

poles and fence posts, wind is said often to scoop a round hole, often of considerable depth ; at other times, when Boreas is in a building mood, it is piled up around the telephone poles, until once it occurred that the line had to be moved to prevent the wires from burial. Some of the poles we saw had only about six feet left projecting out of an original height of 25 or 30 feet.

My first thoughts on Sable Island were not for the success of the forestry experiment, but for the little birds who made this strange island their only home, and my ears were on the *qui vive* for the first notes ; and although it was foggy and rainy, as we approached the superintendent's house I could hear some sparrow-like chirps, and in a moment or two I heard the first song of the Ipswich sparrow, and was delighted to think that I would have them at such close range as the front yard of the house in which I was to stay. They proved to be very common, and one could hardly go to the door without seeing on the board walk which stretched away through the hay field, a pair or more, while their song could be heard at almost every moment of the day from the same point of observation.

As the rain continued, and it was therefore deemed unnecessary to proceed with the work of the trip at once, I took advantage of the opportunity in spite of the weather, to start off on a tramp up the island. By far the most numerous of all birds there were two terns—the common tern and the arctic. These are the small gull-like birds with the forked tail, whose skins have been used so much in the past few years for the decoration of hats. On Sable Island they are in thousands ; one can never go out of the house without having them in sight and in hearing ; nor is there any place on the island where it is possible to escape their presence. The common tern probably outnumbered the arctic by about two or three to one, but the habits of the two are so familiar that they may be considered together. The roseate tern, a more southern form, breeds in small numbers, and had just arrived at the time of our visit. The nesting places of the other terns were scattered all over the island. They breed as a rule in communities, although we saw a few places where it seemed as though perhaps less than half a dozen pairs would nest together. We were too early for the height of the breeding season, but the birds had begun to lay, and