

## NEW AVIAN RECORDS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND

BY HAROLD S. PETERS AND THOMAS D. BURLEIGH

SINCE publishing our first paper (Auk, 62: 563-566, 1945) containing additions to the 1931 edition of the A. O. U. Check-List for Newfoundland we have continued periodic visits to that country. These were in connection with the cooperative study of the bird life of Newfoundland being conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, and the Newfoundland Department of Natural Resources. We have now made six trips together to Newfoundland, mostly during the nesting season, although the fall migration and the winter birds have both been studied. The spring migration of 1947 was investigated by Burleigh, assisted by Dr. J. Fred Denton of Augusta, Georgia. Consequently, we now have personal experience with the birds of Newfoundland in each month of the year except March, November, and December. Considerable assistance has been received from residents of the country, among whom we especially wish to mention E. J. Bragg of Port aux Basques, James R. Ewing of St. Johns, Reverend A. L. Parish of Rose Blanche, Dr. Wilfred Templeman of St. Johns, and Leslie M. Tuck formerly of Placentia.

We wish to present here a number of new records of occurrence, all of which are additions to the A. O. U. Check-List (1931) or species of which the status is not sufficiently indicated in the literature. Many of these specimens were first identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser. They were sent to him through the intense interest and activity of the late Gower Rabbitts, former clerk of game and inland fisheries for the Department of Natural Resources, St. Johns, Newfoundland. Unfortunately, most of these specimens were lost, through fire or lack of proper care, after being returned to Newfoundland at Mr. Rabbitts' request. However, their determination is recorded in the identification records of the Fish and Wildlife Service and is mentioned in correspondence files.

Most of the 49 forms in the following list are represented by specimens now in the Fish and Wildlife Service collection, United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., and are indicated by an asterisk (\*) immediately following the name of each bird.

HOLBOELL'S RED-NECKED GREBE, *Colymbus grisegena holböllii* (Reinhardt).\*—Casual, known from two specimens. The first was killed at Hickman's Harbour, November 18, 1932, by R. Vardy, and identified by Oberholser from only the head and feet. The second was taken at Rose Blanche in November, 1946, and determined from a foot submitted by Parish.

**HORNED GREBE**, *Colymbus auritus* Linnaeus.\*—Casual. The first specimen was taken at Portugal Cove, Trepassy Bay, November 10, 1930, by Alfred O'Leary and was identified by Oberholser. Another was taken at Red Island, Burgeo, November 7, 1944, by Bragg and is represented by a foot.

**NORTHERN PIED-BILLED GREBE**, *Podilymbus podiceps podiceps* (Linnaeus).\*—Casual. Three specimens have been taken: Parsons Siding, November 26, 1930, identified by Oberholser; White Bear River, November 15, 1944, by Henry Rose; and Red Island, Burgeo, December 4, 1944, by Bragg. The latter two are in the U. S. National Museum collection.

**MANX SHEARWATER**, *Puffinus puffinus puffinus* Brunnich.\*—Accidental. A female was collected at St. Anthony, May 24, 1947, by Sgt. S. M. Christian who skinned and presented it to us. This is one of the few North American records.

**MAN-O'-WAR-BIRD**, *Fregata magnificens rothschildi* Mathews.—Accidental. A male was taken in Bonavista Bay about 1932. It was mounted by Ewing, in whose home it is still preserved.

**GREAT BLUE HERON**, *Ardea herodias herodias* Linnaeus.—Casual. We know of only one specimen, from Sandy Point, Bay St. George, May 11, 1929, by John Lizan, which was determined by Oberholser. We have not observed this species in Newfoundland, although it is quite common on near by Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia.

**AMERICAN EGRET**, *Casmerodius albus egretta* (Gmelin).\*—Accidental. Represented by two specimens: Pass Island, Hermitage Bay, March 14, 1936, identified by Oberholser; and Bell Island, Conception Bay, October 14, 1944, skinned and presented to us by Templeman.

**SNOWY EGRET**, *Leucophoyx thula thula* (Molina).\*—Accidental. The first specimen was shot at Trepassy, Southern Shore, August 18, 1948, by Dr. John Kennedy, from a flock of five individuals. The wing, leg, and bill were sent to the U. S. National Museum for identification and preservation.

