

THE BIRDS OF CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT, WASHINGTON.

BY WILLIAM H. KOBBE.

THE following birds were collected by me upon Cape Disappointment during the first six months of 1898, although my notes and observations extend over a much longer period. All the birds enumerated in the list are now in my collection, with the exception of those mentioned as being identified by other means.

For a fuller and more complete introduction I beg the reader to refer to my article upon the Rufous Hummingbird in the January number of 'The Auk' for this year. By so doing a better idea of the general aspect, climate, vegetation, etc., of the cape might be gained.

1. *Æchmophorus occidentalis*. WESTERN GREBE.—This species is abundant throughout the winter months, arriving soon after the rainy season begins in September or October and departing in March or April. It was the only species of Grebe found by me upon the cape and much preferred the bay to the fresh water lake formed by the heavy rains.

2. *Gavia lumme*. RED-THROATED LOON.—One specimen of this species was killed by me on Feb. 8, 1898. Upon skinning, it proved to be a female in immature plumage. Although this is the only specimen of any Loon in my collection, shot upon the cape, I am certain that other species occur there in abundance. I have seen a great many Loons upon the bay and have good reasons for believing them to be in all probability *Gavia pacifica* (Pacific Loon).

3. *Larus occidentalis*. WESTERN GULL.—The Western Gull is exceedingly abundant during the winter, and although I have frequently seen individuals during the summer, they are not at all common at that time of year. Doubtless other species occur upon the cape, but I have never shot any.

4. *Puffinus griseus*. DARK-BODIED SHEARWATER.—Very rare. One specimen of this bird was killed on May 6, 1898. It was an adult female and the following entry was made in my notes concerning it: "*Puffinus griseus*. Killed on May 6, 1898, at Fort Canby, Wash., mouth of the Columbia River. Sex and age: ♀ ad. Measurements and colors: $18\frac{3}{8} \times 41\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ inches. Eyes very dark yellowish brown, almost black; bill dusky bluish horn color, blackening along culmen; toes and tarsi bluish. This specimen was given to me by a surfman of the U. S. Life Saving

Crew at this place, who killed it with an oar, after driving it up against a fish net." This species is said to be abundant near Tillamook lighthouse, which is about twenty miles south of Cape Disappointment.

5. *Phalacrocorax dilophus cincinatus*. WHITE-CRESTED CORMORANT. — This Cormorant is a very abundant species during the entire year, but especially so in the winter and spring. They are rather wary birds to hunt, but may always be shot while sitting upon the stakes which support the fish pots. They sometimes perch upon these poles for hours and oftentimes may be seen with their wings half spread, by which means they dry them. Although the birds remain throughout the summer, I did not find them nesting upon the numerous cliffs of the cape and am certain they do not breed in this locality. This species is without doubt the one referred to by Mr. R. H. Lawrence in his list of birds of Gray's Harbour which appeared in 'The Auk,' Vol. IX, 1892, p. 353.

6. *Phalacrocorax pelagicus robustus*. VIOLET-GREEN CORMORANT. — The Violet-green Cormorant is only found upon the cape during the winter months, when it is very abundant. It arrives in the fall and departs rather late in the spring. During its stay upon the cape it associates with the White-crested Cormorant and the two species may often be seen perched upon the fish-trap poles in large flocks. Both species frequently fly into the fish pots from which they are unable to escape, since they are unable to fly vertically upward. It is an easy matter for the birds to fly from the poles downward into the square pot formed of netting, but after they once get in they are forced to remain and are generally killed by the fishermen.

7. *Merganser serrator*. RED-BREADED MERGANSER. — Rare. Only two specimens shot during fall migration of 1897.

8. *Anas boschas*. MALLARD. — Not abundant. A few flocks occasionally seen upon the lake during migrations.

9. *Nettion carolinensis*. GREEN-WINGED TEAL. — Rare. One specimen killed by me out of a flock of three driven upon the ocean beach by a severe storm. This was during the winter.

10. *Dafila acuta*. PINTAIL. — This species is sometimes seen upon the lake, but very rarely and then only during the winter.

