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NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF SOUTHAMPTON ISLAND,
BAFFIN ISLAND AND MELVILLE PENINSULA

BY REYNOLD BRAY

(WITH COMMENTS BY T. H. MANNING)

REYNOLD BRAY was drowned on September 14, 1938, when on his fourth visit to Arctic regions. His obituary was written for 'The Auk' by McAtee (Auk, 57: 139-140, 1940). The present summary of the results of Bray's ornithological work while a member of the British Canadian Arctic Expedition between May, 1936, and September, 1937, was originally intended for his own use in further work he had planned for the same regions rather than for publication; but since none of it has previously been published, it is here presented in full and unchanged except for minor editorial corrections.

The Expedition left Churchill by whaleboat on June 3, and travelled north along the west coast of Hudson Bay to Southampton Island. On June 23, Bray was left near the Snow Goose colony at the Bay of God's Mercy. He was picked up again on August 28 on the way to Repulse Bay. We arrived there on October 12, after coasting up the west side of Southampton Island and visiting York Bay and Frozen Strait. On December 21, Bray, accompanied by G. W. Rowley, left for Iglulik by dog team. During that winter he travelled to Piling on the west, and Arctic Bay on the north coast of Baffin Island. He spent the following spring and summer in the region of Fury and Hecla Strait, first at Agu Bay and later at Iglulik and the nearby mainland of Melville Peninsula. In his summary, Bray frequently refers to earlier works dealing with Southampton Island, Melville Peninsula and west Baffin Island. Where known, I have inserted the citations for these references. I have also added some remarks on distribution to bring the paper up to date for the area chiefly discussed. When not otherwise stated, these are from my notes made during the four years (1936-1940) spent in this region, chiefly at Frozen Strait, Seahorse Point, and Taverner Bay.

All such additional notes are in square brackets.

T. H. MANNING

COMMON LOON, *Gavia immer immer* (Brünnich).—In the spring of 1936, a large loon was taken near the Hudson's Bay Company's post at Repulse Bay. I was told that the natives had been very surprised, and had said that they had never heard of such a bird. Parts of the skin were kept for a time, but there was nothing left of it when we reached the post in the fall, so that I have no data to suggest which of the two large loons was represented. The present species is quite common on the north shore of Hudson Strait, and in the Nettilling Lake area in western Baffin Island [Soper, 1928: 76], but on the west side of Hudson Bay it barely straggles north to Churchill. The Yellow-billed Loon, *G. adamsi*, was recorded by J. C. Ross [cf. Sutton, 1932: 13] from Boothia Peninsula, but there are no other records north or east of Baker Lake. [A single specimen was taken at Munk Island by G. W. Rowley in 1939 (Taverner 1941). Between Hantzsch River and Straits Bay Common Loons were fairly numerous, but none were definitely identified north of the latter place, although I thought I heard one at Piling. Neither Sutton (1932: 13) nor I observed any on Southampton Island, but the Eskimos are quite familiar with it, and say it definitely occurs there occasionally. Mr. Bowes, the Canadian Government radio operator at Nottingham

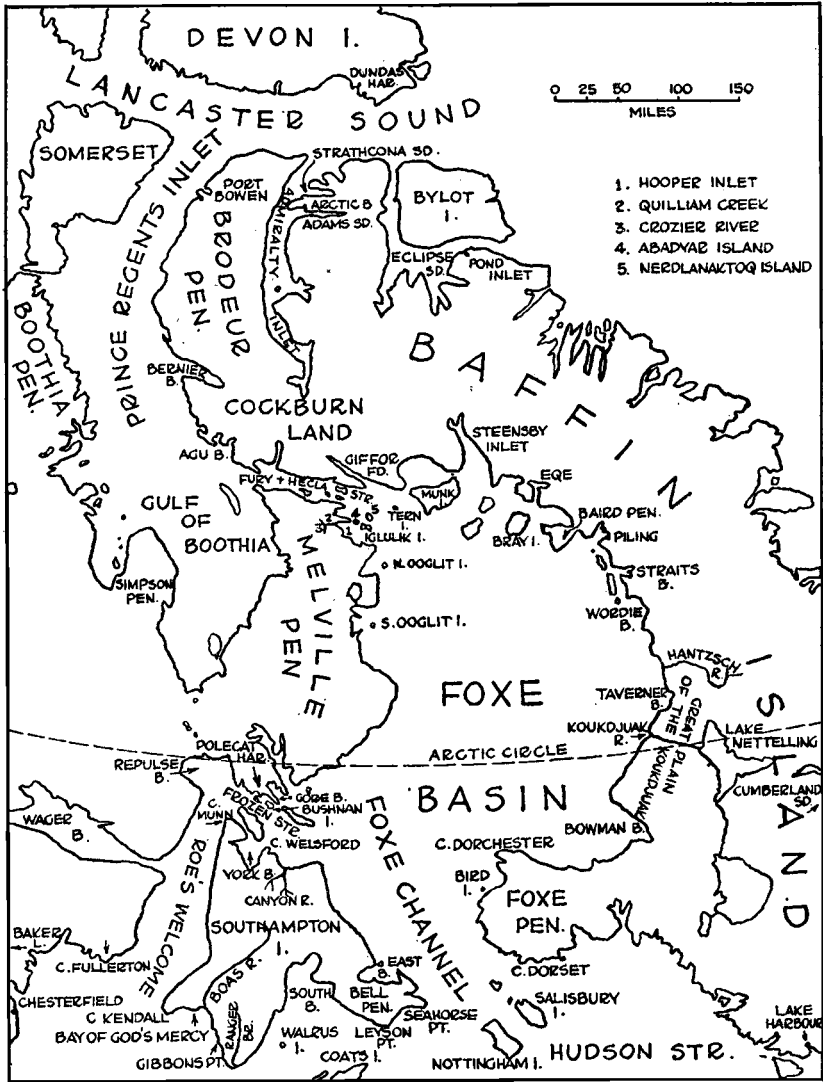
Island in 1938, told me there were three species of loons on that island.—T. H. M.]

RED-THROATED LOON, *Gavia stellata* (Pontoppidan).—I never grew accustomed to the abundance of these loons. On the low limestone marshland east of Crozier River, on Abadyar, Nerdlonaktoq, and Iglulik Islands, and in the less rugged parts of the granite country northwest of Quilliam Creek, Red-throated Loons breed on almost every lake. Only waters so small that a bird in the middle would be almost within shotgun range are commonly unoccupied. They come north fairly early, a pair reaching Iglulik Island on June 3. I first saw newly hatched young at the mouth of Crozier River on July 24. On August 7, a native brought me a young loon not more than 48 hours old. I considered this an exceptionally late date. Of eleven nests within a few miles of the head of Quilliam Creek, only one was on the mainland; the others were built on small grassy islands close to the main shore of the shallow lakes. They were constructed from decomposing vegetable stems, and were invariably so infested by flies and mosquitoes that the eggs seemed to lie in a gray mass of insects. They were the most revolting homes I have ever seen.

In 1936 I found this species abundant on the islands in the mouth of Boas River, not only amongst the geese, but on the small muddy islands at the edge of the open bay where their companions were American Brant and Herring Gulls. As in 1937, the first young hatched on July 24. On August 10 I collected two young birds which were still entirely covered with down, although they had grown to nearly three-quarters the length of their parents. Owing to the absence of standing water, there were no loons breeding on the tundra west of the river as far as the limestone-ridge area, where there were at least two pairs. I last saw loons in 1936 on September 18 at Cape Munn.

Kak-kak-kak-kak-kak, the hoarse laugh of the Red-throated Loon is one of the most notable of the tundra sounds, and generally serves to distinguish this species from the next; the other calls, uttered more often from the water, I never learned to separate, but I have never heard a startled Red-throated Loon squeal on diving, as the Pacific Loons almost always do.

PACIFIC LOON, *Gavia arctica pacifica* (Lawrence).—This is a more locally distributed species than the last, and has not yet been recorded north of Lancaster Sound. It is the common breeding loon at Churchill, but is very rare on the south shore of Hudson Strait. Soper [1928: 77] found it fairly common in southern Baffin Island,



TEXT-FIGURE 1.—Map of region visited by Reynold Bray in 1936-1937.

and Sutton states that it is as numerous as *stellata* in the south-east part of Southampton Island. [Sutton (1932: 14) says that "The Pacific Loon is an abundant and widely distributed summer resident all along the south and south-west shores of Southampton . . ." Speaking of the Red-throated Loon (1932: 18) he says: "Scarcely so common as the Pacific Loon in the region of Coral Inlet and Prairie Point. At Cape Low, however, it was the commoner . . ."—T. H. M.]. In 1936 it was much less common than the smaller species at the Bay of God's Mercy; I found two nests only, both of them on islands in the mouth of Boas River. Eggs in the first nest I found, hatched—one on July 22, the other on July 24.