**LITTLE BLUE HERON**, *Florida caerulea caerulea* (Linnaeus).—Accidental. Two specimens are known: Bear Cove lighthouse, about June 1, 1929 (plumage not recorded); and Triton Brook, Gambo, October 5, 1936, in immature plumage, by J. M. Curran. Both were identified by Oberholser.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**, *Nycticorax nycticorax hoacili* (Gmelin).\*—Accidental. One was shot at Come-by-Chance, March 17, 1947, by Thomas Coffin.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**, *Nyctanassa violacea violacea* (Linnaeus).—Accidental. One was taken at Petites, on or before March 26, 1940, and determined by Oberholser.

**AMERICAN PINTAIL**, *Anas acuta tzitzihoa* Vieillot.—Probably nests here only rarely. A specimen reportedly from Newfoundland was shown to the Zoological Society of London, at the meeting of March 23, 1841, by E. Moore (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1841: 24). Three were trapped and banded in September, 1947, on the Grand Codroy River, by D. A. Benson (Wildlife Management Institute). We observed two at Stephenville Crossing, August 29, 1944, and seven on the Grand Codroy River, May 2, 1947.

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL**, *Anas discors* Linnaeus.—Probably nests uncommonly. The first record is of a specimen exhibited to the same meeting of the Zoological Society of London as mentioned under the pintail (*loc. cit.*). One was killed between St. Marys and Placentia Bays in the fall of 1935 and identified by Oberholser. One was trapped and banded on the Grand Codroy River on September 20, 1947, by D. A. Benson. We have observed the species near Doyles, on the Little Codroy River, and at Stephenville Crossing, all in southwestern Newfoundland.

HOODED MERGANSER, *Lophodytes cucullatus* (Linnaeus). \*—Accidental. The one record is of a male taken at Portugal Cove, near Trepassy, November 15, 1937.

KING RAIL, *Rallus elegans elegans* Audubon.—Accidental. The only record is of one killed at Bally Hally, a suburb of St. Johns, October 20, 1935, which was identified by Oberholser.

PURPLE GALLINULE, *Porphyryla martinica* (Linnaeus). \*—Accidental. Represented by two specimens: Torbay, May 24, 1933, identified by Oberholser; and Burgeo, May 10, 1945, by G. Shoupe, which was skinned and presented by Templeman.

FLORIDA GALLINULE, *Gallinula chloropus cachinnans* Bangs.—Accidental. Two specimens are known: near St. Johns, October 1, 1928, by Harold Clarke; and near St. Shotts, October 5, 1935, by Gus Molloy. Both were identified by Oberholser.

AMERICAN COOT, *Fulica americana americana* Gmelin. \*—Casual. There are three records: one specimen from Channel, October 31, 1929, and one from Point Leamington, in the fall of 1932, were identified by Oberholser; another, probably of this species, was taken at Pass Island, Hermitage Bay, March 11, 1943, by F. J. Rideout, and the bill and one foot were presented to us by Templeman.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER, *Pluvialis dominica dominica* (Muller).—Accidental. One was killed between St. Marys and Placentia Bays in the fall of 1935, and determined by Oberholser.

ICELAND WHIMBREL, *Numenius phaeopus islandicus* Brehm. \*—The second record for North America was obtained by us at Boisee Island, Pistolet Bay, June 27, 1943, (erroneously reported as *N. p. hudsonicus*, Auk, 62: 563, 1945).

HUDSONIAN CURLEW, *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus* Latham. \*—Fairly common fall migrant which we have recorded from mid-July to September 22. We collected two males on Hare Island, St. John Bay, July 28, 1944, and one male at the mouth of Little Codroy River, September 1, 1944. We have observed this species at many localities on all coasts, and Loomis (Auk, 62: 237, 1945) reported it fairly common locally and undoubtedly breeding in northern Newfoundland. This reported nesting has not been substantiated.