11. *Aythya vallisneria*. CANVAS-BACK. — This is the only species of the subfamilies Anatinae and Fuligulinae which may be said to really inhabit the cape, with the exception of the Scoters (*Oidemia*). The Canvas-backs arrived in November, 1897, and remained until the following March. There were immense flocks of them upon the bay, but after a few months they became very 'fishy' and unfit for the table.

12. *Oidemia perspicillata*. SURF SCOTER. — A very abundant species. One of the first Ducks to arrive in September and the last to leave in April. Feeds extensively on mussels and always swallows the shells, some of them being empty or else filled with mud. When rowing upon the bay on a bright, or at least not a stormy day, large flocks of these Ducks are often frightened at the approach of the boat and take to wing,

only to settle a short distance ahead. Upon these occasions the loud whistling of their rapid wing beats can be heard a long distance—a half mile or more if the weather is very calm.

13. *Oidemia deglandi*. WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.—This species associates in large flocks with *Oidemia americana*, and all statements made concerning the latter will apply equally well to *Oidemia deglandi*.

14. *Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON.—Not abundant. This species is sometimes seen in the fall of the year, but its scarcity is quite natural since the cape is not at all suited to its wants. The individuals seen by me were either perched upon the fish-trap poles or else wading in the lake.

15. *Fulica americana*. AMERICAN COOT.—Very rare. Occasionally seen upon the lake in the fall of the year.

16. *Gallinago delicata*. WILSON'S SNIPE.—During the fall of the year this species is sometimes abundant and at other times rare. There is only a very small marsh upon the cape where they are to be found and which is hardly suited to the habits of the species.

17. *Numenius hudsonicus*. HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—Very rare. The cape being very rocky and densely wooded, it is no wonder that this bird is rare. The only two seen by me were shot on May 18, 1898, and both were females, found upon a grassy headland of about four acres in area. The stomachs of the birds contained a quantity of beetle-like insects.

18. *Dendragapus obscurus fuliginosus*. SOOTY GROUSE.—It would be hard to say whether this species is abundant or not owing to the character of the country. All that I can say, however, is that I have only seen one specimen, which I killed. This was on May 17, 1898, and upon dissection the specimen proved to be a female, her oviduct containing an egg upon which the coloring matter had not been deposited.

19. *Bonasa umbellus sabini*. OREGON RUFFED GROUSE.—Not abundant; although with a sufficient amount of labor these birds can be found. It took me nearly a month to become well enough acquainted with their habits to obtain even one or two a week.

These Grouse are only found upon the cape during the fall, and the utmost care must be exercised in hunting them. They are extremely fond of the small wild crab apples (*Pyrus rivularis*) which grow in the low, damp woods. The birds visit these trees very early in the morning and late in the evening, at which times they may be found silently perched upon the branches. As they generally hear you approaching before you discover them, they are nearly always seen in a motionless attitude, ready to fly at the slightest sound. It often happens that the first intimation a hunter has of the presence of a Grouse is a startling commotion among the branches overhead, the rapid whirl of wings and the bulky form of the bird as it hurls itself through the woods!

20. *Columba fasciata*. BAND-TAILED PIGEON.—This Pigeon is only seen on the cape when the salmon berries (*Rubus nutkanus*) ripen in June and July. They are then seen in large flocks, but are difficult to shoot

since they penetrate the densest woods in search of the berries. They also perch in the highest spruces and keep well out of range. I have been told that they also frequent the wheat fields in the vicinity of Ilwaco, Pacific Co., Wash.

21. *Falco columbarius suckleyi*. BLACK MERLIN.—Only one specimen of this Falcon was seen by me, and that was killed on April 23, 1898, and proved to be an adult female. Stomach contained portions of several small birds.

22. *Megascops asio kennicottii*. KENNICOTT'S SCREECH OWL.—Quite rare. Two specimens killed on June 30, 1898,—one, an adult female in the brown phase, and the other a female in the downy stage. The birds were found together in a dark ravine where the brood had probably been raised. The stomachs of both contained a quantity of grubs.

