

- YOUNG, E. C. 1963a. Feeding habits of the South Polar Skua *Catharacta maccormicki*. *Ibis* 105: 301-318.
- . 1963b. The breeding behaviour of the South Polar Skua *Catharacta maccormicki*. *Ibis* 105: 203-233.
- . 1972. Territory establishment and stability in McCormick's Skua. *Ibis* 114: 234-244.
- . 1978. Behavioural ecology of *lombbergi* skuas in relation to environment on the Chatham Islands, New Zealand. *New Zealand J. Zool.* 5: 401-416.

## 100 Years Ago in The Auk



From "The Present Condition of Some of the Bird Rookeries of the Gulf Coast of Florida" by W. E. D. Scott (1887, *Auk* 4: 272-284):

"Wednesday, June 2 [1887]. Leaving the little town of Pinellas early this morning we rounded Point Pinellas, and again were cruising northward in the direction of Tarpon Springs. About three miles from the extreme end of Point Pinellas, in Boga Siega Bay, is the group of islands that once formed what is known as Maximo Rookery. These islands are so close together, being only divided by shoal and narrow streams of salt water at high tide, that practically they form a single low island. This is at least two hundred acres in extent, and is covered with a dense growth of the several kinds of mangrove and forms a point particularly attractive to birds either as a roosting or breeding place. I had been here six years before, and it fairly teemed with bird life then. Every tree and bush on this large area contained at least one nest, and many contained from two to six or eight nests whenever the size of the tree permitted. A perfect cloud of birds were always to be seen hovering over the island in the spring and early summer months, and conspicuous among them were Brown Pelicans, Man-o'-war Birds, Reddish Egrets, Florida Cormorants, Louisiana Herons, American Egrets, Snowy Herons, Little Blue Herons, Great Blue Herons, and both kinds of Night Herons. I have tried to give them in the order of their abundance, though it is difficult to say, in such an immense congregation, which species predominated. Beside, in comparatively smaller numbers, and yet by hundreds, were White Ibises and Rosy Spoonbills. So far as I was then able to determine, all these species bred here save the Roseate Spoonbill and Man-o'-war bird, the latter being pres-

ent to prey on the Pelicans and Cormorants, taking from them, whenever possible, the food intended for the young birds. It was truly a wonderful sight, and I have never seen so many thousands of large birds together at any single point.

"We anchored the sloop just off the island and I went ashore to see what birds I might find. From the water, as we approached, only a few Cormorants were to be seen, possibly seventy-five in all, and though I spent several hours looking over the various parts of the island I found no other large birds breeding—absolutely not a single pair of Herons of any kind; five or six Louisiana Herons feeding on a small sand flat at one of the extremities of the island were all the Herons observed in the vicinity.

"When I previously visited this point A. Lechevallier had located on the mainland about three-quarters of a mile away; here he had built a house and was killing birds on the island for the feather market. He or his assistants had then been there a little over a year, and I am told by persons living near, whom I have every reason to believe, that it took these men *five* breeding seasons to break up, by killing and frightening the birds away, this once incomparable breeding resort. Of course there were other plume hunters who aided in the slaughter, but the old Frenchman and his assistants are mainly responsible for the wanton destruction. He regarded this as his particular preserve, and went so far as to order outsiders, who came to kill Herons and other birds, off the ground. The rookery being destroyed, he had now given up his residence here."