EASTERN WILLET, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus* (Gmelin). \*—Casual. A female was taken at the mouth of the Little Codroy River, May 7, 1947, by Burleigh and Denton, and a female was collected at Argentia, May 16, 1947, by Tuck who skinned and presented it to us. We observed one flying close to our boat off the tip of Bonavista peninsula on June 24, 1942. About 1000 were seen in groups on the water off the Grand Banks, in May, 1907, by Grinnell (Auk, 33: 198, 1916). Since this species nests locally in Nova Scotia, it may be found breeding in Newfoundland.

LESSER YELLOW-LEGS, *Totanus flavipes* (Gmelin). \*—Casual. We know of only one specimen from Newfoundland, a male which we took on the Grand Codroy River, September 9, 1946. We observed a flock of four at Stephenville Crossing. Reports of other observations may be confused with the greater yellow-legs which is a fairly common breeding bird.

AMERICAN KNOT, *Calidris canutus rufus* (Wilson). \*—Casual. We took the first specimens, a pair, at Stephenville Crossing, September 10, 1946, and another male in the same locality the following day. A female was secured by Tuck at Argentia, September 3, 1947. Our first observation was of two at Stephenville Crossing, August 28, 1944.

PURPLE SANDPIPER, *Erolia maritima* (Brünnich). \*—Uncommon migrant and winter resident. The first specimen was shot at Cape Broyle, March 25, 1930, by

T. Christopher, and was determined by Oberholser. A female, from Rose Blanche, December 6, 1946, was skinned and presented by Parish. We collected two males and a female from a flock of about 40 at Argentia, February 9, 1947.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER, *Erolia melanotos* (Vieillot).\*—Rare fall migrant. We took a pair at Stephenville Crossing, August 31, 1944, and a male at the mouth of Grand Codroy River, September 27, 1946. Tuck secured a male at Argentia, September 2, 1947. We observed two on Grand Codroy River, September 9, 1946, and five were reported at Gander Airport, October 8, 1941, by J. S. Cook.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, *Erolia fuscicollis* (Vieillot).\*—Fairly common fall migrant. We have obtained specimens as follows: two from Twin Island, St. John Bay, July 29, 1944; one male from Stephenville Crossing, August 30, and another on September 11, 1946; one male from the mouth of Grand Codroy River, September 4 and another on September 27, 1946. One was taken at Argentia, July 26, 1947, by Tuck who reported them first on that date. Loomis (*op. cit.*: 238) reported them as very abundant in migration at St. Anthony, and we have recorded them during July, August, and September in a number of localities.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, *Erolia bairdii* (Coues).\*—Casual. The only specimen is a female collected at Argentia, September 14, 1947, by Tuck (*Can. Field-Nat.*, 62: 103-112, 1948).

RED-BACKED SANDPIPER, *Erolia alpina pacifica* (Coues).\*—Casual. We have secured only one specimen, a male, at Stephenville Crossing, October 2, 1946. Loomis (*loc. cit.*) reported seeing only one at St. Anthony.

EASTERN DOWITCHER, *Limnodromus griseus griseus* (Gmelin).\*—Rare fall migrant. We have taken the only specimens: two males from Stephenville Crossing, August 30, 1944; and a female from the same locality, September 10, 1946. Others were seen at Stephenville Crossing, July 31, 1945, and at Grand Codroy River, September 9 and 16, 1946.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER, *Tryngites subruficollis* (Vieillot).\*—Accidental. A female was collected at Argentia, September 13, 1947, by Tuck who reported two others seen at the same place (*loc. cit.*)

BLACK-NECKED STILT, *Himantopus mexicanus* (Muller).\*—Accidental. One was killed at Biscay Bay, Trepassy, June 23, 1947, and sent to St. Johns by D. White.

ICELAND GULL, *Larus leucopterus leucopterus* Vieillot.\*—Uncommon winter visitor. The only specimens, both in immature plumage, were killed at Rose Blanche, a male on December 17, 1946, and another male on January 24, 1947. They were skinned and presented by Parish. Wynne-Edwards reported this species along the southern coast and on the Grand Banks, the last on May 8, 1933 (*Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, 40: 233-346, 1935), but he secured no specimens.

