

Locality.	Date and Sex.	Color of Feet.	Color of Orbital Ring.
San Francisco Bay	Dec. 7, 1900 ♂	Flesh color	Flesh-color.
" " "	Dec. 9, 1900 ♀	"	Dusky orange-red.
" " "	" " " ♀	"	Blackish
" " "	Dec. 18, 1900 ♀	"	Reddish flesh-color.
" " "	Dec. 27, 1900 ♀	"	Not taken.
" " "	" " " ♀	"	Blackish.
" " "	" " " ♀	"	Flesh-color.
" " "	" " " ♀	"	"
" " "	Jan. 18, 1901 ♀	"	Very pale and indefinite color.
" " "	" " " ♀	"	Reddish flesh-color.
" " "	Jan. 19, 1901 ♀	"	Dusky flesh-color.
" " "	Feb. 2, 1901 ♀	"	Flesh-color.
" " "	Feb. 8, 1901 ♀	"	"
" " "	" " " ♀	"	"
" " "	April 8, 1901 ♀	"	Dusky flesh-color.
" " "	April 17, 1901 ♀	"	Flesh-color.

In the light of these facts it appears that *Larus vegæ* is indistinguishable from *Larus argentatus*, and as the latter has the priority I propose that *Larus vegæ* be dropped from our nomenclature.

## BIRDS OF THE NORTHEASTERN COAST OF LABRADOR.

BROWN-HARVARD EXPEDITION OF 1900, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP  
OF PROFESSOR DELABARRE.

BY HENRY B. BIGELOW.

THE OBSERVATIONS noted in the following list were made on the Brown-Harvard Labrador expedition of 1900. The area embraced was that portion of the eastern coast from Belle Isle, Lat.  $51^{\circ} 53'$ , to Nachvak Fiord, Lat.  $59^{\circ}$ . The birds noted are strictly those of the immediate coast region, for we did not penetrate much farther into the interior than the heads of the bays.

The coast fauna combines both arctic and sub-arctic forms, comprising such arctic species as the polar bear, arctic wolf, white fox, Hudson Bay lemming, barren ground caribou, and at the same localities the black bear and the red fox. Among the birds the same combination can be noted. It will be seen at once that the list does not contain many species given by Turner as occurring at Ungava. This is explained by the fact that the eastern coast is absolutely cut off from the interior by the range of mountains which follows the shore. This range, which attains an extreme height of perhaps six or seven thousand feet, rises abruptly from the water's edge, so that the coast region proper is restricted to a narrow strip, merging at once into the barren hillsides and boulder slopes of the uplands. This ridge is an insurmountable barrier to the wanderings of most of the small birds. The hilltops were inhabited only by a few Titlarks, Snow Buntings, Longspurs, and Rough-legged Hawks.

The vegetation of the coast region, especially of the islands, is very scanty. The timber line, for the immediate seacoast, is near Hamilton Inlet. About the heads of the bays we found timber as far north as Nain, beyond which the trees dwindled to scrub spruces, and dwarf willows and birches along the lower water courses. Most of the barren country is covered with caribou moss, with blueberries and Labrador tea growing profusely in the boggy places.

The climate is cold, the mean temperature for the year being about 29° Fahrenheit. During the summer it ranged from 29° to about 55°. Twice we got temperature of 70°, but this was only in very sheltered spots, and for an hour or two at a time.

1. *Urinator imber*. LOON. — Fairly common along the coast, particularly in the deeper fiords and on the larger lakes. Breeding locally. The skins from the necks of adult loons are much used by the Eskimo for ornamental work.

2. *Urinator lumme*. RED-THROATED LOON; WABBY. — Nests in small ponds inland. Appears on the coast after the young are able to fly, when it is rather common, particularly in September. One which I examined had the stomach filled with caplin.

3. *Fratercula arctica*. PUFFIN; SEA PARROT. Abundant all along the coast. Still breeds in comparative abundance on many of the outlying islands. The young were fully fledged and in the water by the 25th of

August. Though highly esteemed by the natives, we could not consider them a delicacy. Drawings which I made of bills of young just fledged show a great resemblance to those of Brünnich's Murre and the common Murre.

4. *Cephus grylle*. BLACK GUILLEMOT; PIGEON.—The Black Guillemots were, with one exception, the most numerous of all the sea fowl. They still breed in great abundance on almost all the suitable islands, and are killed in great numbers for food. I was unable to discover any trace whatever of Mandt's Guillemot, although Turner reports it "abundant" on the east coast.