In the region of Fury and Hecla Strait the proportion of *arctica* to *stellata* appeared to be a little higher than at the Bay of God's Mercy. Of four breeding pairs, one nested between the granite ridges about eight miles south of Fury and Hecla narrows, two on the low limestone tundra east of Crozier River, and one pair used to fish off the southeast point of Iglulik Island through the last half of August. Parry saw a pair on Nerdlonaktoq Island [I cannot find this reference, but Parry (1824: 435) mentions both 'Black and Red-throated Divers' at Arlagnuk.—T. H. M.] and the natives told me the species nests on Iglulik Island. One of the nests near Crozier River contained one egg on July 22, two days before the hatching of the Red-throated Loons on the next pond; there were two when I next visited the nest a week later.

The voice of this loon is particularly varied and weird; one common cry reminded me of the laughing Arctic fox. If surprised, it often gives a very expressive squeal, like an animal in the greatest possible pain, the instant before it dives.

[In general, I think *arctica* is less common than *stellata* on Southampton Island and the north shore of Frozen Strait. In West Baffin Island, between Taverner Bay and Piling, it appeared to be the commoner. Both species are very uncommon on the Great Plain of the Koukdjuak.—T. H. M.]

HOLBOELL'S GREBE, *Colymbus grisegena holboelli* (Reinhardt).—Manning preserved a single specimen which had been obtained by natives from South Bay, Southampton Island, in 1934. This seems to be the only record of the species on or north of Hudson Strait.

ATLANTIC FULMAR, *Fulmarus glacialis glacialis* (Linnaeus).—Probably occurs rarely in the northern part of Foxe Basin. [Hantzsch (Hesse 1915: 145) saw one on October 2, 1910, on the shore of Foxe Basin, presumably near the mouth of the Koukdjuak River.—T. H. M.]

Some of the natives say they have seen birds between Iglulik and Baffin Island, mostly in spring; such individuals may have come through Fury and Hecla Strait. Fulmars are abundant in Admiralty Inlet, and I have a specimen of the light phase from Arctic Bay. Rowley saw immense numbers feeding on the carcass of a narwhal which had been killed by killer whales in the northern part of the Inlet near Strathcona Sound.

I saw none on the waters around Southampton Island in 1936. [Sutton (1932: 24-25) saw one at South Bay, April 26, 1930.—T.H.M.]

WHISTLING SWAN, *Cygnus columbianus* (Ord).—Very uncommon in the northern part of Foxe Basin. I heard of only one which had been shot a few years ago on Iglulik Island. Richardson (1825: 240) mentions a specimen collected at Iglulik Island on June 19, 1823, by Parry's expedition. Amongst the natives from Repulse Bay to Cockburn Land, Southampton Island is renowned for its swans and geese. Baird and Rowley found swans numerous on Coats Island in the fall of 1936.

A pair of swans nested about six miles west of the mouth of Boas River not far from the edge of the goose territory, and two more pairs on islands in the rather deep lakes amongst the limestone ridges. One of these islands, not more than fifty yards long, was also occupied by a small colony of Arctic Terns. On September 16, on the west coast of Southampton about half way between Cape Kendall and Cape Munn, I found a pair of swans with three flightless young. Both the old birds rose while still a long way out of range, and though they circled for a time, when I began to chase the young they soon flew off and did not return. I never saw Snow Geese or Brant behave thus indifferently. I believe swans occur occasionally in northern Baffin Island, possibly breeding near Pond Inlet and on Bylot Island [cf. Soper, 1928: 95] but I have no wholly satisfactory evidence.

[We saw no swans along the shores of Foxe Basin or Foxe Channel, but the Eskimos say they sometimes occur in northwest Foxe Peninsula. An Eskimo saw two flying over Repulse Bay Post in the spring of 1937. We saw none while at Frozen Strait, but Parry (1824: 240) records a nest on Winter Island.—T. H. M.]

HUTCHINS'S GOOSE, *Branta canadensis hutchinsi* (Richardson), (Iglulik name, 'Kangoq').

AMERICAN BRANT, *Branta bernicla hrota* (Müller), (Iglulik name, 'Nerdleq').

LESSER SNOW GOOSE, *Chen h. hyperborea* (Pallas), (Iglulik name, 'Kangoq').

BLUE GOOSE, *Chen caerulescens* (Linnaeus), (Iglulik name, 'Kangoviq').—Geese are very uncommon on the east coast of Melville Peninsula, at least from Repulse Bay as far as Fury and Hecla Strait, and along the north shore of Foxe Basin. The Iglulik natives do not know of any breeding colonies in this area, although they say that 'nerdleq' (which seems to denote any dark goose) visit Nerdlanaktoq in rather large numbers in spring [cf. Parry, 1824: 435]. Capt. G. F. Lyon found Snow Geese and Brant numerous at the mouth of Crozier River in July; [according to Parry (1824: 461), Lyon saw 17 geese and one nest was found.—T. H. M.] also on Nerdlanaktoq. Between June 12 and August 6, at the mouth of the same river, I saw geese only once, on June 18, when two Brant alighted on a pool near camp; they left the same day, and I never saw them again. On August 5, when the natives picked me up at my summer camp, they told me that Pjugatuk, the best hunter from Iglulik, had seen great numbers of 'nerdleq' on Nerdlanaktoq Island in June. Nevertheless, there were none when I reached the island myself on August 12, although it looked a very favorable goose country. This suggests that geese have become less plentiful in the district during the past hundred years. As far as I know, there is now only one large breeding ground of Snow Geese within the present territory of the Iglulik natives; on Satorssuaq [Baird Peninsula] and the neighboring Sadleq Island [Bray Island] in Piling region. And, judging from old ruined stone corrals, the people say that here, too, the birds must formerly have been more widely distributed. Rowley found Snow Geese breeding in small numbers at the head of Strathcona Sound, in the northeastern part of Admiralty Inlet; I have two specimens which appear to be ordinary *hyperborea*. This is the most northeasterly point from which the race has been reported; examples from Dundas Harbor on Devon Island, from Eclipse Sound, and from Bylot Island, represent *atlantica*. [Cf. Taverner 1935: 116.] The situation of the big goose colony at the mouth of Boas River, Bay of God's Mercy, Southampton Island, seems to resemble rather closely that described by Soper on Bowman Bay, but the proportion of Blue to Snow Geese is roughly reversed, Snow Geese being at least fifteen times as numerous as Blue Geese. I recorded only two nests of pure Blue Geese, six of Blue Geese paired with Snow Geese, two of Hutchins's Geese, eleven of Brant, and more than a hundred Snow Geese. I verified that four of the mixed pairs consisted of male Blue Geese mated with female Snow Geese. Egg laying was over when I reached the breeding ground at the end of June, so that I have no data on incubation. Dates of hatching were re-

markably uniform, as follows: Blue and Snow Geese, July 16–18; Hutchins's Geese, July 21; Brant Geese, July 23, 24.

Only two clutches of Snow Geese eggs remained unhatched after July 20. On that day the Blue and Snow Geese, accompanied by their tiny young, left their nesting islands and began to walk inland up the river. When I first realized this general movement, the rear-guard already had a start of several miles, and I never properly caught up with the main body. In the evening, I gave up the chase, and returned to my camp in order to preserve the specimens I had already collected. I did not see the geese again until large flocks, probably of non-breeding adults, appeared on the coast in August. I do not know the purpose of this migration; the islands where the majority of the geese nest are covered with an unusually luxuriant growth of grasses, and the birds are remarkably free from enemies while in the region. Throughout my stay on the north shore of the Bay of God's Mercy, I saw foxes on only two occasions, first on June 30, several miles outside the western border of the goose territory, and again on August 28, at the mouth of the river. Manning saw a single owl on August 27 and the region is far from the range of Duck Hawk and Gyrfalcon. This leaves the jaegers, which are not numerous. One pair of Long-tailed Jaegers and four Parasitic Jaegers nested within ten miles of the center of the goose colony.

The Brants nested below the territory of the other geese on the small islands which, at low tide, rose a few feet above a maze of mud flats and shallow channels of fresh water. Herring Gulls, King Eiders, and a few Red-throated Loons shared this territory with the Brants. Within two days of the hatching of the young, the Brants disappeared in their turn, although I never saw them leave, and after July 26, I did not find them until August 20 when I saw four adults and nine young amongst islands near the east bank of the river. I chased them for a long time, until the old birds flew off, and with some difficulty I at length caught two of the young. If they had kept to the land, I might never have caught up with them, but they took to the water whenever they could, and I was able to wade much faster than they could swim. The territory of the Brants extended for several miles each side of the mouth of the river, but I found none breeding inland of the area of tidal mud. Thus the range of the Snow Geese scarcely overlapped that of the Brants.

I found only two nests of Hutchins's Geese, one amongst the Snow Geese, about a mile behind the high-tide mark, and the other, with six eggs, on one of the outer islets close to three nests of King Eiders.

[Besides the Blue and Snow Goose colony at the Bay of God's Mercy, scattered nests of these four species occur in other suitable locations on Southampton Island, as do those of *Branta canadensis leucopareia*. Sutton (1932: 30-31) concluded, chiefly from Eskimo testimony, that *B. c. canadensis* also occasionally nests on the island.—T. H. M.]

