

8 BIRD CONSERVATION IN LABRADOR

A campaign of education is necessary, therefore, and I believe that the bird reservation will do more good in making the people understand, not only the need of bird conservation, but its advantages. The game wardens will be looked upon, not as enemies to be avoided and cheated, but as friends who are working for the people's good. If the matter is well managed, the people will regard their reservation with pride, and public opinion will keep the birds there inviolate. The wasted regions near fishing villages now devoid of all sea-bird life on the one hand and the crowded bird reservations on the other will be powerful object lessons in this process of education. I would suggest the placing of a brief notice on each reservation, printed in English, as well as in French, Montagnais or Eskimo, where these languages are used, worded somewhat as follows:

BIRD RESERVATION

The purpose of this reservation is to preserve the birds from destruction and to increase their numbers, so that there will be better shooting on the coast. The people are asked not to disturb the birds or their eggs on this reservation and to avoid the use of guns in its neighbourhood.

There are a number of places that could be named, some of which have responsible men living near, who could be made guardians. For example, on the Canadian Labrador coast I would suggest a small island at the mouth of the bay of Seven Islands, the Perroquet Islands off Long point, Mingan, where the lighthouse keeper could be put in charge; Sea Cow island and the small islands in its neighbourhood near Eskimo point; an island at Betchewan; one at Piashti bay; one or two at Natashkuan; a strip of the sandy shore near the lighthouse at Natashkuan point; Triple islands, off Romaine; Outer and Gull islands and the cliffs of cape Whittle; Gull island at point au Maurier, where the interesting colony of ring-billed gulls breed; St. Mary's island, with its lighthouse; one of the Harrington group of islands; Treble Hill island and Flat island off Great Mekattina; some of the islands of Kecarpoui, near Shekaticka and Old Fort, and lastly, and very important, the famous Perroquet island, in Bradore bay. On the Newfoundland Labrador similar scattered reservations should be made.

These scattered reservations are, it seems to me, more important and more easily kept sacred than large ones, such as the 64 miles of coast between Cape Whittle and Mekattina, suggested by Col. William Wood in his admirable address in 1911 on "Animal Sanctuaries in Labrador."

Some of these islands are now nearly depopulated of birds, but the birds can be trusted to find out where they are safe. On the coast of the United States, where reservations have been established, sometimes close to great cities, the birds, that are elsewhere very shy and wary, are here tame and confiding. I would also suggest that the guardian of the reservation be instructed in the eider down