

Birds breeding at Cap des Rosiers, Québec.—The easternmost point along the north coast of the Gaspé Peninsula, Province of Québec, is an area of rocky headlands, coniferous forests, and wave-washed cliffs projecting out into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Three miles short of Cap Gaspé, the extreme tip of the peninsula, the cliffs of Cap des Rosiers rise up 900 feet above the sea. Here are found many breeding birds of both land and sea. Much has been written of the Gannets (*Morus bassanus*), Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*), Common Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*), and others of Bonaventure Island and Percé, some 23 miles southward; the birds of the Cap des Rosiers area are equally interesting. I observed them while encamped there from August 5–7, 1959.

Dense forests, mainly white spruce and balsam fir, extend to the edge of the cliffs. Mountain maple and white birch are present in small numbers, and there are a few cleared spots of grassy meadows. Alders fringe the margins of the cliffs. Mountain ash, bunchberry, and fireweed were in full color. Breeding land birds of this area, accompanied by fledglings, included the Eastern Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*), Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*), American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*), American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*), Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), and White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). Several broods of some of these were present. Also observed in the vicinity, and doubtless breeding here, were the Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), Hairy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos villosus*), Gray Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*), Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*), White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), and Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*). The Veery (*Hylocichla fuscescens*) and Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) were also seen.

The higher cliffs, probably pre-Pleistocene in age, are separated from those below by a plateau several hundred yards in width sloping down to the sea. The lower cliffs, of sandstone formation, attain a maximum height of about 190 feet. On narrow ledges and in crannies of these lower cliffs, for a distance of nearly half a mile and at all elevations from the high tide line to the summit, were breeding colonies of sea birds. Most of the young had hatched, and many were flying or attempting to do so. Species noted here are listed below.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*).—About 50 pairs were seen about the cliffs, nesting in small groups high up on the rocks. Some young were out of the nest, but many remained and were being fed on fish. The adults, diving from the surface, caught most fish well inshore. After repeated dives they returned to the ledges to dry out. An interesting trait in their flight behavior was evident one morning when most of the cormorants were on the rocks, in bright sunlight. Two of them, from different sections of the cliffs, launched themselves at one time into the air, circled independently several times over the water, flew back and forth for about three minutes before the cliffs, and then returned to their original sites. Almost at once, in rotation, two more birds took off and repeated this procedure. It was as though two roving sentinels patrolled the area while the others relaxed.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).—This species nests at many localities in the Gaspé; several hundred were present on the cliffs at Cap des Rosiers, perched at all elevations on the rocks. Most of the young were flying. Fish were caught, well beyond the line of breaking surf, by diving from considerable heights. An adult, resting on the rocks, was once disturbed by a young murre which stumbled into its immediate area. The intruder was seized by the head and shaken vigorously, then was carried off, still strug-

gling weakly, and dropped into the deeper water to drown. The gull remained on the surface near by for a few minutes until the murre sank from sight, not to reappear.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*).—A dozen or so, some of them immature, were seen on the rocks, closely associated with gulls or cormorants, or swimming with stubby tails upturned and diving for food nearby. Apparently the young were all out of the "nest" by this time.

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*).—A score or more of these sharp-billed alcids were clustered in several groups low on the rocks; others dived or rested on the water. Most of the young were fledged. One, smaller than the rest, had either fallen from its natal crevice or was making its initial descent to the sea. A breaking wave, higher than most, buffeted it about on the rocks and then washed it out to deep water. It struggled ineffectually for a minute or more, and then another wave cast it up on the rocks again, where it secured a foothold.

Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*).—The small "sea pigeons," jet black with pure white wing patches, nest apart from other species in the deep rocky fissures, rather high up. The young were all in flight, but dozens were on the water or fluttering with swift wing-beats over the surface. They fish well inshore, often beneath the breaking surf. One was observed while feeding, ducking suddenly under the water and swimming, like the other alcids, with its wings. During the course of 15 dives, it stayed submerged on the average for 23 seconds, and rested on the surface for 20 seconds between dives.

From time to time other species mingle with the colonies of breeding sea birds, but usually in small numbers and briefly. Observed among these birds at Cap des Rosiers were the Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*), Kittiwake, Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and Gannet. No intolerance was noted between these intruders and the resident population.—RICHARD H. MANVILLE, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D.C., September 28, 1959.*

A fatal and a near-fatal strangling accident of small birds.—On May 7, 1959, on the Madison River bank near West Yellowstone, Montana, I found an adult female Audubon's Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*) strangled by a horse hair. The hair, 25 inches in length, was caught in the tall marsh grass by one end, with the other end free. The warbler, which was still warm when found, was apparently a nesting bird. All eggs had been laid and only two very small yolks were visible in the ovary. The specimen, preserved as a mummy with the horse hair intact, is now in the collection of Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

I witnessed what was almost a similar tragedy at the Bear River Marsh Refuge near Brigham City, Utah, on May 15, 1958, while I was trying to photograph Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) gathering mud for their nests. As each bird flew to the mud puddle, it plucked, on the wing, a dry grass stem 8 to 12 inches long. Then, with the piece of grass grasped in the center with the bill, it lit, gathered a load of mud, and returned to the nest site. Suddenly, one of the swallows began to struggle frantically. I found that it had become hopelessly entangled in about 10 feet of gut leader discarded by a fisherman. Part of this leader had been trampled into the mud, leaving a number of free loops. The swallow, after gathering its mud nearby, had flown into and had been entrapped by one of these loops. I cut the bird free only minutes before it probably would have strangled to death. When released, it flew to a telephone wire and spent some time preening its ruffled feathers.—MARY WIBLE, *Carter Camp, Pennsylvania, September 16, 1959.*