

On January 28th I revisited this locality and had barely reached the fountain-head of the stream—a veritable hot spring—when a Song Sparrow took wing from the cat-tails about the margin.

It was apparent that the continuous flow of hot water was responsible for the unusual occurrence. The stream banks were almost free of snow and ice for a short distance, which no doubt enabled the birds to secure sufficient food, as they appeared quite active and contented, although the thermometer registered below zero.

The Song Sparrow is apparently somewhat of a slave to custom, even more so than many species. Almost wholly a ground feeder, it appears to ignore seeds adhering to bushes and trees—a fact that tends to keep it under cover, and that may have a bearing on its abundance and wide distribution.

I know of no other record of this species occurring in the Montreal District during the months of December, January, or February, and it is therefore significant that it should be found in the only spot in the district that is at all suitable as a winter habitat.—L. MCL. TERRILL.

Cassiope tetragona (L.) DON. IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.—I observe that J. Dewey Soper in "The Canadian Field-Naturalist," November, 1922, quotes a statement that the finding of *Cassiope tetragona* in Rocky Pass, Western Alberta, has "brought the southern limit of this northern plant a long way south."

This species is recorded by F. K. Butters, in *Minnesota Botanical Studies*, 15th March, 1914, as having been found at 6500 feet in the Selkirk Mountains near Glacier. It is recorded in Britton and Brown, Vol. 2, page 686, as found in Oregon.

In Howell's *Flora of Oregon*, 1903, p. 419, it is recorded for the Cascade mountains in Oregon but no record is given of the altitude at which it is found in that region.

There is no doubt that this species is more common in the north than in the south, but at one time in the development of the vegetation of this continent *Cassiope tetragona* and many other so-called northern plants were common inhabitants of the lowlands. As the climate became warmer and the ice receded, other plants came in and, through competition, crushed them out, or drove them up into the higher altitudes or latitudes. On many of our mountains in British Columbia we find these plants stranded between timber-line and the perpetual snow line with a zone of sub-alpine vegetation gradually encroaching on them. If the mountains are of a sufficiently high altitude *Cassiope tetragona* will climb higher; the altitude

at which it is found depending largely on the latitude of the mountain and to some extent on the precipitation in that district.

Specimens in the University of British Columbia, Provincial Herbarium, are from:

Near Lake Atlin, B.C.—altitude 2000-3000 feet.

Headwaters Stikine, Nass, and Skeena, B.C.—altitude 5000 feet.

Moose and Goat Mts., near Pelly Creek, B.C., and Bad Luck Mountain, Ingenika River, B.C.—altitude 6000 feet.

The specimens found by Prof. Butters on the Selkirks were at an altitude of between 6000 and 6500 feet. This would suggest that they were found a little farther north than those collected by Mr. Soper, but without a knowledge of the precipitation in the Rocky Pass district and without information as to the latitude and longitude it is difficult to say with certainty what region may be claimed as the OLDEST CANADIAN HOME of *Cassiope tetragona*. This I think is a better way of putting it, than by speaking of "its southern limits" as if it were now spreading south. As to their southern limit of migration in the preglacial period we know little; some northern plants went beyond the equatorial line and their descendants are thriving south of the equator. Seeing that during the ice-age all *Cassiope* was wiped out in the north, the present northern plants have not occupied that territory so long as have the plants of the same species now found in Oregon. Prof. Butters' specimens were found near Mt. Sir Sandford (alt. 11,590 ft.) Lat. 51° 39', Long. 117° 52'.—JOHN DAVIDSON.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The statement quoted by Mr. Soper in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, November, 1922, reads in full: "Concerning No. 673, I am glad to state that you have brought the southern limit of this northern plant a long way south. We have *Cassiope tetragona* in our herbarium from numerous places in the far north, the most southern locality, however, being from the Yukon district." The statement could, no doubt, have been more happily worded. It was, however, the writer's intention to convey the idea that the contribution of *Cassiope tetragona* from Alberta to the National Herbarium at Ottawa was considered a very valuable one, inasmuch as the herbarium so far had no specimens from any locality south of the Yukon Territory.—M.O.M.