5. *Uria troile*. MURRE.—We found the Murres fairly common to Hamilton Inlet, north of which we saw very few. A large colony was reported to us, however, at Eclipse Harbor. Probably no bird has suffered more from the depredations of the eggers than this, which is in merely a remnant of its former numbers.

6. *Uria lomvia*. BRÜNNICH'S MURRE.—Of about the same occurrence as the Murre,—perhaps even less common.

7. *Alca torda*. RAZOR-BILLED AUK; TINKER.—Although subject to the same persecution as the Murres, the Razor-billed Auk seems to have stood it better, and is still abundant all along the coast. We found them in July in considerable numbers in the lanes in the floe ice. They breed in company with the Murres.

8. *Alle alle*. DOVEKIE; BULL BIRD.—Reported as very common in winter. I observed only one, off Cape Harrison, on September 18.

9. *Stercorarius pomarinus*. POMARINE JAEGER.—Rather rare; much less common than the other jaegers.

10. *Stercorarius parasiticus*. PARASITIC JAEGER.

11. *Stercorarius longicaudus*. LONG-TAILED JAEGER.—These two jaegers were rather common, usually two or three following each flock of Kittiwakes. They went together indiscriminately, and their habits seemed to be identical.

12. *Rissa tridactyla*. KITTIWAKE.—By far the most abundant of all the sea fowl. We met them continually in large flocks. After the young left the nest, they assembled together in enormous numbers to pursue the caplin, and, in company with the other gulls, made a deafening uproar. We found the young ones very good eating.

13. *Larus glaucus*. BURGOMASTER.—We found Burgomasters common north of Cape Harrison, though they seldom gathered in large flocks. At Port Manvers they were particularly abundant. We could find no evidence of their nesting, though young birds appeared in great numbers about the end of August.

14. *Larus marinus*. BLACK-BACKED GULL.—Common; rather less so than the Burgomasters. Breeding commonly. Two young, kept in captivity, had enormous appetites and became very tame. They were ready to fly by August 15.

15. *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*. HERRING GULL.—Common all along the coast.

16. *Larus delawarensis*. RING-BILLED GULL.—I took one young specimen at Port Manvers, Sept. 6.

17. *Larus philadelphia*. BONAPARTE'S GULL.—Common south of Hamilton Inlet in September, particularly about the Straits of Belle Isle. There is no indication of its breeding anywhere on the coast.

18. *Sterna paradisæa*. ARCTIC TERN.—We saw a few about Belle Isle in July and again in September.

19. *Fulmarus glacialis*. FULMAR; NODDY.—We found the Noddies rather common offshore among the flocks of shearwaters. Almost all were in the light phase. Many that we saw were so gorged that they could not rise from the water.

20. *Puffinus major*. GREATER SHEARWATER; HAGDON.—Common in large flocks offshore. We occasionally ran into great flocks of these birds a good way offshore. They were very tame and would hardly take wing before the schooner ran them down.

21. *Puffinus stricklandi*. SOOTY SHEARWATER.—Common, among the Greater Shearwaters. The shearwaters were the only sea fowl which proved to be totally inedible.

22. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. LEACH'S PETREL.—Very common locally south of Hamilton Inlet. North of that they were rare. We visited several islets where the turf was riddled with their holes, and the air reeked with their sharp musky odor.

23. *Sula bassana*. GANNET.—We saw three or four near Belle Isle on the way north, but no more anywhere along the coast.

24. *Phalacrocorax carbo*.—CORMORANT; SHAG.

25. *Phalacrocorax dilophus*. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—We saw a few near Belle Isle, but no others. They seem to breed altogether along the southern coast.

26. *Merganser serrator*. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.—Locally common; very widely distributed.

27. *Anas obscura*. BLACK DUCK.—Rather rare. We saw very few Black Ducks, and of those few most were south of Hamilton Inlet. Apparently restricted to the inland ponds.

28. *Aythya marila*. GREATER SCAUP.—I received one from Dr. Grenfell. It was shot near Nain in October, 1899. So far as I can find out this is the only record from the east coast.

29. *Glaucionetta clangula americana*. GOLDEN-EYE.—Reported common in late autumn. I saw only one specimen, near Port Manvers, August 11.

30. *Somateria borealis*. NORTHERN EIDER.—Abundant north of Hamilton Inlet. The eiders were usually in small flocks, males and females separate. They breed commonly near most of the fiords.

31. *Somateria dresseri*. AMERICAN EIDER.—Abundant south of Hamilton Inlet, where it takes the place occupied by *S. borealis* in the north. An important article of food for the settlers. The Eskimo make tobacco pouches from the skins of the young ducks.

