

kelp and seaweed—the piping plover. A week or two later quite a number of these birds put in an appearance, and as I later observed, stayed to rear their young. A few days later the semipalmated plover and least sandpipers came along from the south, some of which also remained to breed.

The capture of two birds very rare to the province was made during this trip. On April 23rd a little blue heron was flushed and shot from a salt marsh behind the sand beaches. On the 25th a least bittern was found on the beach, its feet entangled in a mess of eel grass and sea-weed. He was quite alive however. Heavy southerly gales and much fog had prevailed for some time previous and no doubt these birds had thus strayed and drifted from their more southern haunts.

I left this locality for the interior on May 6th, but returned again on the 4th of June en route to Seal and Mud islands, which lie some 20 miles off the coast. Being detained here for two days on account of storms, I again went over the ground of my previous observations. Now of course the sea birds had gone, but about the beaches and sand dunes were many black-breasted, piping and semi-palmated plover, and spotted and least sandpipers. The black-breasts were merely lingering here before moving to their more northern breeding grounds. All the others, however, gave evidence to the fact that they were nesting. Several nests with eggs of the spotted sand-piper were discovered, and the downy-young some few hours old of the least sand-piper were found on the border of a salt marsh near where they were no doubt hatched. I was not previously aware that these latter bred so far south. Piping and semi-palmated plover were also nesting about the pebbly wastes above the sand beach, as they plainly showed by their excited circlings about my head, but diligent search failed to locate either eggs or young.

On June 8th, the weather having cleared, sail was set for Mud Island—20 miles out to sea. Here were found many Leach's petrels, terns, gulls, guillemots and a few eiders, while of the small land birds the Bicknell's thrush and black-poll warblers were the most interesting. Petrels were nesting all over the island, their burrows and musky odor being much in evidence. At the end of each burrow two birds were almost invariably found, but no eggs as yet.

A pair of eiders had built a nest at the base of a large spruce on the high bank overlooking the beach, and six eggs had been laid, but when examined each egg showed a ragged puncture in its side, through which the contents had been largely removed—this without doubt the work of the crows, which here