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, *Anser albifrons albifrons* (Scopoli).—There seems to be no positive evidence of the occurrence of this species anywhere in the area or on the west coast of Hudson Bay, or on the main Arctic coast east of Coronation Gulf. [Cf. Taverner, 1935: 117.]

AMERICAN PINTAIL, *Dafila acuta tzitzihoa* (Vieillot).—On the west coast of Hudson Bay there is no certain record north of Chesterfield.

[I collected specimens near Seahorse Point, Southampton Island, on June 8 and 26, 1938. Five were seen altogether. A flock of 15-30 were seen by Eskimos near Native Point several times during June of that year. In July, 1940, I frequently saw two to five at a small lake near the coast about 15 miles north of the Koukdjuak River. Taverner (1935: 117) says that a specimen has been taken at Cape Alberta (by J. D. Soper), on the north side of Foxe Peninsula.—T. H. M.]

NORTHERN EIDER, *Somateria mollissima borealis* (Brehm), (Iglulik name, 'Miteq').—The most notable breeding ground of the Northern Eider in northwest Foxe Basin seems to be Sioraq (Parry's Tern Island). I did not visit the island in the summer, but Father Bazin and the natives were often talking about it. Parry [1824: 282-283] visited it on July 27, and found a great many eider's eggs as well as a heap of shells left by the Eskimos. He named it from the abundance of terns. It lies between Iglulik and Jens Munk Island. Eiders are said also to be very numerous on Ugli and Uglerglakdjuk (Parry's North and South Ooglit Islands). At any rate, the species seems to be confined to the outlying island, beyond the reach of foxes, and I found no trace of it on Iglulik, Nerdlernaktoq, Abadyar, or Qiqek-talu [between Abadyar and the mainland] islands nor the islands in Hooper Inlet, nor anywhere on the mainland, although King Eiders are common at all these places. The natives confirm this.

I never saw this species on the north shore of the Bay of God's Mercy. [I saw a few there in July, 1934.—T. H. M.] A number nested on islands in a lake inland from Gibbons Point about eighteen miles from the head of the bay on the east shore. They shared the islands with Herring Gulls and terns. King Eiders were abundant along the north shore of the bay, and were also much more numerous than Northern Eiders at the edge of the land floe, and in the pack

in the north part of Hudson Bay and Roe's Welcome, June, 1936. *S. m. borealis* and *dresseri* should intergrade in the region.

[Eiders are said to remain as far north as Cape Fullerton throughout the winter. In 1940 they were still numerous when we left on December 20, and I saw large numbers there in early March, 1937. All identified at Cape Fullerton after October 20 were of this species, and probably "*sedentaria*" (Snyder 1941) though specimens collected have not yet been identified subspecifically. Both species nest on the islands in Frozen Strait, but are scarce along the bold northeast coast of Southampton Island. King Eiders are by far the more numerous breeding eiders at Taverner Bay. The Northern Eiders probably do not nest on the Great Plain of the Koukdjuak, although a few do at the north end of Taverner Bay.—T. H. M.]

KING EIDER, *Somateria spectabilis* (Linnaeus), (Iglulik name, 'Miteq').—This is an abundant breeder in the northeast of Melville Peninsula, especially at the mouth of Crozier River, where it nests on the grassy banks of the pools. I never found a nest away from the immediate neighborhood of water, nor more than three miles from salt water. It seemed to prefer lower, more swampy country than the Old Squaws, and I have never found nests of both at the same pond. I saw large flocks of males in the southern part of Admiralty Inlet, from May 16 onward, but I believe the species never winters in the northern part of Foxe Basin. [No eiders were seen at the floe near Hantzsch River between October 7, 1938, and April 17, 1939.—T. H. M.] On Southampton Island I found King Eiders nesting along about twenty miles of swampy coast on the north shore of the Bay of God's Mercy. Nests were either just above high tide (the favorite territory of the Sabine's Gulls), or on the islands amongst the tidal flats. About twelve miles west of the river, where the tundra, though still very low and covered with a good growth of grasses, was beyond the influence of the early summer floods, the territory of the King Eiders ceased abruptly. Nor did I see any on the east coast of the bay in the Gibbons Point region where the coast is formed of rather high beaches of broken limestone.

This is all very different from the circumstances noted by Sutton (1932: 77): "They [the King Eiders] nest, not on the off-shore islands in the larger lakes, as does the Northern Eider, but in the middle of the tundra, often far from a lake, and only infrequently near any sort of body of water."

For some time after the eggs are laid, the males remain with the females in the neighborhood of the nests, but early in July they dis-

appear, presumably going out to sea. On Southampton Island I saw the last males on July 10, about forty, very wild and without ducks, at the head of the Bay of God's Mercy. At Crozier River, in 1937, I saw no males after July 2. On Southampton Island, the first eggs hatched on July 26; at Crozier River, on July 21. I did not see any eiders on the south shore of Fury and Hecla narrows.

I noticed a great difference between the behavior of newly hatched eiders and geese of the same age. The ducks were extremely lively a few hours after hatching, and were even quite difficult to collect at all; whereas the young of all the geese, as if, in their silky down, they knew that they were the aristocrats of their family, seemed to require almost constant attention from their parents throughout the first day of their lives. When captured they would lie quite still, only piping feebly, and they never tried to escape when I took them into my tent; but a brood of young ducks less than a day old, which I had carried home in a rucksack, climbed out of it and escaped from the island altogether while I was taking off my boots.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER, *Mergus serrator* Linnaeus.—Some of the Iglulik natives know this species from the Chesterfield area, but I have no evidence that it occurs farther north, although Soper [1928: 87] found it fairly numerous in southern Baffin Island.

[Birds probably belonging to this species were seen by Eskimos at Ranger Brook, Southampton Island, in August, 1934.—T. H. M.]

OLD SQUAW, *Clangula hyemalis* (Linnaeus), (Iglulik name, 'Aggiuk').—An abundant breeder on all the lands surrounding Foxe Basin, except perhaps the lowest alluvial marsh regions. It has none of the dependence upon the sea which the King Eider seems to show, and as far as I ever walked into the interior of Melville Peninsula west of Crozier River, there were few lakes which did not possess a pair. On the high country north of the inlet and on the limestone tundra it was less numerous. I first noted it in large numbers when I returned to Foxe Basin from Admiralty Inlet at the beginning of June. There were immense flocks at the edge of the floe off the southeast point of Iglulik, and on my trip in to my summer camp at the mouth of Crozier River we saw innumerable pairs courting on the pools of fresh water which covered the ice. On Southampton Island I never saw an example of this species within the area subject to the spring floods, although it was common on the pools of the limestone-plateau area behind the east shore of the bay. West of the river I found only two pairs, both on the deep permanent lakes amongst the first ridges, well out of reach of the flood water. It is

probably one of the very few birds which inhabit the far interior of the northern islands and of Melville Peninsula.

[Old Squaws were abundant on the sea and lakes at Frozen Strait and Seahorse Point, but few were seen along the bold parts of the northeast coast of Southampton Island. In 1940 they were numerous during the breeding season along the east coast of Foxe Basin between Koukdjuak River and Taverner Bay, but I doubt if any birds nested south of the ridges.—T. H. M.]

AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, *Buteo lagopus s. johannis* (Gmelin).—On October 7, on the mainland between Gore Bay and Repulse Bay, while we were sledging into the post for the first time, one of these birds flew low over our heads. This summer (1937) about three breeding pairs were obtained by Manning from the shores of Frozen Strait. Baird found a nest on the limestone scree of the West Nuvudlik [The Points], about twelve miles inland from the head of the Bay of God's Mercy, July 8, 1936.

[They were rather numerous at Frozen Strait, but less common along the Foxe Channel coast of Southampton Island. Six were seen in May, 1938, at Seahorse Point, but none later. A single bird was seen flying at Taverner Bay on June 8, 1940.—T. H. M.]

WHITE GYRFALCON, *Falco rusticolus candicans* Gmelin.—I have evidence of only two nestings. One on the north shore of Adams Sound, Admiralty Inlet, where I saw the nest and collected one adult on May 9; the other on the cliffs of Qiquektalu, between Abadyar Island and the mainland. I never visited this site, but Father Bazin told me he used to see the birds every year. It must be very close to the big colony of Herring Gulls near the west side of Abadyar. The birds I saw in Adams Sound were extremely pale (white) examples, and the Abadyar ones are said to be much the same.

Fathers Cartier and Fafard, of Wakeham Bay, on the south shore of Hudson Strait, told me that they ate about eighteen gyrfalcon eggs, taken from four nests (they found five but one was inaccessible), all within ten miles of the post, in May, 1937. All the birds are said to have been very dark. I saw one dark bird at the head of Wakeham Bay on September 18.

[One breeding pair was seen by P. M. Bennett in 1938 on Bushnan Island. I saw an occasional migrant or wanderer at Southampton Island and northeast Foxe Basin.—T. H. M.]

DUCK HAWK, *Falco peregrinus anatum* Bonaparte, (Iglulik name, 'Kaijuk').—Rather common in northwest Foxe Basin. I saw nesting birds on Abadyar Island on June 5; on the north shore of Quilliam

Creek on June 11; and south shore of Fury and Hecla narrows on June 30. I saw no falcons while I was near the goose colony at the Bay of God's Mercy.