32. *Oidemia americana*. BLACK SCOTER.—Common; less so than the other scoters.

33. *Oidemia deglandi*. —VELVET SCOTER.

34. *Oidemia perspicillata*. SURF SCOTER.—Abundant, in about equal numbers, and often flocking together. They came down to the coast late in August, and were soon very numerous in the fiords. Known as 'Black Ducks.'

35. *Anser albifrons gambelli*. AMERICAN WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.—I received one specimen, an adult male, from Dr. Heltasche. It was shot near Hopedale, May, 1900. So far as I can learn, it is the only record.

36. *Branta canadensis*. CANADA GOOSE.—Abundant in spring. Common in fall after August 1. Breeds mostly in the interior.

37. *Branta bernicla*. BRANT.—Reported as very rare. One specimen from Dr. Grenfell, Nain, October, 1899.

38. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN; MARSH HEN.—I saw two or three at Cape St. Francis, on the way south. This was just north of Belle Isle.

39. *Crymophilus fulcarius*. RED PHALAROPE.—Rather rare. Seen several times in small flocks offshore.

40. *Phalaropus lobatus*. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.—Common. Breeding in almost all the suitable marshes; occasionally very abundant offshore.

41. *Gallinago delicata*. WILSON'S SNIPE.—Three or four near Cape St. Francis.

42. *Tringa maculata*. PECTORAL SANDPIPER.—Very common all along the coast after the middle of August. Particularly abundant about the Hopedale Mission, where they were almost as tame as English Sparrows.

43. *Tringa minutilla*. LEAST SANDPIPER. Abundant. Breeds commonly all along the coast.

44. *Tringa alpina pacifica*. RED-BACKED SANDPIPER.—A few at Port Manvers in early September.

45. *Tringa fuscicollis*. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER.—Very abundant at Port Manvers after August 10. On the way south we met them wherever there were beaches.

46. *Ereunetes pusillus*. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER.—Common, breeding locally. I took the downy young at Seal Island, and as I cannot find that it has been described, I shall insert a brief description here:

Downy young, a few feathers just appearing. Above dark gray, mixed with rufous, giving a peculiar spotted appearance. A dark line over the eye and along the side of the head. Top of the head with feathers just beginning to show. These feathers slaty tipped with white, giving a hoary appearance. Below downy, the belly white, the breast and fore-neck washed with rufous, entirely unstreaked. Legs and feet black, without any sign of webs whatever.

47. *Calidris arenaria*. SANDERLING.—Rather rare; apparently not breeding.

48. *Totanus melanoleucus*. YELLOW-LEGS.—Uncommon; a few late in September at Port Manvers.

49. *Actitis macularia*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—Very abundant; breeds everywhere along the coast.

50. *Numenius borealis*. ESKIMO CURLEW.—The Eskimo Curlew are hardly a remnant of their former numbers. I made careful inquiries among the settlers, and obtained the following rather interesting information: (1) The curlew remained in all their former numbers, in spite of the persecution to which they were subjected, until eight years ago. (2) They then appeared no more. I heard of only about a dozen, which were seen on the coast this fall. Of these I saw five.

52. *Charadrius dominicus*. GOLDEN PLOVER.—Not common. I saw several flocks after August 22, mostly young birds, probably mere stragglers.

53. *Ægialitis semipalmata*. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER.—Very common; almost as much so as the Spotted Sandpipers. Nesting all along the coast.

54. *Lagopus albus*. WILLOW PTARMIGAN.—Rather common north to Nain, beyond which point we did not see it. In some places abundant.

55. *Lagopus rupestris*. ROCK PTARMIGAN.—Common from Hamilton Inlet northward. Beyond Okak the Rock Ptarmigan probably belong to the race *reinhardtii*. We found the ptarmigan very acceptable additions to the larder.

56. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.—Very common almost everywhere, nesting on cliffs some distance from the sea. Different pairs of hawks seemed to hold definite tracts of country, from which they drove all intruders.

57. *Falco rusticolus obsoletus*. LABRADOR GYRFALCON.—Rare. One at Port Manvers, September 4.

58. *Falco peregrinus anatum*. DUCK HAWK.—Fairly common, especially wherever the sandpipers were flocking.

59. *Asio accipitrinus*. SHORT-EARED OWL.—Rather common at Port Manvers and Nachvak, in September.

60. *Otocoris alpestris*. HORNED LARK.—Abundant everywhere on the bleakest and most exposed hillsides. So far as I could determine, all the Horned Larks observed belonged to this race.

61. *Perisoreus canadensis nigricapillus*. LABRADOR JAY.—Locally common, even abundant as far north as Port Manvers.