23. *Ceryle alcyon*. BELTED KINGFISHER.—The Belted Kingfisher arrived at the cape on March 23, 1898, and remained abundant all through the summer. They are never seen during the winter, but in summer can be found anywhere along the rocky shores of the bay. In all probability the species breeds upon the cape, as I have seen many disused tunnels in the clay banks. Before eating a fish I have seen the birds kill their prey by striking it against the limb upon which they were sitting.

24. *Dryobates villosus harrisii*. HARRIS'S WOODPECKER.—This Woodpecker is fairly abundant during the summer months; but it is a rather wild and wary bird, hard to shoot and harder to find afterwards in the thick brush of the fir woods which it inhabits. I have but two specimens in my collection. Both have the smoky under parts, and the dates of collecting were May 18 and June 5, respectively.

25. *Dryobates pubescens gairdnerii*. GAIRDNER'S WOODPECKER.—This small species of Woodpecker is fairly abundant during the fall and winter months, but becomes very scarce as spring merges into summer. Harris's Woodpecker now takes its place, so that the two species do not occur together upon the cape. When Gairdner's is common, Harris's is rare, and *vice versa*. Gairdner's Woodpecker may often be seen in small trees, such as alders, willows, etc., while its larger cousin is generally found in the dark fir woods, hammering upon the giant trunks. I did not find either species breeding.

26. *Melanerpes torquatus*. LEWIS'S WOODPECKER.—Very rare. Only one specimen seen by me during my entire stay upon the cape. This was killed by me on April 30, 1898, and proved to be an adult male in fine plumage. This individual was remarkably tame and was seen perched in the top of a low fir tree directly in front of the house, where it would sit for a few minutes and then fly into the air after an insect, very much in the same manner as a Flycatcher.

27. *Colaptes cafer saturator*. NORTHWESTERN FLICKER.—The Northwestern Flicker is fairly abundant during the entire year, but especially so in the fall and spring. I think it is a wilder and more wary bird than

its southern representative, *Colaptes cafer*, and its note is louder and more ringing. Although I have never found its nest, in all probability the species breeds upon the cape, since I have found many deserted holes. These were generally placed in rotten tree trunks from fifteen to thirty feet above the ground.

28. *Trochilus rufus*. RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD. — This species is one of the most abundant birds found upon the cape. The cape swarms with them from the first part of March until September. They nest very early — about April 20 or 25, you may look for eggs. The majority of the nests are placed in thick fir trees and are built directly upon a horizontal bough, the needles of which often penetrate the bottom of the nest. This seems to be the only defect in the most perfect and beautiful of bird structures! It is, however, not such a common condition as I may have led you to suppose. About one nest in six or eight is thus defective.

29. *Sayornis saya*. SAY'S PHŒBE. — During my stay upon the cape I saw but one specimen of this species, which I shot on June 1, 1898. It was an adult male and I quote the following lines from my notes concerning this individual. "I found this bird upon the ocean beach among the drift wood. It was extremely wild and wary and would keep just out of range, flying from log to log as I approached. I was finally able to kill it by crawling on my hands and knees to a big log which concealed me." The cape is an ideal place for *Contopus borealis*, but a very poor one for this species.

30. *Contopus borealis*. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. — This species is most abundant throughout the summer. That is abundant for a bird as comparatively rare as is the Olive-sided Flycatcher. They arrive very early in May, the males preceding the females about one month, and remain until late summer or fall. During the month of May, 1898, I killed fifteen specimens and saw twice as many more, which is good proof of their abundance. Although plentiful they are rather difficult to shoot, their favorite perches being the tallest pines and spruces. Their penetrating notes resound through the dark fir woods during the long days of summer, being the only sound which breaks a death-like silence. The notes, which are whistled shrilly, are something like this: *Whe-whe-whea*, uttered rather quickly and repeated twice. After repeating these notes four or five times, they whistle *whet-we-wea*, an interval being between the first and the last two, which are sounded close together.

In all probability this Flycatcher breeds upon the cape, but their nests are next to impossible to find.