[Duck Hawks nest along the Foxe Channel coast of Southampton Island, and near Seahorse Point; they also nest, but less commonly, on both sides of Frozen Strait. One breeding pair was collected from Piling in 1940. Only two or three others were seen on the west side of Foxe Basin.—T. H. M.]

"WHITE-SHAFTED PTARMIGAN, *Lagopus lagopus leucopterus* Taverner," (Iglulik name, 'Akkigiq').—The year 1937 was a poor one for ptarmigan. On my way back to Iglulik from Arctic Bay, Willow Ptarmigan were abundant in the southern part of Admiralty Inlet and on the land crossing from Admiralty Inlet to Gifford Fjord during the last week of May. All specimens obtained had white primary shafts; I have no evidence as to the breeding of this race on Melville Peninsula.

[Some White-shafted Ptarmigan remained all winter at Taverner Bay, 1939-40. They were plentiful there the following spring, and some probably nested. I saw none at Hantzsch River or to the north of there. I identified none among the large flocks of Rock Ptarmigan on the north side of Frozen Strait in the spring of 1937 or in the fall of 1940. In some winters they are rather common on Southampton Island. I have not seen them there during the summer, but Sutton (1932: 88-90) considers they nest among the willows in the South Bay region.—T. H. M.]

KELLOGG'S PTARMIGAN, *Lagopus rupestris kelloggae* Grinnell, (Iglulik name, 'Akkigiq').—Ptarmigan do not nest on the low limestone islands of northwest Foxe Basin (Iglulik, Nerdlernaktoq), and the natives say they do not occur in the limestone-fragment area in northeast Melville Peninsula. This suggests that Willow Ptarmigan are not common on Melville. During the summer I saw only two ptarmigan, presumably of this species, on the high hills (about 700 feet) northwest of Quilliam Creek, although I wasted a good many days examining this bleak region. A large flock reached Abadyar Island on September 14, when they were seen by natives; but the mission schooner arrived at Iglulik on the same day, so that I never had a chance to hunt them.

They were rarely seen in winter. There was a small flock on March 9 on the ice south of Munk Island, and another on April 28, near the head of Admiralty Inlet. Manning has sent home a number of Rock Ptarmigan from Frozen Strait. Only one of these, a

female from Polecat Harbor, June 8, is sufficiently advanced in the brown plumage to be identified certainly as *kelloggae*. The locality is near the probable border of *kelloggae* and *rupestris*, and the date is too early for one to be sure that the bird was not on its way to a nesting ground still farther north.

[Rock Ptarmigan were very plentiful in 1937 during the spring migration on the north side of Frozen Strait, and on September 26, 1940, a flock of 1,000 was seen there as well as many smaller ones. Some nest near Seahorse Point, and one breeding female was collected there. No ptarmigan were seen in August, 1938, on the northeast coast of Southampton Island between Cape Welsford and East Bay, but in 1934 I saw two families that must have been bred inland from there. During the first half of August, 1938, they were numerous on northwest Foxe Peninsula. A few were seen in the summer at the north end of Taverner Bay, and in August, 1940, between there and Piling. They were fairly common at Taverner Bay and Hantzsch River during migration. Taverner has referred my specimens taken on the east side of Foxe Basin to *L. r. rupestris*.—T. H. M.]

LITTLE BROWN CRANE, *Grus canadensis canadensis* (Linnaeus), (Iglulik name, "Tattigak").—I saw no cranes in 1937, but the Old Queen [an Eskimo] saw one on Iglulik Island in June. Natives say that cranes used to breed on Iglulik, but no longer do so, though they may still on Nerdlernaktoq. The well-known breeding ground of cranes in northern Foxe Basin is in the Kangerkslukjuak [Steensby Inlet] region, and near Piling. [I saw no cranes around this coast.—T. H. M.] G. F. Lyon [Richardson, 1825: 353] shot a crane near the mouth of Crozier River on June 25, 1823. The species ranges northward, though not very commonly, at least to western Bylot Island and Pond Inlet region. [P. D. Baird (1940: 227) saw one on Bylot Island in 1939; M'Clintock (1860: 137) saw a pair there in 1858.—T. H. M.] Father Bazin gave me a photograph of one he had shot near Pond Inlet.

I saw only one crane in 1936, on the coast six miles west of the mouth of Boas River, June 22, and I heard several on the Roe's Welcome shore, about half way between Cape Kendall and Cape Munn, on September 8.

[They may occur anywhere on the limestone or marshy regions of Southampton Island. On June 14, 1937, I saw a pair flying over the north side of Frozen Strait. Rae (1850: 159) saw eight cranes flying north near Garry Bay in 1847.—T. H. M.]

EUROPEAN RINGED PLOVER, *Charadrius h. hiaticula* Linnaeus, (Ig-lulik name, 'Kudlikudliakdjuk').—I have one specimen from Arctic Bay, dated June 8, a very early date for a species which must have migrated via Iceland and Greenland from Europe. The species has otherwise been recorded only from Pond Inlet [Soper, 1928: 103], and Clyde River, northeast Baffin Island. It appears to be a common breeder in the northeastern part of Admiralty Inlet.

[Hantzsch (Hesse, 1915: 169) obtained a specimen from Cumberland Sound. Kumlien (1879: 83) regarded it as commoner in Cumberland Sound than the Semipalmated Plover, but Soper (1928: 103) did not record it there, though he took many specimens of the latter species.—T. H. M.]

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER, *Charadrius semipalmatus* Bonaparte, (Ig-lulik name, 'Kudlikudliakdjuk').—On the limestone beaches of the south shore of Quilliam Creek and at the mouth of Crozier River, on the granite as well as on the limestone shores, this is the commonest of the breeding birds. I collected specimens also from the unpromising rugged shore of Fury and Hecla narrows, and from Abadyar Island. I never saw it on Iglulik Island, but natives say that it is abundant on the disintegrating limestone beaches south of Hooper Inlet.

I first saw the species when on my way in to the head of Quilliam Creek on June 12, when they seemed to be mated. On the evening of June 30, I found a nest with two eggs; two more were laid on consecutive days, and three of them hatched in the early morning of July 26, or rather more than twenty-three days after the fourth egg had been laid. I first collected young less than twenty-four hours old, on July 13. All the nests I found were on the bare limestone beaches near high tide mark, and were not decorated in any way. Occasionally I used to see birds feeding in the meadows between the ridges on the granite side of Crozier River up to a mile from the sea; but they kept, for the most part, to the beaches, and though they used to follow me noisily on my walks up the river, I never saw one more than two miles from the mouth.

The young at first are very helpless, and cannot live long without constant brooding; nevertheless, on some occasions they may leave the 'nest' almost as soon as they are all dry, and stumble as far as several hundred yards until the mother thinks it safe to brood them. During my first stay on Abadyar, in August, I found one family with fully-fledged young on August 8. I noted no increase in numbers due to migrants from the north, and after leaving Abadyar on August

12, saw only one more bird, a young male brought in by a native on September 11.

I do not know how far north the range of this species extends or whether it overlaps the territory of *hiaticula*, but, since it breeds on the south shore of Fury and Hecla Strait in its narrowest part, it will almost certainly be found on the much more favorable country round Gifford Fjord and in the low limestone country between Agu and Bernier Bay.

I saw no Semipalmated Plovers while at the Bay of God's Mercy, and indeed did not expect the species on the mud flats and flooded marshes; but I noted a single individual on the gravel beach at Cape Kendall on September 6.

[Semipalmated Plovers are the most abundant birds on the gravelly beaches near Seahorse Point, but elsewhere on Southampton Island they are not particularly common. They are fairly numerous at Frozen Strait and on the coast of Baffin Island from Cape Dorset to Wordie Bay (excluding the Great Plain of the Koukdjuak). We saw none north of Wordie Bay.—T. H. M.]

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER, *Pluvialis dominica dominica* (Müller), (Iglulik name, 'Tudliakdjuk').—I believe this species is exceedingly uncommon in northwest Foxe Basin; I did not see a single individual during spring, summer or fall, although I took great care to identify the Black-bellied Plovers which were rather common, especially during migration. The Iglulik natives do not distinguish this species. I found no Golden Plovers breeding in the marshes at the Bay of God's Mercy, but they were numerous on migration after August 1.

[A few scattered pairs probably nest in suitable places throughout Southampton Island. None were seen on the northeast coast or at Frozen Strait. Eight Golden Plovers were seen and two were collected at Taverner Bay on August 10, 1939. The only other Golden Plover identified on the shores of Foxe Basin was a single juvenile collected at Jenness Brook on August 11, 1940. Hantzsch (Hesse, 1915: 167) says that the Golden Plover was the characteristic bird of the tundras to the southwest of Lake Nettilling, but Soper (1928: 101–102) saw only two in the Nettilling Lake area. On August 25, 1938, I saw several hundred plovers near the mouth of Koukdjuak River, but they were not identified specifically, and it is most probable that they belonged to the following species.—T. H. M.]