62. *Corvus corax principalis*. RAVEN.—Locally common, especially so at Port Manvers.

63. *Pinicola enucleator*. PINE GROSBEAK.—Common in the spruce woods north of Aillik, beyond which the spruces dwindled into low bushes.

64. *Acanthis linaria*. COMMON REDPOLL.—Very common everywhere. Apparently all the Redpolls belong to this race.

65. *Spinus pinus*. PINE SISKIN.—Rather rare. Occasionally I noticed a few with the Redpolls before we passed the tree line.

66. *Plectrophenax nivalis*. SNOW BUNTING. — Snow Buntings appeared at Port Manvers about the 10th of August, after which they were abundant.

67. *Calcarius lapponicus*. LAPLAND LONGSPUR. — Common after August 3. Breed about Nachvak and northward to Hudson Straits. South of Nachvak they occur only as migrants.

68. *Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius*. LABRADOR SAVANNA SPARROW. — The new subspecies of *Passerculus sandwichensis* recently separated by R. H. Howe, Jr., seems to rest on good foundation, but ranges much farther north than he supposed (Lance and Loup), for I found it fairly common at Port Manvers (Lat. 57°) during last half of August and the first week of September.

69. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. — The most abundant land bird, common wherever there was any spruce scrub.

70. *Spizella monticola*. TREE SPARROW. — Rather uncommon, but widely distributed. I observed a good many at Port Manvers.

71. *Junco hyemalis*. JUNCO. — Locally common as far as the tree line, particularly at Aillik.

72. *Melospiza lincolni*. LINCOLN'S SPARROW. — Common. A characteristic bird of the wooded parts of the coast, as far north as Hamilton Inlet.

73. *Passerella iliaca*. FOX SPARROW. — Common along the southern part of the coast. We found a few as far north as Aillik.

74. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER. — Rather common on the southern half of the coast.

75. *Dendroica striata*. BLACK-POLL WARBLER. — A very abundant and characteristic bird, as far north as the limit of timber near Cape Aillik.

76. *Seiurus noveboracensis*. WATER THRUSH. — Locally common as far north as Aillik.

77. *Sylvania pusilla*. WILSON'S WARBLER.

78. *Sylvania canadensis*. CANADIAN WARBLER. — These two warblers were noticed only in the extreme south, so that they have very little claim to places in this list.

79. *Anthus pensilvanicus*. TITLARK. — One of the most abundant birds. Characteristic, with the Horned Lark, of the most barren and wind-swept hilltops. Breeds very commonly.

80. *Parus atricapillus*. CHICKADEE. — Locally common in timbered regions.

81. *Regulus satrapa*. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. — Fairly common in patches of spruce timber, as far as Aillik.

82, 83. *Turdus ustulatus swainsoni*. OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH; *Turdus alicæ*. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH. — One or the other of these thrushes was common as far north as Aillik. I supposed they were all the Olive-backed, but one which I took at Battle Harbor proved to be a Gray-cheeked which leaves me somewhat in doubt as to the identity of the others.

84. *Merula migratoria*. ROBIN.—Locally common. Several large flocks appeared at Port Manvers on September 6, apparently from the North.

85. *Saxicola œnanthe*. WHEATEAR.—Nests near Nachvak, for the Hudson Bay Company factor there had nests which he had taken. I did not observe the bird.

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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROTECTION OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

DURING the past year bird protective work in America has been more effectively systematized than ever before and the results have been correspondingly definite and far-reaching. The vigorous and efficient enforcement of the Lacey Act, by the Division of the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, under the personal direction of Dr. T. S. Palmer, has gone far toward suppressing the trade in sea birds for millinery purposes and has spread consternation among illicit game dealers throughout the country. The firm backing thus furnished by the Federal government has spurred on the State Game Protective Societies to renewed efforts and stimulated game protection all along the line. In this connection we cannot too highly praise the several 'Bulletins' prepared by Dr. Palmer and Mr. H. W. Olds, and issued by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, giving concise abstracts of the game and bird laws of the several States.

The operations under the Thayer Fund for the protection of Gulls and Terns have been, as heretofore, under the able direction of Mr. William Dutcher. The protection afforded the sea birds of our Atlantic Coast last year has been continued and extended with gratifying results.

In addition Mr. Dutcher and Dr. Palmer have personally appeared before the legislatures of most of the States from Maine to Florida in the interests of better State bird laws, and in every instance their efforts were crowned with success.

The work of the Audubon Societies has continued on the same lines as heretofore and has been reported upon from time to time