

the United States Government has built out from the north shore of Nantucket, close to the harbor entrance where boats are continually passing, a rough stone jetty nearly a mile long, at the extremity of which is an iron rod with a moveable red lantern for the use of the daily steamboat. Last year the man who tends the light told me that as the mussels were growing there in considerable quantity they were attracting the Shoal Ducks, or Eiders, which were coming daily in increasing numbers to feed on them, frequently crawling out of the water onto the rocks. They continued to arrive in greater numbers until some eight hundred had collected, when they commenced to shoot them. The keeper told me that they were observing, so much so that they perceived a difference if the lantern was not in place at the top of the iron rod, and if he did not desire to have any shooting there, all he had to do was to leave the lantern half way down the rod instead of in place at the top, and no Ducks could be induced to come near the jetty to feed, although sitting off on the water in detached groups, where they could observe everything that took place. I should estimate the number of Eiders living around this jetty at present (March 27, 1890) to be about fifteen hundred.

ON A COLLECTION OF BIRDS FROM FORT CHURCHILL, HUDSON'S BAY.

BY W. EAGLE CLARKE.

IN the year 1845, Dr. Gillespie, Junior, presented to the Edinburgh Museum a series of bird skins collected by himself during his residence at Fort Churchill as an officer of the Hudson's Bay Company. This collection has hitherto remained unrecorded, but an account of it may, perhaps, be deemed worthy of a place in 'The Auk' since it is thought that little or nothing has been contributed to the avifauna of the district around this station — the most northerly outpost of civilized man's residence on the western shores of this great inland sea.

Fort Churchill was,* doubtless, an interesting and singularly favorably situated station for ornithological work, for it combined several important advantages. It lay at the mouth of the great river after which it took its name, and in proximity to the sea, and must thus have been an exceptionally good locality for observing and obtaining migratory species. But it had further advantages, for in its vicinity lies the northern limit of forest growth, and hence the boundary to the range of woodland species; while just beyond this natural barrier are those desolate arctic wilds, not inappropriately alluded to by Sir John Richardson in the 'Fauna Boreali-Americana' as the "Barren Grounds," a region, however, affording a congenial summer haunt for Waders, Ducks, and other birds for which the far north offers peculiar attractions.

It is a matter for regret that no data accompany the specimens, which represent seventy-seven species, but it should be remarked however, that each bears a label upon which is written "Churchill Fort, Hudson's Bay, Dr. Gillespie, Junr." The classification and nomenclature adopted are those of the A. O. U. Check-List, while the species have been determined in accordance with the same authority, as set forth by Mr. Robert Ridgway in his excellent and useful 'Manual of North American Birds.' The writer alone is responsible for the naming of the specimens.

Colymbus auritus.—An adult in summer plumage.

Urinator imber.—An adult in summer plumage.

Urinator arcticus.—An adult in summer plumage.

Urinator lumme.—An adult in summer plumage.

Stercorarius pomarinus.—An adult.

Stercorarius parasiticus.—An adult of the melanistic form.

Larus philadelphia.—A young bird in first plumage.

Sterna paradisæa.—*a*, *b*, adults in summer plumage.

Merganser serrator.—An adult male.

Anas boschas.—An adult male.

Anas carolinensis.—*a*, *b*, adult females.

Anas americana.—An adult male.

Charitonetta albeola.—*a*, *b*, adult males.

Clangula hyemalis.—*a*, adult male in summer plumage; *b*, adult female in summer plumage; *c*, adult female in transition plumage.

Oidemia americana.—An adult male.

Botaurus lentiginosus.—An adult.

* The word *was* is used advisedly, for it seems doubtful if the station is now maintained.

Porzana carolina.—*a, b*, adults.

Crymophilus fulicarius.—*a*, adult male in summer plumage; *b*, adult female in summer plumage.

Phalaropus lobatus.—*a, b, c*, adults in summer plumage.

Gallinago delicata.—*a, b*, adults.

Macrorhamphus griseus.—*a, b*, adults in summer plumage.

Micropalama himantopus.—An adult in summer plumage.

