

CATALOGUE OF THE COLLECTION

NOTE.

Numbers in brackets are those of the Check List of the American Ornithologists' Union. Diphthongs are not indicated by the use of connected vowels in the scientific names, as in the Check List. Drawings 11, 18, 39, 50 (1) were done in England.

DIVING BIRDS—ORDER 1—PYGPODES.

GREBES—Family Colymbidae.

Grebes are birds having a duck-like body, but with pointed bills. Their feet are unlike those of the ducks, each toe having its separate lobe, and having a broad, flat nail. Their wings are very small for the size of the body, making it impossible for them to rise in flight from the land. They rise from the water by running a few yards along the surface until they have secured sufficient headway to allow them to launch themselves into the air. On land they are very awkward and can only progress with difficulty. Together with the Loons, they are the most expert aquatic birds that we have, diving like a flash and swimming for an incredible distance under water.

1—(2) **HOLBOELL'S GREBE**—*Colymbus holboellii*—(Adult in Autumn)—This Grebe is 19 inches in length and can be distinguished by the white cheeks and throat and the reddish brown foreneck: a regular, but never a common, spring and autumn visitor to the waters of southern Ontario. They breed in the far north, placing their floating nests of decayed vegetation in the water in the midst of the marsh grass. They lay from three to six eggs of a dingy white color, stained by a thin, chalky deposit. Size of eggs 2.35 x 1.25. Made Oct. 20th, 1859.

2—(3) **HORNED GREBE**—*Colymbus auritus*—(Adult)—This species is one of the most beautiful of the Grebes, having buffy ear tufts, black cheeks and throat, and chestnut neck, breast and sides. They are abundant on the Great Lakes and all large bodies of water in spring and autumn, breeding in the large marshes. A few remain on the lakes of southern Ontario through the winter. Their nest is a floating mass of decayed matter, and their eggs white, stained to a dirty brown. Size of eggs 1.76 x 1.15. Made May 1st, 1846.

3—(3) **HORNED GREBE**—*Colymbus auritus*—**Hell Diver** (Young)—Abundant on the Great Lakes in spring and autumn; breeding in the large marshes. A few remain in southern Ontario through the winter. Made in October, 1862.

4—(6) **PIED-BILLED GREBE**—*Podilymbus podiceps*—**Hell Diver**—(Young)—The Dabchick, as this bird is called, is the best-known species of the family. They make more substantial nests than other species by the addition of mud, which they bring up from the bottom of the pond. It is a common summer resident in marshes all over the Province of Ontario, breeding throughout its range. Arrives early in April, departs about the middle of October. The bird may also be known by the shape of its bill, which is higher than it is broad, and in the summer is white with a black band across the middle. The throat is also black. They lay from five to nine dull white eggs. Size 1.70 x 1.18. Made Nov. 12, 1862.