31. *Contopus richardsoni*. WESTERN WOOD PEWEE. — Not so abundant as the last, but often seen associated with it and catching insects in the same tree. This species arrives soon after *Contopus borealis*, and remains about the same length of time. Probably breeds on the cape.

32. *Cyanocitta stelleri*. STELLER'S JAY. — This Jay is very abundant in the fall and spring, but exceedingly scarce in winter, only one pair remaining on the cape through the winter of 1897-98. During the fall I

once counted twenty-five of these Jays all in sight at one time. Although rather tame they possess a remarkable amount of sagacity and well know when they are being hunted. They are very noisy birds and may often be seen mounting a giant spruce tree, limb by limb, ascending spirally about the trunk until the topmost branch is reached. They often do this when being pursued, and since they seldom pause until the top is reached, it takes a quick shot to bring one down.

Although the birds from Cape Disappointment are without doubt Steller's Jays, Mr. Leverett M. Loomis of the California Academy of Sciences pronounced them to be an intermediate form and not as typical *Cyanocitta stelleri* as is the Alaskan form.

The species is one of the most characteristic and interesting found upon the cape and may possibly nest there.

33. *Corvus americanus*. AMERICAN CROW. — Quite abundant during the entire year. But I hardly think that it is as abundant as *Corvus caurinus*, which is a very common bird on the cape. *Corvus americanus* associates with *C. caurinus* in large flocks, and probably breeds upon the cape.

34. *Corvus caurinus*. NORTHWEST CROW. — This Fish Crow is abundant on the cape during the entire year, and is generally to be found in large flocks, inhabiting the wooded shores of the bay. The birds are very maritime in their habits and feed principally upon the beaches, where they pick up shellfish, crabs and refuse washed up by the waves. After being once shot at they become exceedingly wild and wary and difficult to approach. They nest upon the cape in spruces.

35. *Agelaius phœniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. — Not abundant. This species, together with the next, arrives about March 1 and remains throughout the summer. These birds are rather hostile towards their western representative, the Bicolored Blackbird, and frequently drive the latter from the small marsh which they are both forced to inhabit. Some of the specimens shot by me are typical of the species. Although I found no nests, they doubtless breed upon the cape.

36. *Agelaius gubernator californicus*. BICOLORED BLACKBIRD. — More abundant than the preceding, with which it is closely associated; the same remarks applying to both.

37. *Carpodacus purpureus californicus*. CALIFORNIA PURPLE FINCH. — These beautiful Finches arrive at the cape early in March and remain abundant throughout the summer. They breed upon the cape, and one of the finest nests in my collection was built by this Finch entirely of straight fir twigs, which causes it to be rather triangular in form. It is lined with horsehair.

38. *Spinus tristis*. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. — In 1898 these Goldfinches arrived at the cape on April 25, and in a few weeks became quite abundant. They breed upon the cape and depart in early fall. Their nests may be looked for in May and June and are generally built in deciduous trees, in most cases being placed in a fork. However, I observed

one nest which was placed upon the drooping branch of a fir tree. The sprightly ways and twittering song of this beautiful bird are so well known that I will forbear further description of its habits.

39. *Ammodramus sandwichensis*. SANDWICH SPARROW.—I observed this species for the first time upon the cape on April 20, 1898, when a small flock was seen on the grassy headland where I had previously shot the Hudsonian Curlew. This headland is the only spot on the entire cape at all suited to the habits of ground birds.

The Sandwich Sparrows, however, remained upon it until the middle of May when they suddenly disappeared. Doubtless the flock was on its northward migration and must be considered as an unusual occurrence on the cape. Dr. Coues very kindly examined a specimen for me from this flock and pronounced it typical of the species. After being hunted a short time the birds became very wild and would flush from the grass quite out of range. They have often led me into dangerous places by flying down the sides of the headland and alighting in the stunted grass which grows upon the rocky sides only a short distance above the breakers. They seemed to know that by going into such places they stood a better chance of escaping.

