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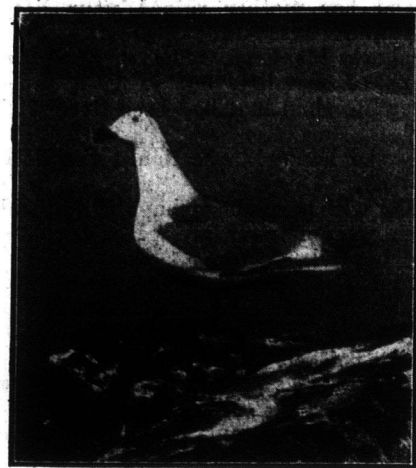
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The Home Life of our friend The Glaucous-winged Gull.

By Bonnycastle Dale.



If you would see the full home life of the Glaucous-winged gull with its love songs and dainty courtship, if you would hear its odd cries that are sounded on the breeding grounds only, you must seek out some lonely rock, where no water runs, where few hardy plants can live, where the surf rolls forever. Such an island is the Mittenatch that lies off Cape Mudge, in the middle of the Gulf of Georgia. Fritz, my assistant, a lad of few years and many actions, and I arrived there one bright June day. As viewed from our flat-bottomed steamer—viewed between rolls and pitches as she slid heavily down the waves like some steam tormented sleigh—it is a perpendicular mass of metal bearing rock, all standing on edge like some giant's staircase. All the dark grey face of the island is bluff, the waves, with ceaseless undercutting, breaking



She watched the camera closely.

every shelf and ridge and chimney step, in the gullies and crannies, in the sea caves and honeycombs stood, or flew or scrambled the sea fowl.



They watched us from every cliff top.

off sections yearly. To add to the general destruction, British war vessels have targeted their guns upon the bald cliffs. All along the ridges white dots told of our anticipated studies. From end to end of the two big steppes gulls and guillemots, harlequins and cormorants sailed and curved and squabbled. Fritz was in a dreadful way to get ashore, in fact so much so that he vainly rowed the first boat of camp duffle, standing up manfully, seaman fashion, facing the bow, putting in long hard strokes. I heard the engineer say, "loose your painter, boy, you'll get along faster." Shamfacedly he untied the rope and sped swiftly ashore. Soon the steamboat rolled gracelessly away, our tent was up, our cameras in shape. Here we were alone amidst five thousand sea fowl, no water save that in our ever useful coal oil tins, just enough food to last ten days, some two hundred films and two unblemished note books.

We took a careful survey of the island; Fritz rowing—a most excellent exercise for a growing boy—I could hardly keep from calling him "Friday"—but dreading that "Crusoe" might stick I forebore. All along the cliff-tops, a hundred feet above, all along

Chief among these, the big white Glaucous-winged gulls held all the prominent points. When rounding the most easterly point we came upon the separate roosting grounds of the immature birds, gulls in the gray plumage of the first year and the more spotted gray coat of the second year. There were also pure white gulls here with gray mantles on their wings and yellow bills and a big red spot underneath the lower mandible, the legs flesh color to gray—the true Glaucous-winged gull, but these non nesting ones were aged adults, barren females, widows and widowers by natural causes or by accident. All of these kept themselves separate from the two great upthrown steppes that formed the two series of breeding cliffs; here they sat on this low point, day after day, just feeding and sleeping and sunning away the time. They flew noiselessly away at our approach.

Now began days of hard climbing, nest hunting, note taking. Here were at least fifteen hundred nesting females, glaucous-winged gulls. We should find the grass and weed formed nests on every ledge and staid and steppe. We did. We should find the olive or olive green or gray eggs, eggs all spot-

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