TWO ANONYMOUS PAMPHLETS ON ANTICOSTI.—The bibliography of the natural history of the island of Anticosti is not extensive. Mr. Harrison F. Lewis has called my attention to a pamphlet of thirty-nine pages, in the library of the Geological Survey, Ottawa, entitled "The Settler and

Sportsman in Anticosti," London, 1885, printed by Morris & Company, but without an author's name. Mr. Lewis states that the pamphlet contains a "List of the Principal Wild Fowl that Breed on Anticosti," and quotes instances that show the list to be unreliable, if not wholly imaginary.

I have in my library another pamphlet of the same origin as the first, entitled "Brief Notes on the Island of Anticosti, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Dominion of Canada," 1886, printed by Geo. Smythe & Company (London). This little pamphlet of eight pages is really a guide to an Anticosti exhibit at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition held in London in 1886, and contains a brief catalogue of the exhibits, and, though anonymous like the first, it states in a footnote "The Birds and Animals modelled, and the Exhibit designed and arranged by Rowland Ward, D.L.S., 166 Piccadilly, W." As I remember the exhibit of which the second pamphlet is the catalogue it consisted of a collection of grains, models of vegetables, samples of woods, a few stuffed animals, and a heterogeneous collection of

birds that in all probability had been secured in London for the purpose of the exhibit, which was a private venture, and not part of the official Canadian exhibit.

While these pamphlets are no doubt quotable in bibliography they are not based on authentic material, and should not be used when writing of the fauna of Anticosti.—J. H. FLEMING.

A Round Table Conference of Federal and Provincial game officials was held at Ottawa on December 6th, 7th, and 8th, 1922, under the auspices of the Canadian National Parks. It is the first convention of its kind ever held in Canada.

The proceedings of the Conference were marked by a splendid willingness to co-operate, and all the resolutions adopted were adopted unanimously. These resolutions, many of which deal with important matters relating to wild life conservation, are too voluminous for publication in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, but copies of them may be obtained upon application from the Commissioner of Canadian National Parks, Ottawa.

BOOK REVIEW

BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF THE STIKINE RIVER REGION OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA. By H. S. Swarth. *Univ. of California Publications in Zoology*, Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 125-314, Plates 8 (colored), 34 figures in text. Issued June 17, 1922.

This is another valuable contribution to northern Pacific coast zoology made possible through the interest and practical support of Miss Annie M. Alexander, who has sponsored so many expeditions to this coastal region. It is fully up to the standard of previous work produced under the same auspices.

It is based upon the results of an expedition conducted by H. S. Swarth, working principally on birds, and Joseph Dixon, specializing on mammals, photography, and the nesting activities of birds. The party arrived at Telegraph Creek, British Columbia, at the head of navigation on the Stikine River, May 23, the general neighborhood of which was worked until June 26. The year does not appear anywhere in the text but is given as 1919 in the captions of the accompanying maps and photographs. Various camps were made down stream until they arrived at Sergeif Island Alaska, at the mouth of the river, August 17, remaining until September 7. The material collected, upon which the present report is based, consists of 534 mammals, 638 birds and 24 sets of

eggs. Some amphibians were collected but are not reported on here.

Pp. 126-157 are occupied by chapters on Introduction, Itinerary and Description of Localities, Topography of the Region and its Bearing upon Animal Life, and The Zonal and Faunal Position of the Stikine Valley. These subjects are all developed in a clear and logical manner, presenting much detail of conditions and some important and far reaching generalizations that contain valuable food for thought.

An annotated list of mammals includes notes on 34 species and subspecies, from p. 158 to p. 198. Notable features here are the graphic diagrams showing individual variation within the subspecies of white-footed mice encountered and their relation to local distribution and allied forms. Incidentally it is interesting to note the caution and hesitation with which the author attempts to identify his Grizzly Bears in harmony with the difficult Merriam revision. It argues ill for the results when those less qualified make the same attempt in the future.

The bird list contains annotations on 127 species and subspecies, from p. 194 to p. 308. The volume closes with six pages of literature cited, which seems to be a complete ornithological and mammalogical bibliography of the region treated.

The country discussed consists of two well defined climates and ecological associations. The coastal slope, characterized by heavy rain fall,



Fleming, James H. 1923. "Two Anonymous Pamphlets on Anticosti." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 37(2), 31–32. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.338230>.

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