

## BIRDS OF THE GRAND PRE REGION, N. S.

NOTES ON THE FEATHERED RESIDENTS OF, AND  
VISITORS TO, THIS INTERESTING SECTION  
OF KINGS COUNTY.

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The following is the first instalment in a series of articles, and notes, on the birds of the Grand Pre region, Kings County, Nova Scotia. The observations herein recorded are the fruits of careful and painstaking field-work, carried on intermittently for a period covering the past twenty years.

The country covered by these notes is the region embraced by Kings County; especially that portion within a radius of ten miles of Wolfville, and including the Grand Pre (or Great Prairie) which stretches from the mouth of the Cornwallis River to the mouth of the Gaspereau. The mud-flats exposed at low tide in Minas Basin; the salt marshes and sand beaches adjacent to the Grand Pre meadows; the heavily wooded hills, fresh water lakes, river marges and forests of the Black River (a tributary of the Gaspereau River); all these have contributed their quota to the observations here set down.

2. *Colymbus holboellii* (Reinh.). HOLBELL'S GREBE.—On May 13, 1917, I saw one of these birds on Sunken Lake in the Black River district. It was near the shore and was readily distinguished from *auritus* and *podiceps* by its much larger size. I have a record of this species from Lunenburg County, but this is the first for Kings.

3. *Colymbus auritus* Linn. HORNED GREBE.—Rare transient. Only one record; a specimen in immature plumage taken in December, 1890, by D. R. Munro, of Wolfville, near the mouth of the Gaspereau River. This bird was mounted and is still preserved.

6. *Podilymbus podiceps* (Linn.). PIED-BILLED GREBE.—Uncommon transient. A few records for late summer and fall. A male taken August 30, 1900, by myself in a small fresh-water pond near Wolfville.

7. *Gavia immer* (Brunn.). LOON.—Summer resident, common about our lakes and still-waters, also occasionally observed along the coast in late November. Their arrival at the lakes in spring is coincident with the breaking up of the ice; and they remain till driven out by its return. Nests in June on low-lying islands, always within a few feet from the water's edge. Eggs two in number.

11. *Gavia stellata* (Pont.). RED-THROATED LOON.—Rare spring, fall, and winter visitor. A specimen in immature plumage taken November 8, 1913, by the writer, at the mouth of the Cornwallis; and a female on May 26, 1917, in the same locality. No observations except at salt-water.

34. *Alle alle* (Linn.). DOVEKIE.—One record only. A specimen taken November, 1900, by myself, on the Grand Pre, in a pond hole a few hundred yards from tide water. A fierce gale was raging, and the bird, nearly exhausted, was easily captured alive.

47. *Larus marinus* (Linn.). GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL, "SADDLE-BACK."—Permanent resident. Common in summer, rare and irregular in winter. During the latter part of April the "Black-backs" may be seen in twos and threes, winging their way inland from the salt marshes of the Minas Basin to the fresh-water lakes, several of which are favored by these birds as breeding localities. One of these, Methaul's Lake, I visited in 1908 and again in 1914, about the middle of May. About 20 to 30 pairs were found nesting on each occasion. Solitary granite boulders in the middle of the lakes were used, some being scarcely large enough to hold the nest. Some small islands contained four or five nests. The birds were very shy, and left their nests while the intruder was still several hundred yards distant. Eggs three in number.

51. *Larus argentatus* (Pont.). HERRING GULL, "SEA GULL," "GRAY GULL."—Permanent resident; very common in summer, rare and irregular in midwinter. Nests about June 1. A favorite breeding site is Isle-au-Haute, an abrupt rock-bound island of the Bay of Fundy.

54. *Larus delawarensis* (Ord.). RING-BILLED GULL.—One record only. Specimen taken in May, 1896, by H. F. Tufts.

60. *Larus philadelphia* (Ord.). BONAPARTE'S GULL.—Rare transient. One record only. Specimen taken September 28, 1897, on the Grand Pre, by H. F. Tufts. A heavy northeast rain storm and a high tide prevailed at the time.

The special committee appointed by the Provincial Legislature at its last session to investigate the matter of vocational education, met March 19, at Fredericton, and heard verbal reports from J. Roy Campbell, M. P. P., of St. John, and Fletcher Peacock, director of vocational training for New Brunswick, who visited a number of vocational schools in the United States last autumn and early in the winter. The object of the meeting is to prepare a report which will be presented to the Legislature later in the session.