

10. *BONAPARTE'S GULL, *Larus philadelphia*

Not identified by us in 1917 though a flock of birds noted at a distance, Sept. 22, were probably of this species, as Franklin's Gull seems to leave before this date. In 1918, Young saw eleven on May 25, taking specimens in verification. They appeared again in some numbers on Aug. 16 and remained without much diminution up to the date of his leaving, Oct. 2. Though Seton (*Auk*, 1886, p. 147) cites Gunn as the authority for its breeding on Shoal Lake and repeats the statement in subsequent lists, including his Fauna of Manitoba, British Association Handbook, 1909, I cannot but regard it as a mistake, and think that Franklin's Gull has been the basis of these records. The nearest well authenticated records of the breeding of this bird is on the lower Mackenzie. The more or less common occurrence of non-breeding Bonaparte's Gull in summer dates, as far east as the Atlantic coast, has probably been to blame for many confusions of breeding records between these similar birds.

11. CASPIAN TERN, *Sterna caspia*.

On the gravelly islands where the Common Tern used to nest in immense numbers the Ward brothers tell us that there were occasional sets of eggs that were so much larger than the rest as to attract immediate attention. The parents of these seemed to them to be exactly similar to the other tern flying about but considerably larger. Though they regarded them at the time as only monstrosities there can be but little question but that these were Caspian Tern. The numerical ratio these eggs bore to those of the Common Tern was about five to a thousand.

12. *FORSTER'S TERN, *Sterna forsteri*.

Seton says that while he did not note the species, Miller Christy found it common on May 1, 1887. Arnold and Raine report colonies of hundreds of nests, but it is suggestive that they make no mention of the Common Tern. In 1917, we found Forster's Tern in company with the Common Tern but generally scarce. In 1918, Young observed it from the 8th to the end of May, but much more common during the last week. He has one hypothetical record for two individuals, namely Aug. 21. The Wards say that it was once much more common than now and that it used to nest singly on the musk-rat houses in the marsh and not on the gravelly islets with the Common Tern.

13. *COMMON TERN, *Sterna hirundo*.

The Ward brothers tell us that when the water was high the Common Tern nested in immense numbers on the gravelly islets. On one such islet of about three acres, they once estimated one thousand nests. In some places the foot could not be put down without treading on eggs. This statement is largely confirmed by Seton. Such descriptions, however, do not represent the species at Shoal Lake

now and there is no indication of any nesting there. The species was occasionally common during our spring visit in 1917. In 1918, Young found them more or less common during the latter half of May and noted a few individuals occasionally through June, July and August and as late as Sept. 16, when a flock of thirty was seen. The Common Tern can be separated from Forster's in life by the grayness of the white below. In Forster's Tern the under parts look a dazzling, pure white in the sun, a character that is obvious when both species are in view together and, after a little experience, of value when they are seen separately.

14. *BLACK TERN, *Hydrochelidon nigra*.

A common breeding species nesting in the few wet spots remaining back from the lake. None were seen in September of 1917. Young reports heavy migrations Aug. 1 to 21, and the last seen, Sept. 3.

15. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax auritus*.

Said by Gunn, Seton, and the Ward brothers to have been a common breeder on the islands, but now, except for occasional stragglers and during migrations, they have deserted the lake. None were seen by us in 1917, but Young reports flocks of five to sixty in late April and early May with straggling singles on May 23 and Aug. 29. All seen were flying over, mostly from east to west, towards Lake Manitoba. Probably the growing alkalinity of the lake has destroyed the fish and forced them to seek other feeding grounds.

16. WHITE PELICAN, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchus*.

Said by the Ward brothers to have been a very common breeder on the islands during high water, and Raine speaks of an "Island white with them" in 1894. Seton tells of seeing a flock of thirty-five and finding a score of deserted nests, "the eggs strewn about, in some cases evidently sucked, I suppose by Herring Gulls". We are told that their eggs used to be regularly gathered by Indians and others. In one case a boat-load were boiled and fed to the hens. At present only a few small flocks appear in the spring, and occasional summer visitors. Young reports thirty on May 6, which were all we saw.

17. *RED-BREASTED MERGANSER, *Mergus serrator*.

Young found one dead on the beach near the Narrows in the spring of 1918. This is our only definite record of the species. Though the Ward brothers do not distinguish between the two big saw-bills, they report them common in spring but do not think they breed locally.

18. *HOODED MERGANSER, *Lophodytes cucullatus*.

Young reports this species in early May, the middle of June, late July and the last of August. The Wards state that it breeds in the neighbourhood and that young in flapper stage are often