurred with me in the statement quoted by Mr. Jamison, had they traversed the ground again in the spring of 1890.

It is true that there are still small isolated colonies of Herons breeding this year on one mangrove island, and driven to another in the succeeding years. But the great Heron Rookeries of Tampa Bay, Samsota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, and the Thousand Islands, where the countless myriads of Herons were so noticeable a feature in the landscape as to attract the attention of *any one* from a long distance, no longer exist.

Not the three hundred nests that Mr. Jamison speaks of, but many, many *thousands* of nests composed such rookeries, and he would have patience indeed who could count the nests in a single acre of the two hundred acres, or thereabouts, that are included in the single rookery known as late as 1878 as 'Maximo Rookery,' just west of and near the end of Point Pinnellas at the mouth of Tampa Bay. At the same time in Charlotte Harbor there were at least five great rookeries of about equal size that I knew from personal observation. So, when I pass over this same ground now and find only here and there a few birds together, I feel I am justified in the view expressed in 'The Auk' and quoted by Mr. Jamison.

Very truly,

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'Birds of Greenland.'

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK.

Dear Sirs:—I wish to make a few statements relating to the just issued 'Birds of Greenland' by M. Chamberlain and myself. By correspondence with Mr. Herlup Winge of the Zoölogical Museum of Copenhagen I learn that two of the birds enumerated in the book are to be omitted. I here cite a letter of Mr. Winge:—

"At least two species should be omitted: (1) *Sterna hirundo* (*fluviatilis* Naum). The insertion of this species must be due to misinterpretation of synonyms. Only one species of Tern, the Arctic Tern (*Sterna macrura* or *S. paradisea*) being known from Greenland.

(2) *Empidonax pusillus*. The *Empidonax* from Greenland in the Zoölogical Museum of Copenhagen was wrongly entered by Reinhardt as *E. pusillus*; it is *E. flaviventris*, also later found in Greenland by Mr. Kumlien. Reinhardt himself detected the error and labelled the specimen correctly."

The Museum of Copenhagen has received from Greenland specimens of five species hitherto not known as Greenland birds. Mr. Winge gives their names as follows:— *Coccyzus americanus*, *Scolecophagus carolinus*, *Dendroica maculosa*, *Dendroica pensylvanica*, and *Seiurus noveboracensis*.

As the Museum intends in two years or so (when the Danish expedition, which now goes to explore the east coast of Greenland, has come back) to publish a treatise on Greenland birds, Mr. Winge wished that the dates about these species should first be made known through this treatise, so I must regret my inability to give them here.

Holboel mentions that he sent to the Museum of Copenhagen a skin of *Somateria*, which I supposed to be a *Somateria V-nigra*, but Mr. Winge informs me that the Museum is not in possession of a Greenland skin of *Somateria*, which can be interpreted as *Somateria V-nigra*, which thus becomes still more problematic as a Greenland species.

I have just received a lot of Greenland bird-skins and eggs from Fredrikshaab (in lat. 62°). Of eleven skins of Gyrfalcon six are white and five gray. Two of the gray birds were shot in October, 1889, and two of the white ones in the same month; three white ones in December, 1889; the rest are unlabelled. One of the gray Falcons is so dark that it in my opinion must be a *Falco rusticolus obsoletus*. Perhaps the whole scale of color is found in Greenland.

Of seven skins of *Gavia alba*, four adults (two males and two females), were shot 26 Feb., 1890; an old male 18 April, 1890, and a young male 24 Nov., 1889. With them was a skin of *Zema sabinii*.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE PLATE of the Eared Whip-poor-will (*Otophanes mcleodii* Brewster) accompanying this number of 'The Auk' is the first of a series of colored plates illustrating birds recently described from Mexico by Mr. Brewster. The second of the series, illustrating two species of *Megascops*, will appear in the October number. Later appropriate text will be furnished to accompany the plates. The Eared Whip-poor-will was described in 'The Auk,' Vol. V, 1888, p. 89, from a specimen collected by Mr. R. R. McLeod, in the Sierra Madre of Chihuahua, Mexico, Dec. 6, 1884. The characters of this peculiar bird have been faithfully portrayed by Mr. Ridgway. The type remains unique.

JOHN C. CAHOON, widely known as a field naturalist, and an energetic, expert, and conscientious collector, met his death at Curslet, Newfoundland, April 26, by a fall from a cliff, while collecting, to the rocks, seventy