40. *Zonotrichia gambeli*. GAMBEL'S SPARROW.—This species arrives on Cape Disappointment about the middle of April and remains rather scarce throughout the season. I think the cape is too heavily wooded for it to become abundant. I discovered the birds breeding in the summer of 1897 upon the windy headlands, their nests being placed deep in the hearts of thick spruces to protect them from the strong winds.

I have often seen this handsome Sparrow perched upon the top of a young spruce, its plaintive song rising above the roar of the ocean while the wind almost blew it from its swaying perch.

41. *Zonotrichia coronata*. GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW.—This species arrives with *Zonotrichia gambeli* but is rather less abundant and does not nest upon the cape. The birds are extremely fat and the most difficult to skin of any Sparrows I have ever prepared. These birds seem to be more at home in the woods than Gambel's Sparrow.

42. *Junco hyemalis oregonus*. OREGON JUNCO.—Abundant throughout the year with the exception of summer, when it is not seen upon the cape. A large flock of these birds inhabited a manure field during the whole winter of 1897-98. They leave the cape in early summer.

43. *Melospiza fasciata guttata*. RUSTY SONG SPARROW. The Rusty or Oregon Song Sparrow is a most abundant bird upon the cape at all seasons of the year, and their cheerful songs help very much to cheer the rainy winters. The birds inhabit the thick underbrush in countless numbers and may be readily called out by chirping. They breed upon the cape, but their nests are most difficult to find. The following is a description of one taken on July 1: "The nest was situated on the horizontal branch of a small spruce tree about five feet from the ground. It is composed entirely of very coarse grass stems and is lined with fine

grass. The parent bird could seldom be seen upon the nest owing to its extreme wariness. In fact I never once succeeded in approaching near enough to the nest to see the bird as she sat upon it. I was only able to accomplish this by waiting in a thick clump of brush which concealed me, until she returned to the nest. This nest measured as follows: Diameter outside, 5 in.; diameter inside, 3 in.; depth outside, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.; depth inside, 2 in.

44. *Passerella iliaca unalascensis*. TOWNSEND'S SPARROW. — This large Sparrow is found on the cape during the entire year with the exception of summer. They are rather less abundant than the Rusty Song Sparrows and are more retiring in their habits. They are much oftener heard scratching in the brush than seen and are difficult to shoot for that reason.

45. *Pipilo maculatus oregonus*. OREGON TOWHEE. — For some unaccountable reason this bird is extremely rare upon the cape. During my entire stay I killed but one specimen. This was a female killed on March 5, 1898. Being a brush inhabiting bird it is possible that they do occur upon the cape; but it must be said that they are extremely rare and would certainly have been discovered by me if at all plentiful.

46. *Hirundo erythrogaster*. BARN SWALLOW. — This Swallow arrives very early in April and remains very abundant throughout the summer, adding very much to the natural beauty of the cape. Since they are not disturbed the birds become very tame and nearly every house in the garrison has its Swallow's nest over the front porch. These are generally placed in a corner or on a projecting cornice or post top.

47. *Tachycineta bicolor*. TREE SWALLOW. — Rare. In 1898 a few of these birds were seen in May. Shot one specimen.

48. *Clivicola riparia*. BANK SWALLOW. Very rare. In May, 1897, while searching the island near the end of the cape I found a nest of this species containing a full set of eggs. This is the only time I met with the species upon the cape.

49. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. CLIFF SWALLOW. — Quite a number of these birds were seen in the summer of 1898 and one was shot and identified. I also observed many Swallows nesting in the caves on the ocean side of the cape which were probably referable to this species. It was impossible to identify them, since the caves were almost pitch dark, and the birds mounted high in air as soon as they left them.

50. *Ampelis cedrorum*. CEDAR WAXWING. — Rare. Three of these handsome birds were seen upon the cape in the middle of June, 1898, and one pair remained to build their nest. This is the only time they were seen upon the cape.

51. *Helminthophila celata lutescens*. LUTESCENT WARBLER. — This is one of the first Warblers to arrive, early in April, and it remains one of the most abundant birds throughout the summer. On April 29, 1898, I found a nest of this species containing five fresh eggs, and situated in a small cavity in a grassy bank. The cavity was only a slight hollow

formed by an overhanging clump of fern and was an ideal spot for a bird's home. All the nests found by me (five or six) were thus placed in green banks.