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, *Squatarola squatarola* (Linnaeus), (Iglulik name, 'Tudliakdjuk').—Fairly common in northwest Foxe Basin area, although I have no positive evidence of nesting. On June 8, I saw

two birds on Iglulik Island. On June 18, a flock of nine visited the mud flats at the mouth of Crozier River, and I collected three specimens, the sexual organs not much enlarged. On July 2, I saw and collected a solitary female from Fury and Hecla narrows; I twice saw birds in July on the dry limestone tundra east of the river. On August 12, I saw a bird on Nerdlernaktoq Island. Young birds were fairly common amongst the migrating flocks on the east coast of Iglulik. From August 20 until I moved to Abadyar on the 31st, I saw at least one every day, though never more than five together. The natives say that the species nests on Iglulik Island. I saw only one individual at the Bay of God's Mercy, near the mouth of the river, July 24, 1936.

[A few were regularly seen at the head of the Bay of God's Mercy throughout the summer of 1934, and some nest at other places on the marshy coast of Southampton Island. None were seen on the northeast coast of the island or at Frozen Strait. Black-bellied Plovers nested fairly commonly at Taverner Bay and I observed a few nesting birds on the west coast of Foxe Peninsula. Only two birds were seen on the flat land between Taverner Bay and the Koukdjuak River during the 1940 nesting season. A few probably nest in any suitable marshes north of Hantzsch River. I saw some on Baird Peninsula and Bray Island towards the end of August.—T. H. M.]

RUDDY TURNSTONE, *Arenaria interpres morinella* (Linnaeus).—I have no evidence of breeding in the northwest Foxe Basin area. During my stay on the mainland, I never saw a Turnstone, and there were none on Abadyar Island from August 8 to 12, but they became numerous on the east coast of Iglulik on August 16, and remained common until I left on August 31. I collected seven specimens, all of them juveniles. I saw none on Abadyar from September 1 to 14.

I think there were three pairs nesting in the grassy tundra west of Boas River, but I never found a nest, and collected only one young bird, still flightless, on the late date, August 16. There were a few Turnstones around high-water mark throughout the summer, but they became much commoner during the fall migration. Around August 16, some very large flocks (above 100 birds) rested behind an isolated rocky point about ten miles west of the mouth of the river, where they were associated with White-rumped and Red-backed Sandpipers, Red Phalaropes, and Knots. On Iglulik, their particular companions were Purple Sandpipers.

[On some of the limestone areas of Southampton Island, Ruddy Turnstones are a very common nesting bird. None were seen on the

northeast coast of the island or at Frozen Strait. They nest quite commonly at Taverner Bay, but are scarce to the northward and southward of it.—T. H. M.]

HUDSONIAN CURLEW, *Phaeopus hudsonicus* (Latham).—The Iglulik natives do not know this species, and did not recognize a picture of it. One specimen was obtained by Bernier from Arctic Bay. A flock of about fourteen frequented the marshes at the head of the Bay of God's Mercy throughout July, 1936. Manning had seen them in the same place two years before. I saw one bird on the tidal flats about six miles west of the mouth of Boas River, on August 4.

[Several Hudsonian Curlews were seen at Ranger Brook between July 21 and July 25, 1936, and a single specimen was collected near Leyson Point on July 16, 1938. None were seen elsewhere, and I know no record for Baffin Island except that given above (cf. Taverner, 1934: 122).—T. H. M.]

AMERICAN KNOT, *Calidris canutus rufus* (Wilson).—We have a few summer specimens from the Bay of God's Mercy, and Manning collected a young bird from the east side of the bay in 1934, which must have been bred there; but I believe this is unusual. I collected one specimen in full winter plumage on August 12, at the mouth of the river. Around August 18, quite large flocks appeared on the shore.

I found no trace of the species, either as breeder or migrant, in 1937, and I got no definite information from the Iglulik natives, although a few believe they may have seen individuals in the fall.

[In 1936, I saw a few Knots inland on the rather bare limestone ridges northwest of the Bay of God's Mercy; I think they nest there. I saw two Knots near Leyson Point, Seahorse Point, and Cape Dorchester; none elsewhere.—T. H. M.]

PURPLE SANDPIPER, *Arquatella maritima* (Brünnich).—On June 9, 1937, I saw a single bird on Iglulik Island, and the same day collected three from Ugliakdjuk in Hooper Inlet. Throughout the summer I looked for the species in vain, although I had particularly hoped to find it breeding on the rugged shore of Fury and Hecla narrows. Accompanied by Turnstones, Purple Sandpipers became very common on the east coast of Iglulik on August 17, and continued to pass until I left at the end of the month. I collected one old bird on August 20; seven others collected, and almost all seen, were juveniles. They were the tamest birds I have ever seen in the Arctic except perhaps the young Snow Buntings. Their whistle reminds me a little of that of the White-rumped Sandpipers, but it is much louder,

and rather wheezy. I did not see any Purple Sandpipers on Abadyar in September, but one was brought to me there by a native on September 11. I saw a single bird at Cape Munn on September 18, 1936, but none on the unsuitable shores of the Bay of God's Mercy.

[Sutton (1932: 124-126) noted it in migration on Southampton Island, and suggests that it probably nested on the northeast coast; but I saw none there, at Frozen Strait or Seahorse Point. Purple Sandpipers were common during the fall migration at Taverner Bay. They were very numerous at the Bird Islands and nearby mainland on August 1-2, and no doubt nest there.—T. H. M.]

PECTORAL SANDPIPER, *Pisobia melanotos* (Vieillot).—I collected one from a pair which had been feeding at the tide line on the evening of July 11, 1936, about six miles west of the mouth of Boas River. This specimen was in full breeding plumage. Around August 20, I used to see single individuals quite often amongst the flocks of White-rumped, Red-backed, and Semipalmated Sandpipers on the shore; but the species was never numerous until September 8, when it even made up a majority of the mixed flocks of Pectoral, White-rumped and Red-backed Sandpipers and Red Phalaropes on the shore of Roe's Welcome, about half-way between Cape Kendall and Cape Munn. On September 9, I counted bands of 23, 11, and 18 in the same place. I have no evidence of their occurrence anywhere north of Southampton Island.

[Sutton (1932: 126-128) noted the Pectoral Sandpiper in migration and nesting at South Bay. A single specimen was collected at Taverner Bay on August 20, 1939. It has not otherwise been recorded from Baffin Island.—T. H. M.]

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, *Pisobia fuscicollis* (Vieillot), (Iglulik name, 'Sikdjeriak').—In 1937, I did not observe this species until July 14, near the rapids of Crozier River. Then I collected a set of four young about twelve hours old on the night of July 18-19, and a second set in almost exactly the same place on the night of July 20-21. I think there was a third nest near, but I never found it. On July 24, about six White-rumped Sandpipers appeared near camp, and two that were shot proved to be juveniles. By the end of the month the species had become very common. Small parties, almost entirely juveniles, crowded the tidal pools near the mouth of the river, especially on the granite side.

During my short stay on Abadyar Island in August I saw no White-rumped Sandpipers, but they were extremely abundant on Iglulik Island, at least from August 13, when I arrived, until the end of the

month when I went back to Abadyar Island. The numberless shallow pools which lie in the hollows between the shore ridges swarmed with young White-rumped Sandpipers and Red Phalaropes, and these two made up the great bulk of the mixed flocks which were passing along the east coast of the island throughout August. Since I never visited Iglulik Island in July, I cannot say whether this species breeds on the island, and beyond the three pairs near camp, I never observed it during the nesting season, although I was always on the lookout for White-rumped Sandpipers amongst the nesting Baird's which were so common everywhere.

I have no good evidence of nesting in the Bay of God's Mercy region, although a few birds were present throughout the summer and noted near the head of the bay on June 8; a pair was collected near camp on July 12. About July 31 they became exceedingly abundant, keeping up a majority amongst the flocks of migrating shore-birds which fed on the mud flats in front of my camp until I left on August 30. But they were never as numerous there as during the fall migration on Iglulik Island.

[White-rumped Sandpipers are the commonest nesting sandpiper in the Seahorse Point region. They were an abundant migrant at East Bay in September, 1937, but I identified none along the coast to the north of there or at Frozen Strait. They nest quite commonly at Taverner Bay, but not near the coast on the flat land to the south. They were numerous on the west coast of Foxe Peninsula.—T. H. M.]

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, *Pisobia bairdi* (Coues), (Iglulik name, 'Sikdjeriak').—I never saw this species on Southampton Island, and it is probably very scarce in the southern part of the island. Sutton obtained a few specimens near Coral Harbour. There are no records from the adjacent mainland coast. Manning has sent out a number of skins from Frozen Strait, but so far there are insufficient data to determine the status of the species in that locality.

