

hear; and particularly I received much assistance from my friend Mr. James Hepburn, a gentleman who has spent many years in collecting the birds of the North Pacific, and whose knowledge is only equalled by his liberality in imparting it to his less fortunate brother naturalist. His princely (for no other term will designate it) collection is now in San Francisco, and I trust that he will by-and-by favour us with an extended account of North-Pacific ornithology; but in the meantime this synopsis, which owes all that is most original in it to his notes, may stand as a contribution to zoogeography, which can alone proceed on a sure basis by the collection of local faunas.

It would, however, be out of place, in the present state of our knowledge of the avifauna of the island, to attempt anything like an analysis of the geographical distribution of the elements which compose it, for in a few years this would require to be done over again; and as this list is manifestly imperfect (though complete according to our present acquaintance), no good purpose could be served thereby. Many of the birds are common to the whole American continent, and some are even European; most of them are already known as more southern members of the Pacific-coast fauna, while several, as noted in the list, are now recorded for the first time from the west of the Rocky Mountains. The interior of the island is very bare of bird-life, the gloomy pine-forests permitting few or no plants (on the seeds of which many of the insessorial species feed) to grow under their shade. However, an occasional bird is seen by the shores of the beautiful lakes and rivers which we came across in our exploration; while Grouse might be heard drumming in nearly every portion of the country, and the tapping of the Woodpecker is often for days the only sound (save the cry of the Heron and the noise of the Geese and Ducks which resort for breeding-purposes to the solitary inland waters) to break the stillness of these lonely and sombre forests. In the winter most of these lakes are frozen over, and continue so until early in the summer. During this period the water-birds resort in countless numbers to the quiet inlets and bays on the coast, but particularly to the marshy lands at the mouths of many of the rivers, such as the Somass, the Sooke, Nempish, or the Cowichan. It is on the