52. *Dendroica auduboni*. AUDUBON'S WARBLER. — Abundant throughout the summer and nests upon the cape. A nest taken by me on June 27, 1898, was placed on the horizontal bough of a spruce tree forty feet from the ground, and six feet from the trunk of the tree. The nest could only be seen from above and was discovered by seeing the parents build it.

53. *Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*. PILEOLATED WARBLER. — Fairly abundant in summer but not nearly so plentiful as the two preceding species. I found a nest of this Warbler on June 15, 1898, which was placed in the center of a large clump of fern growing in some low damp woods. It contained three young birds and one addled egg, and was quite bulky, being $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in outside diameter and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in outside depth.

54. *Thryomanes bewickii spilurus*. VIGORS'S WREN. — This Wren is exceedingly rare upon the cape. One male specimen was killed by me on May 26, 1898, — the only one ever seen.

55. *Anorthura hiemalis pacificus*. WESTERN WINTER WREN. — A common resident of the cape and seen at all seasons of the year. It is, however, a very retiring bird and is not often shot. Nests upon the cape and is a good songster.

56. *Parus atricapillus occidentalis*. OREGON CHICKADEE. — This sprightly little bird is abundant during the winter but very rare in summer. I find nothing in my notes concerning it.

57. *Parus rufescens*. CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE. — Quite abundant during the entire year but especially so in winter. The birds nest upon the cape and I found one on May 20, 1898, built in a hollow twenty-one feet from the ground and containing seven eggs. For a complete description of this nest, see 'Bulletin Cooper Ornithological Club,' Vol. I, No. 5, pp. 84-85.

58. *Regulus satrapa olivaceus*. WESTERN GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. — This species is abundant throughout the winter but does not occur upon the cape at any other season.

59. *Regulus calendula*. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET. — This species associates with the last and is also frequently seen with *Parus rufescens*. They are abundant birds throughout the winter.

60. *Hylocichla ustulatus*. RUSSET-BACKED THRUSH. — These Thrushes do not arrive on the cape until April or May, when they become exceedingly abundant, their low whistle being heard on all sides. Their nests may be found by the hundreds in the low damp woods and are nearly always placed in alders. The first nest found in 1898 was on June 14.

61. *Merula migratoria propinqua*. WESTERN ROBIN. — These birds are only absent from the cape during the height of the rainy season —

December, January and February. At all other seasons they are most abundant and their nests are very plentiful.

62. *Hesperocichla nævia*. VARIED THRUSH. — The Varied Thrush or Oregon Robin is a very common bird during the winter, but departs to its breeding grounds with the advent of spring. In habits it is much like the common Robin.

63. *Sialia mexicana*. WESTERN BLUEBIRD. — Very rare. Only one specimen of this bird was ever seen by me upon the cape. This was an immature female killed April 5, 1898.

In conclusion I wish to state that I have attempted to describe the bird life of the cape just as I saw it, and for the purpose of relieving the monotony of mere dates have included some of the most prominent habits of the birds as seen by me. I also wish to say that there were some birds not identified by me, which occur upon the cape, such as the larger Hawks and Eagles, and also the shore birds, which are entirely absent from the list for want of proper identification. All specimens in my collection whose identification was uncertain were compared with specimens in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences, and Mr. Loomis also very kindly examined certain birds for me.

NESTING HABITS OF THE CERULEAN WARBLER.

BY W. E. SAUNDERS.

SOME years ago, while on a short walking trip through the western peninsula of Ontario, I located a woods in which the Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) was exceedingly common. Ever since, I have wished for an opportunity to visit that locality in early May that I might make their acquaintance in the house-keeping season and perhaps get a few nests. Near London, only 60 or 70 miles farther east, they average uncommon, and near Toronto they are seldom seen.

On May 16, 1900, I got back near the place and in a day's hunt succeeded in finding two pieces of woodland where they were common, and though there appeared to be as yet no sign of nest