In Quilliam Creek and Crozier River regions, on the south shore of Fury and Hecla narrows, and for as great a distance as I ever walked into the interior of Melville Peninsula from the head of the creek, this species is second in numbers only to the longspurs. In fact, it is even more widely distributed, nesting not only on the limestone marshes and the low granite country near the river, but also on the high, desiccated limestone plateau and at 800 feet on the bleak hills overlooking the narrows, where even the longspurs have scarcely penetrated. It seems to like water near its nesting site, but does not mind if the supply has dried up by mid-July. I first heard the

bird on a misty day at Abadyar Island on June 7, and first collected it on the south shore of Quilliam Creek on June 12, but it was already common when I reached the head of the creek on June 14. Throughout the nesting season the trill of the Baird's Sandpipers was the most characteristic sound of the tundra. They are very noisy birds, one female calling constantly even while brooding her young. In this the bird shows a remarkable difference from the behavior of the White-rumped Sandpiper.

I took a set of four young about 24 hours old on July 11, and two more sets, very recently hatched, on the night of July 21-22. The latter represents a more typical date. The species seems to show a slight tendency to a colonial habit; I found two nests very close together, at a place where there were six pairs of excited parents flying around. I took one young bird about 3 days old on July 11, and another almost certainly from the same clutch, fully fledged and able to fly freely, on July 18.

During fall migration time, there was no apparent increase in numbers due to new arrivals from the north (in contrast to the White-rumped Sandpipers). On Abadyar Island, from August 8 to 12, I saw only three sandpipers, all of them of this species. On Iglulik Island, from August 13 to 31, I never observed this species, although there were many thousands of White-rumped Sandpipers and phalaropes, and considerable flocks of Purple Sandpipers and Turnstones.

[In the fall, Baird's Sandpipers were numerous in flocks mixed with White-rumped Sandpipers at Taverner Bay. A number of flocks in which no White-rumped Sandpipers were identified, were seen on the north side of Foxe Basin in late August, 1940.—T. H. M.]

LEAST SANDPIPER, *Pisobia minutilla* (Vieillot).—There are no records of this species from north of the tree line, either east or west of Hudson Bay, with the exception of Kumlien's (1879: 86) which were almost certainly due to confusion with the Semipalmated Sandpiper.

RED-BACKED SANDPIPER, *Pelidna alpina sakhalina* (Vieillot).—I have no good evidence of the nesting of this species at the Bay of God's Mercy, though a few birds were present throughout the season. The first migrants appeared on August 3, and from that date they remained numerous on the mud flats and tidal pools until the end of the month. Around August 18, I saw flocks of more than a hundred nesting amongst the ridges west of my camp. I never noted the species in the Iglulik region, and none of the natives there recognized the picture of it. This is odd. Hennessey obtained it on Melville Island. [Not mentioned in his report on the birds, 1910: 502-508.—T. H. M.]

[We saw no Red-backed Sandpipers at Frozen Strait, Seahorse Point, or anywhere on the coast of Foxe Basin.—T. H. M.]

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, *Ereunetes pusillus* (Linnaeus).—An abundant breeder on the big grass tundra west of Boas River. This species and the Red Phalarope are the common nesting land birds in this region which is probably too wet for many species. It was already numerous when I reached the Bay of God's Mercy on June 20, and its characteristically high-pitched trill was the dominant sound of the tundra until the young were hatched about the middle of July. It reminded me of grasshopper-haunted meadows at home. I never saw the bird on the islands in the mouth of the river, and obtained only one genuine downy about four days old on July 24. Young birds, some of them certainly less than a week old, were common around high-tide mark near my west camp on August 3. There are no records of this species north of the southern shore of Southampton Island where Sutton [1932: 142–147] found it the commonest nesting sandpiper in the South Bay region. I never saw it in the Iglulik area, and Manning did not collect it from Frozen Strait.

[At Taverner Bay, Semipalmated Sandpipers are not as common as White-rumped Sandpipers, either in migration or as summer residents, but they are rather more numerous amongst the ridges to the north. None were seen north of Straits Bay. They were numerous at the Bird Islands on August 1, 1938. They probably nest in suitable places over most of Southampton Island, but I saw none at Frozen Strait.—T. H. M.]

SANDERLING, *Crocethia alba* (Pallas).—I never saw this species on the north shore of the Bay of God's Mercy, which is probably too muddy. Manning took three specimens on July 16 at Gibbons Point, on the beaches of disintegrated limestone forming the east shore of the bay. Sutton [1932: 148] suspected that the species nested on the western part of the island, but he had no certain evidence.

Although I took special trouble to look for it in 1937, especially at the mouth of Crozier River where shingle beds and banks of sand and mud made up what seemed to me a perfect Sanderling country, I did not identify a single individual. I never saw it amongst the flocks of migrating shore birds on Iglulik Island in August, and if it occurs at all in this region, it is uncommon or very local.

[I saw no others besides the three above mentioned. The only record for Baffin Island is a small flock seen by Kumlien (1879: 87) at Niantilik, Cumberland Sound. Sutton (1932: 148–150) noted it as a migrant on Southampton Island.—T. H. M.]

RED PHALAROPE, *Phalaropus fulicarius* (Linnaeus).—The commonest breeding land bird on the grass tundra near the shore at the Bay of God's Mercy. Exceedingly numerous. Most of the birds had arrived when I reached the area on June 20, although we found them still quite common at the edge of the open water about six miles off shore at Chesterfield and in Roe's Welcome. I used to see both sexes, at the nest and on the pools of melted snow near high-water mark, up to July 4. On July 10, there were large flocks of females playing and feeding at the edge of the sea (the ice having very recently gone out from the head of the bay). I saw no more females after July 11.

In 1937, the species was not numerous in Crozier River area; about six pairs nested in the low limestone country at the mouth, in the long grass at the edges of permanent pools. It seems to require a much damper habitat than Baird's Sandpiper. It was first seen when a pair occupied the pool in front of my tent on July 19. On Iglulik Island, from August 12 at least until the end of the month, young birds teemed on the shallow inland pools, and off the eastern coast of the island. They were even commoner than the White-rumped Sandpipers, and more numerous than they ever were at the Bay of God's Mercy. There, the numbers did not increase greatly during August. All birds observed during migration were juveniles. At least three pairs nested on Adayar Island. I do not know if the species nests on Iglulik Island. Manning took one specimen at Gibbons Point in July in practically full winter plumage.

[Red Phalaropes are probably common in all suitable districts on Southampton Island. None were seen on the northeast coast of the island, and only two at Frozen Strait. They were by far the commonest birds in the coastal area on the very flat land between Koukdjuak and Taverner Bay, Baird Peninsula, and Bray and Kock Islands towards the end of August, 1940.—T. H. M.]

NORTHERN PHALAROPE, *Lobipes lobatus* (Linnaeus).—Sutton (1932: 156) obtained one specimen from South Bay. No record for the mainland coast north of Chesterfield; no record for Baffin Island.

[A male and female were taken at Taverner Bay on July 25, 1939, and a female a little to the south of there on July 4, 1940.—T. H. M.]

POMARINE JAEGER, *Stercorarius pomarinus* (Temminck).—The least common of the jaegers in the Bay of God's Mercy region. I never saw one there, though Sutton (1932: 157) obtained it at Cape Low. I saw none during our trip up Roe's Welcome to York Bay in September.

In 1937, I saw the species only on Iglulik Island. Five birds (three

dark, of which I collected one, and two with light under parts) frequented the southeast corner of the island, at least from August 21 until I left on August 31. They were especially attracted by the remains of a white whale left by the Eskimos at Iglirssuit when I was the lone inhabitant of the place. I never saw the Long-tailed Jaegers at the carcass, but Herring and Glaucous Gulls used to feed there with the Pomarine Jaegers. The natives say the species breeds here and there in the area, but is nowhere numerous.

[I saw no Pomarine Jaegers except between the Koukdjuak River and Taverner Bay where they almost certainly breed.—T. H. M.]

PARASITIC JAEGER, *Stercorarius parasiticus* (Linnaeus), (Iglulik name, 'Ishungnuk').—Much more common than the Long-tailed Jaeger in the western part of Southampton Island. At least five pairs nested in 1936 along some twenty miles of shore line on either side of the head of the Bay of God's Mercy. Birds were seen at every landing on the shore of Roe's Welcome in September. I saw thirteen at the head of the Bay on July 9, but could not find a nest. I observed no other trace of a colonial habit. All the birds were in the light phase.

I never saw this bird in 1937. There are few satisfactory data as to its status north of Southampton Island and Koukdjuak River.

LONG-TAILED JAEGERS, *Stercorarius longicaudus* Vieillot.—Much the commonest jaeger in the northwest Foxe Basin area. At least six pairs nested in 1937 on the shores of Quilliam Creek and at the mouth of Crozier River. Seen on Abadyar, Iglulik, and Ugliakdjuk Islands (at least three pairs on Iglulik). I collected a young bird on Iglulik, August 31.

On Southampton Island I found this species much less common than the last. I saw only one pair, and collected the female, near my west camp, in June.

[In general, I think the Parasitic Jaegers are commoner than the Long-tailed on Southampton Island, though at certain times they are outnumbered locally by the latter. I saw no jaegers on the northeast coast of Southampton Island or at Frozen Strait. Both Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers were very abundant, nesting between Koukdjuak and Taverner Bay. North of the latter place a few Parasitic Jaegers were seen, but no Long-tailed Jaegers were definitely identified west of Munk Island. At the east end of that island two Long-tailed and three Parasitic Jaegers were seen.—T. H. M.]

