

ROSS'S GULL (*Rhodostethia rosia*, Macgill.)

By Professor E. E. PRINCE, Ottawa.

My brief account of the scientific results of Dr. Nansen's Polar Expedition, which appeared in THE OTTAWA NATURALIST last November, has brought me many kind and interesting communications none more so than a letter from Dr. Otto J. Klotz who generously loaned to me a volume of the Report of the International Polar Expedition sent out by the United States Government in 1881. In this volume Dr. Klotz pointed out to me, occur two fine coloured plates of Ross's Gull, or the Roseate Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*, Macgill.) and my statement on p. 143, vol. 14 of this publication demands correction. I ventured to say that in the conjoint report of Dr. Nansen and Dr. Collett, on birds observed in the polar regions, there is given for the first time a fully detailed description of Ross's Gull with exquisitely tinted illustrative plates and I am indebted to Dr. Klotz for calling my attention to the real facts, and for enabling me to correct my statement. In matters of this kind rigid accuracy is above all things necessary and it is only just to the United States observer, Mr. John Murdoch to state that on pp. 123-4-5 of his report on the birds noticed during the International Polar Expedition, 1881-2-3 he gives a description of this rare species, and accompanies it by two tinted plates. Mr. Murdoch states that a large series of specimens was secured, and they appeared not sporadically and in scattered numbers, but in abundance on certain dates. Thus from September 28th to October 22nd, 1881, small flocks were seen moving north-east, their total numbers being so considerable that the observer speaks of them as exceedingly abundant. Next year about the end of September these gulls again appeared plentifully; but, curiously enough, they were all young birds as far as could be ascertained. Mr. Murdoch pertinently remarks that it is difficult to say what becomes of the thousands coming west, and proceeding along the Alaskan coast taking a north-easterly course. Of course the point of observation (Point Barrow) was nearly nine degrees of latitude south of Nansen's, which as I pointed out was in the Hirtenland waters, and its nesting grounds as Nansen sur-

mised are no doubt in these more remote and inhospitable regions. I may add that Mr. Murdoch's beautiful plates occur in a volume mainly consisting of meteorological and other physical records, and less likely on that account to meet the eyes of the naturalist. My indebtedness to Dr. Klotz is on that account greatly increased. I have already sent a note of correction to the New York Sun, which newspaper, as our President, Dr. Ami informed me reproduced almost complete the article published in these pages last November.

Ottawa, February, 1901.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE. AN ADDITION TO THE FAUNA OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

By J. E. KEAYS, London, Ont.

(Read before the Ornithological Section of the Entomological Society of Ontario.)

On Saturday, December 1st, 1900, a large bird was noticed in the vicinity of Lambeth and towards evening was seen pursuing and finally capturing a turkey from the flock of Mr. Jas. Cassidy. Carrying the bird to some distance it lit on the low branch of a tree and commenced its repast at which it remained so engrossed, that two boys, sons of Mr. Cassidy were able to approach close enough to strike it on the head with a rifle, slightly injuring its skull and stunning it so that it was easily carried to the house where it was placed in the cellar apparently dead; but after two hours it was found to be a very lively bird, and on Monday or Tuesday was brought to the city for sale, and is at present in the possession of Mr. Davey. It proves to be a Golden Eagle, in fine young plumage, and as far as we can learn a new record for Middlesex Co.

This eagle breeds sparingly through eastern Canada and is seldom seen far from the courses of large rivers or the shores of lakes, where it follows and preys upon the flocks of water-fowl. Mr. McIllwraith mentions two taken at Hamilton and several at Toronto but a capture this far inland I think is somewhat unusual in Ontario. In the west it is much more numerous and there



Prince, Edward Ernest. 1901. "Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosia*, Maegill)." *The Ottawa naturalist* 15(2), 55–56.

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