

Cranes and Swans—These birds suffer in their breeding haunts in the far north. Few are killed after they migrate. Both must have conditions where they are not much disturbed when at rest; large bodies of water free from pleasure craft for swans and large open plains for cranes. They mostly now pass over their former winter quarters and those they used on migrations formerly, as they are too much disturbed. Protection will not change this.

Long Billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus* Wies.) are bound to decrease and perhaps disappear. Their favourite breeding grounds now are summer-fallows and cultivation destroys most of their nests. Crows and coyotes also get their eggs and young. Nobody shoots them in B. C.

Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius hudsonicus* Lath.)—Plentiful all along the Pacific coast. Only pass through B. C. in spring and fall—mostly in May. Nobody shoots them.

Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis* Forse).—The disappearance of this bird like that of the Labrador duck and passenger pigeon will always be an unexplained mystery.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa* L.)—Still plentiful where the proper breeding conditions exist. It is bound to disappear from the east where the big timber is cut away and the woodland ponds and streams dry up.

The commonest goose in B. C. is Hutchins goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsi* Rich.)—Practically all of these pass through between 1st October and 25th November and again from 10th April to 20th May.

Ducks.—Canvas backs, Redheads, and scaups or blue-bills are all increasing in the interior of B. C. where they are good game ducks. This is probably due to the increase of duck weed in the larger lakes. The bulk arrive in from the south late in January in Okanagan and get extraordinarily far. Few are shot in comparison to the thousands that come north.

Up to March 1st the proportion of males to females in all ducks except Mallards is about 3 to 1. In the Mallard the proportion of the sexes is the same the year around. In California and Mexico the females of most ducks are in excess. Mating with most ducks commences about 1st March in our province.

Grouse.—All grouse are practically permanent residents wherever found and should have plenty of protection. Make open season short and bag limit small. First October should be early enough for open season to start. Bag limit eight of any one species per day. They

EDITORIAL NOTE:—The above notes are taken from a valuable letter dated August 19, 1917, which I received from Major Brooks in reply to a request for his opinion on a number of points in connection with the Regulations under the Migratory Birds' Convention Act.—C.G.H.