

BIRDS OF THE GRAND PRE REGION, N. S.

Notes on the Feathered Residents of, and Visitors to, this Interesting Section of Kings County

BY ROBIE WILFRID TUFTS.

(Special to the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW.)

(Continued from last Month.)

106. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (Vieill.). LEACH'S PETREL; "MOTHER CAREY'S CHICKEN."— Exceedingly rare. One observation only. After a heavy storm, on November 8, 1913, a flock of a dozen or more were seen at the mouth of the Cornwallis. These were asleep, holding on to the stems of the rank marsh sedges which were about half submerged by the high tide, and thus afforded a mooring. We approached them in a boat, and captured several in our hands.

117. *Sula brassana* (Linn.). GANNET.— About 1898 and regularly for some years previous, a pair of Gannets nested at Harborville, Kings County. The nest was on a ledge of rock, about one hundred feet above the beach, on the perpendicular sea-wall of the Bay of Fundy. Above the ledge was a huge overhang of rock extending thirty or forty feet out and rendering the ledge absolutely inaccessible. One of the pair, probably the female, was shot while on or by the nest by a young man named Morris, and was picked up on the beach below. Charles Morris, now of Margaretville, Annapolis County, the boy's father, recently told me of this, and described the bird so clearly as to leave no doubt whatever as to its identity, although the specimen was not preserved. This is the only record I have of the occurrence of this species in Kings County.

119. *Phalacrocorax carbo* (Linn.). CORMORANT.— Uncommon transient. One specimen taken in November, 1898, near the mouth of the Gaspereau River. Occasionally seen on the Minas Basin in spring and fall, but more frequently in the spring.

120. *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus* (Swains.). DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.— A fine specimen was captured alive in a fish-weir on the mud-flats off Starr's Point, Cornwallis, on May 16, 1917, and a second specimen was taken in the same weir on May 28 of the same year. They are the only records I have.

129. *Mergus americanus* (Cass.). AMERICAN MERGANSER; "GOOSANDER."— Uncommon winter visitor. Only a few records. A specimen in immature plumage taken on the Grand Pre marshes December 9, 1913. A male in full plumage taken in December, 1898. No observations except at salt water.

130. *Mergus serrator* (Linn.). RED-BREASTED MERGANSER; "SHELL-DRAKE."— Permanent resident, most common about our rivers and lakes. Breeds about the middle of May. Locally this bird is frequently mistaken for the rare Wood Duck.

132. *Anas platyrhynchos* (Linn.). MALLARD.— Rare fall visitor. Two records only. A fine drake taken on the Grand Pre, October, 1900, by D. R. Munro, of Wolfville, and a specimen in female or immature plumage by H. A. Ford, now of Calgary, Alta., also on the Grand Pre, in October, 1903.

133. *Anas rubripes* (Brewst.). BLACK DUCK; BLUE-WINGED DUCK.— Abundant permanent resident. These birds frequent the salt marshes about the estuaries of the Minas Basin from September to April. With the advent of spring and the breeding instinct, they leave for the inland fresh-water lakes and rivers. Some remain to breed in the fresh-water sloughs, pond-holes and ditches of the Grand Pre. Late in November and all through December when the ice has driven the inland breeding ducks to the coast, flocks of thousands may be seen any day, feeding on the salt marsh — known locally as "The Flats"—at the mouth of the Cornwallis River. During January and February fully ninety per cent of these birds leave for more southerly feeding grounds.

137. *Mareca americana* (Gmel.). BALDPATE.— Rare fall migrant. One specimen taken by my brother, H. F. Tufts, on the Grand Pre, in October, 1896.

139. *Nettion carolinense* (Gmel.). GREEN-WINGED TEAL.— Fall migrant, not so common as formerly. Two records for winter. A male taken by H. F. Tufts, January 11, 1898, and two specimens seen at mouth of Gaspereau, January 3, 1916.

140. *Querquedula discors* (Linn.). BLUE-WINGED TEAL.— Rare fall migrant. One record only — a specimen in immature plumage, taken by my brother, September 27, 1898.

143. *Dafila acuta* (Linn.). PINTAIL.— Uncommon fall migrant. A few specimens, which I have seen in the flesh, have been taken by local gunners during the period covered by these notes.

(Continued next month).