GLAUCOUS GULL, *Larus hyperboreus* Gunnerus.—Less common in the Iglulik area than the next species. Throughout the summer it occurs throughout the district, but I do not know of any nesting colony.

[No nesting colonies of this species were seen on the east side of Foxe Basin, but in the fall immature birds were quite numerous at Hantzsch River and Taverner Bay. None were seen at Frozen Strait. The only colony I know on Southampton Island is at the mouth of Canyon River where there were about twenty nests in 1937. Nine pairs nested on Walrus Island in 1936.—T. H. M.]

HERRING GULL, *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* Coues.

THAYER'S GULL, *Larus a. thayeri* Brooks.—There is a large colony of Herring Gulls on the cliffs of the western part of Abadyar. Two pairs nested on isolated rocks in pools at the mouth of Crozier River, one in each pool. I collected three young birds, less than 24 hours old, on August 18. I collected a dozen skins, averaging rather dark *thayeri*, but they were all eaten by puppies after a storm of September 26. I saved only a single wing, from a bird shot between Iglulik and Nerdlonaktok Islands on August 11. This bird was noticeably pale in flight, and is not much darker than some of the probable *kumlieni* in the Canadian National collection.

At the Bay of God's Mercy, where gulls breed commonly on the smallest islands in the mouth of Boas River (within the area of the Brant), the first young hatched on July 26. I took a fully fledged young bird on Iglulik Island at least twenty miles from any nesting site, August 23. On August 20, at the Bay of God's Mercy, the young gulls were still unable to fly, but they were mostly on the wing by August 29. The birds from the Bay of God's Mercy seem to be very nearly typical *smithsonianus*. Manning has a number of skins from Polecat Harbour, Frozen Strait, which are very similar to Southampton specimens. This district is about 150 miles south of Iglulik. There is a famous gull cliff near the Hudson's Bay Company's post at Repulse Bay, which gives to the region its native name, Naujan.

[Herring Gulls are common on all the coasts of Southampton Island, Foxe Basin, and scattered nests occur in many places. There is a large colony at Brooks Bluff, eight miles east of Polecat Harbour, and several colonies of varying sizes on the south side of Frozen Strait and the northeast coast of Southampton Island. There are two colonies near the north end of Taverner Bay, and one near Straits Bay. The specimens collected from these places have not yet been compared.—T. H. M.]

IVORY GULL, *Pagophila alba* (Gunnerus).

ATLANTIC KITTIWAKE, *Rissa tridactyla tridactyla* (Linnaeus).—I saw neither of these birds. The Iglulik natives say that Naujavah, the small white gull with black legs, is occasionally seen in late fall in the north-

western part of Foxe Basin. Iktukshadjuk, the 'Old King,' told me that many years ago he found enormous numbers nesting in the interior of Brodeur Peninsula and on the cliffs of Prince Regent Inlet (Port Bowen region). He had been nearly starving, and lived for some time on the eggs. J. C. Ross [1835: xxxv-xxxvi] reported both these species breeding near Port Bowen, but no one has collected Kittiwakes west of the Atlantic coast, or breeding Ivory Gulls from Canadian territory. I have one summer skin from Arctic Bay where the species is fairly numerous.

[Sutton (1932: 182) and I each obtained an Ivory Gull from Southampton Island. Sutton (1932: 183) considered the Atlantic Kittiwake a rare migrant there.—T. H. M.]

SABINE'S GULL, *Xema sabini* (Sabine).—Breeds commonly immediately above high water in the flooded marshes at the Bay of God's Mercy, and together with terns, nests on islands in the mouth of Boas River, although the terns are everywhere more numerous. I first took young (less than 24 hours old) on July 23. I saw no young birds flying before August 14. Most of the adults left the island during the last ten days of August. At this date they are still in almost complete summer plumage.

In 1937, I did not see the species until August 12, off Nerdlonaktoq Island. Later I found two families in the southeastern part of Iglulik Island. The parents and young were still together. The natives seemed to admire my specimens greatly, so I think the species is not very common in the region. On Iglulik, as on Southampton, the Sabine's Gulls are closely associated with terns.

Their call reminded me of a rusty clockwork mechanism being wound up; they are less noisy than the terns, and the voices of the two are really very different.

[Sabine's Gulls nest abundantly between Koukdjuak River and Taverner Bay. At the end of August, 1940, I saw several including juveniles on Baird Peninsula and Bray Island. On Southampton Island, Sutton (1932: 184-189) found them nesting in the South Bay region. I saw none on the northeast side of the island, at Frozen Strait or at Leyson Point, although terns were numerous at the last place.—T. H. M.]

ARCTIC TERN, *Sterna paradisaea* Brännich.—Abundant breeder at the Bay of God's Mercy, and at several points on the Roe's Welcome coast. I took the first young bird, less than 24 hours old, on July 19.

During my stay at the mouth of Crozier River in 1937, I saw only one tern, in July. It does not nest in Quilliam Creek, and I never

saw one in Fury and Hecla narrows. But it is an astonishingly abundant breeder on some of the small low islands, both granite and limestone, in Hooper Inlet, and between Abadyar and Nerdlinktoq. It also nests in some numbers on the east coast of Iglulik Island. There is considerable variation in the color of the nestlings. Eggs and newly hatched young were seen as late as August 12.

[Arctic Terns are common on all the low coast of Southampton Island, but I saw none at Frozen Strait, the northwest coast of Southampton Island, or Seahorse Point. On August 15, 1938, I saw over 2,000, including young, on the islands off Cape Dorchester. They were common between Koukdjuak and Taverner Bay, but nests were found only at the north end of the bay. Terns were seen intermittently around the northeast coast of Foxe Basin. A considerable number nest on an island off the northeast corner of Munk Island.—T. H. M.]

BRÜNNICH'S MURRE, *Uria lomvia lomvia* (Linnaeus), (Eskimo name, 'Akpa').—I did not see this species in western Southampton Island in 1936. There are large colonies on the limestone cliffs of Coates Island.

I saw a few (and handled one) amongst the Mandt's Guillemots, February, 1937, at the floe edge off Iglulik Island. The natives do not often see them, and know of no breeding place in Foxe Basin, but there are famous colonies in the Navy Board Inlet region and northeastern Somerset Island.

[At Taverner Bay, I saw eight on July 11 and twelve on July 15, 1938. They do not nest on Southampton Island, and I saw none until eight miles off Seahorse Point on July 18. They became numerous as Nottingham Island was approached. Sutton obtained a few specimens from the South Bay region.—T. H. M.]

DOVEKIE, *Alle alle* (Linnaeus).—I saw no individuals, but the Igluliks know the bird ('Akpilliakdjuk') well, and consider it commoner than Brünnich's Murre. It is most often seen in spring. There are no records of breeding anywhere in Canadian territory.

MANDT'S GUILLEMOT, *Cephus grylle mandti* (Mandt), (Iglulik name, 'Pitiulaq').—Abundant in some of the waters surrounding Southampton Island. Common at the edge of the floe in Roe's Welcome and off Chesterfield in June. Abundant breeder on Walrus Island, South Bay.

It is common throughout the winter at the floe edge off Iglulik. Breeds on numerous small islands in Hooper Inlet, and is probably distributed all over northwestern Foxe Basin and the east coast of Melville Peninsula, but is nowhere very common. I have downy

young from a tiny limestone islet between Abadyar and Nerdlanaktoq. A large tern colony had occupied the islet, and there were just two families of guillemots amongst the terns. I saw guillemots in August amongst the islands which block the entrance to Quilliam Creek, but none in the neighborhood of my summer camp at its head, nor at Fury and Hecla narrows.

[Mandt's Guillemots occur along most of the granite coasts of Foxe Basin and Southampton Island, but are less common off the limestone shores. None were seen on the sea bordering the Great Plain of the Koukdjuak.—T. H. M.]

SNOWY OWL, *Nyctea nyctea* (Linnaeus).—It is strange that owls are very uncommon amongst the nesting geese at the Bay of God's Mercy. Manning saw a single owl there on August 28, and there was a pair, presumably nesting, near a pool on the edge of the dry plateau about ten miles south of the head of the bay. The years 1936 and 1937 were both bad lemming years. I saw no owls during the winter until May 29, a single bird near the head of Admiralty Inlet. A pair nested on a rocky knob of disintegrated limestone about two miles from the head of Quilliam Creek. I saw one on Abadyar Island in September.

[Snowy Owls were seen occasionally in all districts.—T. H. M.]

HORNED LARK, *Otocoris alpestris* (Linnaeus).—This species is not present in the marshy tundra of the Bay of God's Mercy region. It is fairly common all around Foxe Basin. Manning collected a number from Frozen Strait in June. Nine adults taken from my summer working area in 1937, from June 18 to July 10, are all very alike, pale, and possibly near to *hoyti*. Seven adults and young collected on August 1 are very pale. Four migrant birds collected on Abadyar Island, September 3, are darker; one, very bright yellow, seems very near *alpestris*. It is possible that a new race is represented amongst the light birds from the eastern Arctic, but there is no more to be said without bringing together the Iglulik birds and the existing series from Southampton Island and southern Baffin Island.

