

The Rockwood Review.

places can scarcely be passed through. Formerly there were white birch of a fair size, but these have almost all disappeared, and with the exception of the above trees there is nothing of any size except alders and willows.

A thick growth of moss covers the ground in the spruce woods; in open and partially cleared spaces, the little plant "*Cornus Canadensis*" is very plentiful.

As a field for botanizing, I should not consider the islands to be a first rate resort, for beyond beach plants there is no great variety. Of common ones the "Dill" is perhaps the most noticeable, and is quite abundant. My previous impression of the islands was very different to the actual case, and instead of finding a sandy waste and marshy flats, the principal islands are hilly, conical hills rising to a height of 400 and 500 feet, and on Entry Island to as much as 600 feet—the highest point of the Islands above the sea level. These hills are for the most part of red sandstone, as are the cliffs along the sea shore, and when cleared of spruce, are green to the top, the low grounds being still covered with a growth of spruce and fir. The sand hills and flats are chiefly found on Grindstone and Coffin Isles, where a long ridge of sand connects one island with another, and gives them an altogether unique character.

June 16th.—Visited to-day the west side of Grindstone Island. After crossing a range of grassy hills of the usual conical form, I came to a level flat, which was terminated near the sea shore by a gravelly beach, and further on by sand hills.

Here I met with several specimens of the Fox-sparrow, and noticed one young bird just able to fly. Though I searched and watched the birds for a long time, I could not locate the nest, but was more successful in the case of the black-poll Warbler. This is another common bird, and has its "habitat" chiefly among the stunted spruce

trees. I noticed a female with a rootlet in her beak, and after watching, located the nest in a small spruce some eighteen inches from the ground. I collected four eggs from this nest on the 28th, somewhat incubated. During my stay on the islands I found four of these nests, all built in spruce trees, at from one to five feet from the ground.

After reaching the beach proper, I heard the shrill whistles of some shore bird, and with the aid of my field glasses identified the "Piping Plover," whose four eggs laid in a slight depression of the gravel and sand I found a little later. They were nearly fresh. The piping plover is rare in Ontario; I never saw it, but a few pairs are said to frequent Point Pelee, Lake Erie.

Several of our Ontario birds were quite at home and even common on the islands, noticeably the robin, the kingfisher, the Savanna sparrow and the bluejay.

June 17th I spent in the neighborhood of the Parsonage, and was much interested in watching some pine Grosbeaks, as well as some white-winged Crossbills. Both of these birds evidently breed on the Islands.

June 18th.—I took a long ramble today, walking to the top of one of the highest hills on Grindstone Island, about 500 feet above sea level, from whence a splendid view of the group of Islands is obtained, the long range of sandy hillocks extending to Grosse Isle on the north, and enclosing what is known as the "Lagoon"—a shallow body of salt water with a narrow outlet at Grand Entry. To the south is Amherst Island, connected with Grindstone by another ridge of low sand hills, and far away in the south-east is the dim outline of the Cape Breton coast, said to be fifty miles away.

I observed several birds, but met with but few of their nests; the golden-winged Warbler, the black Snowbird, two pairs of golden-winged Woodpeckers, and a pair