KUMLIEN'S GULL, *Larus leucopterus kumlieni* Brewster.\*—Uncommon winter visitor. Three specimens from Rose Blanche have been sent to us by Parish. They are: subadult female, January 24, 1947; subadult male, November 22, 1946; and the left wing of an individual taken in March, 1946.

RING-BILLED GULL, *Larus delawarensis* Ord.\*—Uncommon summer resident. We found eight nests with eggs on South Penguin Island, near Cape Freels, July 8, 1945, the first definite breeding record. The first specimens were taken by us at Stephenville Crossing in 1946: a female, September 20; a male, September 22; and a female, October 1. We have observed this species in northwestern, eastern, and southwestern Newfoundland on various dates from May 12 (1947) to October 2 (1946).

BLACK-HEADED GULL, *Larus ridibundus ridibundus* Linnaeus.\*—Accidental.

One was killed at Badger, October 26, 1943, wearing a band which was placed on it as a nestling at Lake Myvatn, northern Iceland, June 16, 1943. The specimen was skinned and presented to us by Templeman.

IVORY GULL, *Pagophila eburnea* (Phipps).\*—Rare winter visitor. We collected an immature male at Mobile, Avalon peninsula, January 14, 1947. A second-year bird, shot at Rose Blanche, March 11, 1947, was skinned and presented by Parish.

ARCTIC TERN, *Sterna paradisaea* Pontoppidan.\*—Common summer resident, on the outer islands of all coasts. We have collected 33 specimens from at least 16 nesting colonies. A few colonies were mixed with common terns. We have found that the common terns usually nest on the inner islands and in the mouths of rivers and heads of bays, while the Arctic terns prefer the outermost islands.

SAW-WHET OWL, *Aegolius acadicus acadicus* (Gmelin).—Casual. The only record appears to be that of one taken at Colinet, early in April, 1940, and identified by Oberholser.

CHIMNEY SWIFT, *Chaetura pelagica* (Linnaeus).\*—Casual. The 1931 Check-List included Newfoundland in the breeding range of this species upon unknown authority, and Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 176: 293, 1940) said: "There seems to be no authenticated record for Newfoundland." We believe that the first specimen known from the country is the female collected at Codroy, May 26, 1947, by Burleigh and Denton. We saw one at St. Georges, August 29, 1944, which could not be secured.

EASTERN KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Linnaeus).\*—Casual. Burleigh and Denton took a female at St. Andrews, May 27, 1947. We observed another individual near Tompkins, September 6, 1946.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, *Lanius excubitor borealis* Vieillot.\*—Migrant and uncommon winter resident. We have one taken at Tompkins, March 27, 1947, by Frank Tompkins, and have observed others at Tompkins in January, February, and May (1947). Rooke (Ibis, 1935: 856-879) reported receiving a specimen from Ewing at St. Johns.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO, *Vireo solitarius solitarius* (Wilson).\*—Casual. Burleigh collected two females near Tompkins, September 14, 1946.

RED-EYED VIREO, *Vireo olivaceus* (Linnaeus).\*—Casual. Our only specimen is a male which was killed by striking the lighthouse at Cape Anguille, September 24, 1946.

ENGLISH SPARROW, *Passer domesticus domesticus* (Linnaeus).\*—Resident in many towns. We have specimens taken at Avondale, Badger, Botwood, Lewisporte, St. Anthony, Stephenville Crossing, Twillingate, and Whitbourne, and have observed them in a number of other localities along the railroad and coasts.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK, *Sturnella magna magna* (Linnaeus).—Accidental. There is only one record, St. Shotts, January 4, 1938, by P. J. Molloy, identified by Oberholser.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (Linnaeus).\*—Accidental. A male was obtained at Tompkins, May 24, 1947, by Burleigh and Denton.

INDIGO BUNTING, *Passerina cyanea* (Linnaeus).—Accidental. An adult male was killed on Sound Island, Placentia Bay, about April 19, 1929, and identified by Oberholser.

EASTERN EVENING GROSBEAK, *Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina* (Cooper).\*—Casual. One was taken near St. Johns, December 13, 1945. It was skinned and presented by Templeman.

*Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of Interior,  
Charleston, South Carolina, and Moscow, Idaho, April 28, 1948.*