

hunt where they can pick up scraps and often a pair will be seen feeding near polar bear. In settlements where there is a supply of food to be found in a disposal area you will find them in numbers over 100 and DEW Line radar stations have become a special home. They will fight with dogs but are extremely wary of humans which probably accounts for their ability to flourish under such great odds.

Ducks are the most common of all wildfowl, especially the brilliantly colored King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*). Eskimos prize these birds for their flesh and the down for clothing and bedding. When the females are nesting great forays are made to these grounds to rob the eggs which regardless of the stage of incubation are considered quite edible by the less sophisticated natives.

Snow geese, blue geese, Canada and Brant all nest in the Eastern Arctic. They do not mix much except that snows and blues have been found in the same area and all of them seem to prefer regions which can not be reached by Eskimos during the critical nesting time.

A special northern bird is the snowy owl (*Mycetea nyctea*). This silent killer of the North feasts on lemming and ptarmigan and in years when this food supply is abundant, is found plentiful. This beautiful bird will often migrate far South.

The Gyrfalcon (*Fulco rusticolus gyrfalco*) is another noteworthy bird resident of the Eastern Arctic, one which prefers to nest in high cliffs overlooking the sea. These are the falcons which can be trained to hunt in sport and are now considered a semi-rare bird.

Gulls of all kinds of course are plentiful in the vicinity of water and in the inland lakes regions you will find plovers, sandpipers, knots and phalaropes.

The Atlantic murre (*Uria lomvia*) is found in a number of large colonies in the Eastern Arctic, these always being located on the steep face of a cliff at the edge of the sea. Here you will see every

ledge covered with thousands of small birds which closely resemble penguins, standing side by side. In these same colonies you will find guillemots and dovekies just as plentiful and always on the top ledges are a few of the big gulls which live on eggs for the Summer. Foxes somehow manage to scale the sheer walls to live on young birds for the season, but in spite of these losses the birds flourish in unbelievable numbers. The discharge of a firearm in a colony will result in the blackening of the sky as the adults wing out to sea in fright.

Willow ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus lagopus*) and rock ptarmigan (*Lagopus rupestris*) are worthy of mention for they form an important part of the Winter diet of the Eskimos. Women and children especially pursue this game and it is here that the youngsters learn how to handle weapons and take game.

It is not until one contemplates the numbers of species and their abundance that you realize just how important the fauna is to the economy of the country. From an esthetic point of view it also has an added interest for as the land itself is unique so is the bird and animal life.

There are no forests and little developed soil, nevertheless plant life flourishes, adding another chapter to the varieties of flora found on the face of the earth.

Because the Summers are short, rainfall light and temperatures generally low, plants do not exist under conditions normally conducive to rapid growth. That which does grow is important though because it furnishes food for the caribou and other animals important to the natives.

Various plants grow according to the well defined area of ground present, thus in a small area where you have rock, tundra and marsh, you will find three distinctive types of growth. Truly Arctic is that area which is covered by rock for here the brightly colored mosses and lichens grow. Heather, grasses and ground willow grow in the tundra areas and long