Tringa alpina pacifica.—*a, b*, adults in summer plumage. These specimens seem to agree perfectly with Scotch specimens of *Tringa alpina*, with which they have been compared. After an examination of the few American specimens of this bird at my disposal I have come to the conclusion that even the eastern American Dunlins are liable to considerable variation. An adult specimen from New Jersey in full summer plumage is much brighter, though paler, in color than any European specimen I have seen; and the breast is whiter and much less streaked with dusky; the bill, however, is only 1.30 inches in length. An adult in full winter plumage, and also from New Jersey, is a deep brown on the upper surface and quite different from the European bird at the same season, and the bill is no less than 1.70 inches in length. The various dimensions of these four specimens are as follows:

	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Culmen</i>	<i>Tarsus</i>
Fort Churchill <i>a</i>	4.57 in.	1.43 in.	.97 in.
Fort Churchill <i>b</i>	4.65 "	1.52 "	1.02 "
New Jersey (summer)	4.65 "	1.30 "	.96 "
New Jersey (winter)	4.85 "	1.70 "	1.06 "

Ereunetes pusillus.—*a*, adult male in summer plumage; *b*, adult female in summer plumage.

Calidris arenaria.—An adult in summer plumage.

Limosa hæmastica.—*a*, adult in summer plumage; *b*, adult in spring plumage—*i.e.*, with traces of summer plumage, but its winter dress predominating.

Totanus melanoleucus.—An adult in summer plumage.

Totanus flavipes.—Adult in summer plumage.

Actitis macularia.—An adult in summer plumage.

Numenius hudsonicus.—An adult.

Charadrius squatarola.—*a, b*, adults in summer plumage.

Charadrius dominicus.—An adult in summer plumage.

Ægialitis semipalmata.—*a, b*, adults in summer plumage.

Arenaria interpres.—*a, b, c*, adults in summer plumage; *d*, a bird of the year in first plumage.

Dendragapus canadensis.—An adult male.

Lagopus lagopus.—*a, b*, adults in winter dress. In specimen *a*, the wing, from the carpal joint to the end of the longest primary, measures no less than 8.45 inches.

Lagopus rupestris.—*a*, male in winter plumage; *b*, female in winter plumage.

Ectopistes migratorius.—*a*, adult male; *b*, adult female.

Circus hudsonius.—An immature specimen.

Accipiter atricapillus.—An adult female.

Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis.—A light colored specimen practically indistinguishable from Scotch examples of *Archibuteo lagopus*, in immature plumage, in the Edinburgh Museum collection.

Falco rusticolus gyrfalco.—*a*, adult female; *b*, young male in first plumage.

Falco peregrinus anatum.—An adult male.

Falco columbarius.—An adult female.

Asio accipitrinus.—An adult.

Bubo virginianus.—An adult.

Surnia ulula caparoch.—An adult.

Ceryle alcyon.—An adult male.

Dryobates villosus leucomelas.—*a*, adult male; *b*, female.

Picoides americanus.—*a*, *b*, *c*, adult males; *d*, *e*, adult females.

Spyrapicus varius.—An adult female.

Colaptes auratus.—An adult female.

Chordeiles virginianus.—An adult female.

Otocoris alpestris.—*a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, adults in summer plumage; *e*, young bird in first plumage.

Perisoreus canadensis.—An adult.

Scolecophagus carolinus.—*a*, adult male in summer plumage; *b*, an immature bird.

Quiscalus quiscula æneus.—An adult male.

Pinicola enucleator.—*a*, *b*, adult males; *c*, male in orange-red plumage; *d*, adult female.

Loxia leucoptera.—*a*, *b*, *c*, adult males; *d*, *e*, adult females.

Acanthis hornemannii.—*a*, *b*, adults.

Plectrophenax nivalis.—Adult female in spring dress.

Calcarius lapponicus.—*a*, *b*, *c*, adult males in summer plumage; *d*, *e*, adult females in summer plumage; *f*, young bird in first plumage.

Zonotrichia leucophrys.—An adult.

Zonotrichia albicollis.—*a*, adult male; *b*, adult female.

Spizella monticola.—*a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e*, adults.

Junco hyemalis.—*a*, *b*, adults.

Tachycineta bicolor.—An adult male.

Lanius borealis.—*a*, *b*, adults in summer plumage.

Dendroica æstiva.—*a*, *b*, adult males.

Dendroica coronata.—*a*, *b*, adult males.

Dendroica striata.—*a*, an adult male; *b*, a young bird in first plumage.

Dendroica palmarum.—An adult.

Sitta carolinensis.—An adult female.

Parus hudsonicus.—*a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, adults.

Regulus calendula.—An adult.

Turdus alicia.—An adult.

Merula migratoria.—*a*, *b*, adults in summer plumage; *c*, adult with traces of winter plumage.



Clarke, William Eagle. 1890. "On a Collection of Birds from Fort Churchill, Hudson's Bay." *The Auk* 7, 319–322. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4067549>.

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