

migrate unharmed. In addition to this, as I have said before, the foxes are mercilessly persecuted, and no doubt should the present efforts to exterminate them result successfully, the number of ducks breeding on the island would be largely increased, and might even be added to by other species.

As may be supposed, there are no tree birds resident on the island, and it is a curious and noteworthy fact that not only is Sable Island the only breeding ground in the world of the Ipswich sparrow, but also that this is the only land bird that breeds on the island. Nearly all the commoner Nova Scotia birds are found there during the spring and fall migrations as stragglers. All that I saw were the barn swallow, king bird, black-poll warbler, white-throated sparrow, water thrush, and one specimen of the orchard oriole, the latter being exceedingly rare. All these birds are, of course, under unfamiliar circumstances, having to rest largely upon the ground or on fence posts and buildings. But they seemed happy enough, and apparently a few of them remained for several days, possibly waiting for a favourable wind to carry them north.

Of sea birds, three gulls were seen, the herring gull, the great black-backed gull and the kittiwake, the latter being the only one seen in large numbers; of it one flock of several hundred was noted at the west end on May 22nd, while numerous small flocks and individuals were seen all over the island, but they have not yet been found to breed. The greater yellow legs and the red phalarope complete the total list of 21 species of birds which I noted upon the island. The phalaropes live mostly out at sea, and I was told by one of the men on the Government steamer *Arcadia* that he usually sees them far from land, swimming among the beds of floating seaweed, where, no doubt, they feed upon the minute life which finds its home in such places. The sailors call them sea geese. A flock of these birds were flying around the island a few days before my arrival, when they encountered one of the telephone wires, with the result that three of them were injured, one fatally; another lost a wing, and a third recovered itself fully in a few days. I made a specimen of the one whose wing was cut off. A few days later on I was surprised to have the other injured bird fly past me and alight on the edge of the