

of December and May, in variegated plumage in September, and in white or variegated in June. It is not easy to understand this, but I speak of what I saw. Ptarmigan were also seen out at sea—off Labrador—early in October, their tails spread out fan-shape in flight, and their plumage was then white.

We must hurry through the birds. That line of the arctic fauna is too great to do anything like justice to in a single lecture.

Shore-birds are numerous. One day a little Sandpiper tried to decoy me away from its nest by feigning to have its wings broken. It would allow me almost to touch it, and then skip away; after which it repeated its tactics. I sat on a rock and patiently watched it until it returned to its nest, which contained four beautiful eggs.

The Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulicarius*)—a bird of wide distribution—is well represented and thoroughly at home in our northern waters. With its coot-like feet it swims gracefully about in the ponds, and equals any duck in its ease of movement, a thing shared with other Phalaropes, but otherwise unique among the shore birds. During the summer it was common at Fullerton, but its nest was hard to find.

The Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*) was found at Southampton and Hutchen's Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*), and the Lesser Snow Goose or Wavy (*Chen hyperborea*) at Fullerton.

Eiders (*Somateria mollissima*) was very plentiful, and some remained at the floe or open water throughout the winter, and were frequently shot.

The following analysis of the contents of the gizzards of some 20 Eiders may be of interest:—Numerous shells of *Acmæa testudin-
alis*, numerous fragments of valves of *Tonicella marmorata*, a few shells of *Margarita cinerea*, a number of shells of other small gastropods, a few opercula of a gastropod, egg-capsules of a gastropod, numerous valves of *Crenella*, fragments of valves of various small and medium-sized lamellibranchs, various parts of the shells of *Hyas* and other crustaceans, a few pieces of the arms of an ophiurian, a few bones of a very small teleost, fragments of alga, numerous small stones.

The King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) was of rarer occurrence than the common Eider, but was occasionally seen. A male bird