

paws from the top of the cage. Here he hung for some minutes until he had finished his breakfast.

HARLAN I. SMITH.

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS IN MONTH OF JULY.—This list was made from memory after leaving the islands, so that other kinds may have been seen which are not mentioned. I was not engaged at anything ornithological at the time, and merely afterwards jotted down the names of the birds I remembered having seen.

AMERICAN ROBIN (*Planesticus migratoria*) may be seen at any time during the summer.

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo erythrogaster*). This bird is in evidence at its nesting time, when numbers are to be seen flying in and out of their nests which are built of mud placed against the eaves of barns and other outbuildings.

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*). This European intruder had just made its appearance at the islands, and was then already beginning to make its presence felt.

AMERICAN CROW (*Corvus brachyrhynchus*). Plentiful in the wooded parts of the islands and in the fields.

HORNED LARK (*Otocoris alpestris*). Very common in July in open fields where the bird builds its nest right on the ground where frequently cows are grazing. In the latter part of July the nesting was apparently about over, but although I could not find the nest with the eggs, I caught a fledgling in the open space where it was just learning to fly.

BELTED KINGFISHER (*Ceryle alcyon*). A single specimen of this bird was seen at Havre Aubert, Alright Island, which was alleged to have had a nest in an excavation in one of the cliffs, but I did not see its mate.

HUDSONIAN CURLEW (*Numenius hudsonicus*). Occasionally to be seen along the shores.

GANNET (*Sula bassana*). The distribution of this bird in the Maritime Provinces is very local, but it is very plentiful at the Magdalens where it is often to be seen resting on the bosom of the sea or on the wing.

PETREL. (Sp.?) This bird otherwise known by the name of Mother-Carey's-Chicken is in evidence during stormy weather when it may be seen flying over the crests of boisterous waves. Two individuals were seen by me during a storm when about two miles off shore from Old Harry, Coffin Island.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirunda*). May be seen in the summer time flying over the sea at the islands at any time.

HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*). One of the most common of birds at the islands, to be seen either on the sea or on the land near the shore.

This gull frequents the maritime coasts throughout the year.

MURRE (*Uria troile*). Frequently seen either on the sea or on the wing.

BLACK GUILLEMOT (*Cephus grylle*). This species is popularly known as the Sea Pigeon and is quite common.

ANDREW HALKETT.

AN ETHNOLOGICAL NOTE ON THE "WHISKEY JACK."—The term "whiskey-jack", locally applied in Canada to the Canada Jay, looks for all the world like a genuine English word. Ingenious theories might be spun as to the origin and applicability of the term. Such theories, however, would be little more profitable than the well-known bit of folk etymology that explains the asparagus plant as "sparrow grass". As a matter of fact, "whiskey-jack" is merely the perverted English form of an Indian original.

In his "Myths and Folk-Lore of the Timiskaming Algonquin and Timagami Ojibwa",* F. G. Speck states that "the trickster-transformer Wiskedjak 'meat-bird' is the personified Canada Jay or 'Whiskey-Jack'." He proceeds (pp. 2-16) to give a number of Timiskaming Algonquin tales dealing with this well-known Indian character. The name Wiskedjak occurs in other forms in closely related Algonquin tribes of Canada. In his "Notes on the Eastern Cree and Northern Saulteaux",** Alanson Skinner gives further tales referring to the same mythological character. The Northern Saulteaux form is given by him as Wisekejack, the Eastern Cree form as Wisagatchak. Further, we find Wisagatchak stories of the Cree included by Frank Russel in his "Explorations in the Far North."† The Algonquin and Northern Saulteaux are to all intents and purposes bands of the Ojibwa, who have travelled north and come into contact with their present neighbors the Cree. The main body of Ojibwa tribes are not acquainted with Wisagatchak, so that it is a fair inference that he is, to begin with, a Cree culture-hero and trickster and that many of the tales told of him travelled to various other Algonkian tribes that neighbored the Cree. It is not at all certain, however, that he originally had anything to do with the Canada jay, as he does not seem to be so identified in all of the tribes, nor does the word itself indicate the jay. Evidently related to Wisagatchak is the Fox culture-hero and trickster Wisahkâ.†† The Fox Indians are now

*Geological Survey of Canada, Memoir 71, Anthropological Series No. 3, 1915, p. 1.

**Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History, vol. 3, 1911, pp. 83-88 and 173-175.

†University of Iowa, 1898; see "Myths of the Wood Creecs," pp. 201-216.

††See William Jones' "Fox Texts," Publications of the American Ethnological Society, vol. 1, 1907, pp. 329-379.