

Scotland, the Skelligs off Kerry, and its neighbours off Devonshire—all these islands with their wondrous colonies of these very birds with which our attention is now concerned—have been to Britain.

PRESENT CONDITION OF NESTING PLACES IN THE GULF
OF ST. LAWRENCE

**The Bird
Rocks**

These islands, constituting the northernmost member of the Magdalen Islands group, belong to the county of Gaspé. They lie 120 miles out in the gulf and consist of three isolated rock masses, the first, or the Great Bird, covering about seven acres, and the Lesser Birds, which are two bare rock masses, lying close at hand on the west, and being little more than rock reefs. The Great Bird has no human population except the lightkeeper and his assistants. The bird colony here consists of several species of water-fowl of which the gannet or solan goose is preponderant, the others being the razor-bill auk, the puffin, the murre and the kittiwake.

In the days of the early settlements, the "Isles de Margaulx," as they were called by Cartier, housed an enormous and numberless colony. When Audubon visited the place in 1833 he found and made record of what was not generally known at the time, that the attacks of the eggers upon the gannet nests here and elsewhere, particularly on the Labrador coast, resulted in the collecting of some hundreds of thousands of eggs annually, which were sold in the New York and Boston markets. These attacks have undoubtedly been the cause of the extinction of the gannet roosts on the islands and coasts of the Labrador, on Perroquet island and on Grand Manan. Since the establishment of the light on Bird rock the attacks of the eggers on this colony have diminished, but the colony has been, and is yet, exposed to the demands of the fishermen for eggs and to the incidental killing of the birds.

**Census of
Bird Colonies**

The history of this bird colony has been fairly summarized in the recent publication, *The Gannet*, by J. H. Gurney, F.Z.S. (London, 1913), and the statement there incorporated in regard to the census of the colony ten years ago, quoted from observations made by Mr. A. C. Bent, would make the total of the colony about 10,000 birds, of which there were 2,500 gannets, 2,000 kittiwakes, 1,800 razor-bills, 1,600 brunnich murre, 1,400 murre, 100 ring murre, and 600 puffins.

My visits to this colony have been of more recent date, 1910-11, and, without attempting to make an estimate of the total population, I believe that the gannet element in the colony is larger than above intimated and that the total census of the birds would probably not