Horned Larks are said not to occur on Iglulik Island itself, nor in the neighborhood of the native camps on the flat limestone coast south of Hooper Inlet. The species is a fairly common breeder in the Crozier River region—in the drier limestone meadows, on the high, dry, limestone plateau, up to 800 feet on the highest of the bleak hills overlooking Fury and Hecla narrows and, most commonly of all, in the little valleys between the granite ridges west of the river. Only Baird's Sandpiper has so wide a range of habitat. I

saw no migrants on Abadyar, August 8 to 12, and none on Iglulik Island, but they were quite common when I returned to Abadyar on September 2, and remained so until I left on September 14. First arrivals were one pair, noted on June 15, at the mouth of Crozier River. They were common at Polecat Harbour; noted at Frozen Strait on October 3, 1936.

[Horned Larks are fairly numerous summer residents at Frozen Strait, Seahorse Point and north end of Taverner Bay. Taverner (1941) has provisionally identified specimens from the latter place as *hoyti*; the others have not yet been compared.—T. H. M.]

NORTHERN RAVEN, *Corvus corax principalis* Ridgway, (Iglulik name, 'Tullugaq').—Ravens were nowhere numerous while I was in the north. They were absent from the marshes at the Bay of God's Mercy, and only twice seen in September on the Roe's Welcome shore. One or two Ravens remained near the Hudson's Bay Company's post at Repulse Bay, at least until I left on December 21, and one was near Ege, northeast Foxe Basin, in late March. One brood (three young) was raised near the mouth of Crozier River, and I saw the birds from time to time throughout the summer, but did not collect them. In September I saw one bird on Abadyar Island. The Iglulik Eskimos regard Ravens with a certain amount of superstitious dread.

[Several Ravens were seen during the summer at Frozen Strait, the northeast coast of Southampton Island, and Seahorse Point. A few were seen during the spring and fall at Hantzsch River. At Cumberland Sound I saw nine together on February 22, 1940.—T. H. M.]

GREENLAND WHEATEAR, *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa* (Gmelin).—I have a single specimen from Arctic Bay. I did not hear of any other occurrences. There are no records of Wheatears from any of the shores of Hudson Bay or Foxe Basin, although they have penetrated Hudson Strait as far as Lake Harbour [Sutton 1932: 223] and have been reported from Boothia Peninsula [Ross, 1835: xxvi].

[I collected a single specimen at Taverner Bay on September 2, 1939.—T. H. M.]

AMERICAN PIPIT, *Anthus spinoletta rubescens* (Tunstall).—Occurs up the east side of Melville Peninsula at least as far as Fury and Hecla Strait. This is probably near the northern extremity of the range, and they are very local. I found Pipits breeding only on the sheltered south slopes of the big valley which runs from the head of Quilliam Creek to Fury and Hecla narrows. There was a pair breeding in each one of four sheltered meadows. On August 9, I saw four Pipits in the western part of Abadyar Island, and migrant

birds were rather common around the native houses (southeastern part) from September 2 to 14, where they were associated with Horned Larks. This seems to suggest that the species extends across the strait to Cockburn Land.

[Pipits are fairly numerous summer residents at Frozen Strait and Seahorse Point. On several days in mid-August, 1938, they were the commonest bird on the northwest coast of Southampton Island. On the east side of Foxe Basin, I saw them only at Hantzsch River in late August and early September. On July 21, 1938, they were the most abundant bird at the northeastern end of Salisbury Island. —T. H. M.]

HOARY REDPOLL, *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes* (Coues).

HORNEMANN'S REDPOLL, *Acanthis h. hornemanni* (Holboell).

COMMON REDPOLL, *Acanthis linaria linaria* (Linnaeus).

GREATER REDPOLL, *Acanthis l. rostrata* (Coues).—Redpolls are exceedingly uncommon in northwest Foxe Basin. When I reached Arctic Bay in May, I was told by natives as well as the white men at the post, that redpolls had been common all through the winter. During my stay the weather was bad, but I have two specimens collected by natives on May 12 and May 18. Many of the Iglulik natives who saw these specimens assured me that the birds were never seen in their country. Southampton Island and the north coasts of Baffin Island are well known for redpolls. The natives say that they are commoner in winter than in summer at Arctic Bay and at Pond Inlet, and that they are sometimes found in the coldest weather, huddled together in little colonies underneath the snow. They are compared with ptarmigan in this respect.

My specimens appear to be near *rostrata*, although the bills are a little heavier than those in the Canadian National collection. There is no other evidence that this race winters regularly so far north. The only forms which have been established as breeding in Canadian territory are the two smaller ones, *linaria* and *exilipes*, neither of which has been proved to occur north of Coral Harbour, Southampton Island. *Rostrata* has been found in Greenland, nesting. The relation between these forms is interesting. It is worth noting that, at any rate in Canada, in latitude 70° N., there are no bushes comparable with the willow thickets which form the nesting sites of redpolls in Southampton and southern Baffin Islands.

[There is no definite evidence that redpolls nest on Southampton Island. Sutton (1932: 226–334) found redpolls quite common there during migration, but *exilipes* was the only one he saw during the

breeding season, and that only a few times. At Seahorse Point I collected two redpolls on May 31, and two more on June 15, 1938. I saw no others on the island or at Frozen Strait. On the west side of Foxe Basin, twelve were seen on various dates. Taverner (1941) identified the only adult collected as *rostrata*.—T. H. M.]

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO, *Junco hyemalis hyemalis* (Linnaeus).—Occurrence north of the tree limit is accidental, but records are surprisingly common. An individual picked up exhausted on May 25 at the Hudson's Bay Company's post at Repulse Bay, and preserved by Manning, constitutes the most northerly of these. Other records are from Coral Harbour [Sutton, 1932: 235–236] and Southern Baffin Island.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia leucophrys* (Forster).—[A very fat juvenile female was collected at Taverner Bay on September 17, 1939. This, according to Taverner (1941), constitutes a new record for Baffin Island.—T. H. M.]

LAPLAND LONGSPUR, *Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus* (Linnaeus).—The most generally distributed of the breeding land birds throughout the areas visited by us, and in many places the most numerous. It arrives a good deal later than the Snow Buntings, but before the larks and waders. In 1937, I first noted it near the head of Gifford River, latitude 70° N., on May 28. I found a nest with six eggs on the south shore of Quilliam Creek, June 11. Newly-hatched young were first seen on July 5, at Crozier River. Most of the young Longspurs were awing before July 13. Not many birds were left on September 14 when I left Abadyar. Longspurs were not very numerous on the Bay of God's Mercy marshes; I suppose these were too wet for the species.

[Longspurs are numerous in suitable districts on Southampton Island and the west side of Foxe Basin. They are scarce in the coastal area of the Great Plain of the Koukdjuak, but become more numerous inland.—T. H. M.]

EASTERN SNOW BUNTING, *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis* (Linnaeus).—Extremely numerous, but confined rather strictly to rock exposures, particularly the masses of rotting limestone on the south side of Quilliam Creek. It is absent from the marshes and grass tundra and few or none remain in winter. I saw none in the Repulse Bay area after early November, and none during our winter journeys until late April in Admiralty Inlet. Nests are often in the farthest recesses of the disintegrating rocks; both nests and young birds are exceedingly hard to find until the young can fly, around June 13.

This is by far the tamest of the northern species, a real Arctic robin. Throughout the second half of July, a brood made my tent its home, and there were almost always several birds perched on the canvas or the guys. When I put up a second tent on the west bank of the river, it was at once adopted by another family; just the same happened at Iglulik, and twice on Abadyar.

[Snow Buntings are numerous in all suitable rocky localities.
—T. H. M.]

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Ottawa, Ontario

NOTES ON BIRDS
OF THE KODIAK-AFOGNAK ISLAND GROUP

BY VICTOR H. CAHALANE

DURING the autumn of 1940, while gathering field data for the National Park Service, I spent about two weeks in the region of Shelikof Strait, southwestern Alaska. I arrived at Kodiak on September 25 and departed for Seward on October 11. Parts of two days (September 29 and October 10) of this period were devoted to field work in the vicinity of Kodiak village and four days (September 30 to October 3, and October 8) in cruising along the northern and western coasts of Kodiak Island as far south as Larsen Bay and Uyak 'village.' Visits were made ashore at two points on southern Afognak Island, on Raspberry Island, and in Viekoda, Terror and Larsen Bays on Kodiak Island. In making this cruise in the seiner 'Hazel M,' I am greatly indebted for the help of my companion and pilot, N. J. Benson of Kodiak, Wildlife Agent of the Alaska Game Commission.

I had no opportunity to collect specimens, but kept notes on the birds observed. Because of the relative scarcity of field notes on the birds of this region, especially so late in the season when danger of fierce storms discourages excursions by boat, these sight observations may be worth recording. With the single exception of the Gadwall