

improving its grip on a fish, or if it was merely considering what to do next.

After several seconds of quiet, the Osprey began to flap its wings vigorously, in an endeavour to rise from the water and carry away with it the fish that it had seized. In this attempt it failed. Its wings were raised from the water and were flapped very rapidly, lifting its body into the air, but apparently the fish in its talons was a heavy one, for neither it nor the toes that grasped it appeared above the surface of the water. After several seconds of strenuous flapping, the great Hawk ceased its efforts and relaxed into the same semi-submerged resting position in which I had first seen it.

A second or two later a new mode of procedure was attempted. Abandoning its endeavour to lift its prey, the Osprey undertook to drag it along the sea-bottom, which at this place was formed chiefly of smooth, level limestone, to the beach, forty feet away. Rising somewhat from its relaxed position, but with its feet, belly, and tail still submerged, it advanced towards shore by a steady series of deliberate lunges, each of which carried it perhaps a foot forward. Each lunge or forward surge was accompanied by a slow, forceful beat of the wings, which struck backward against the water and were therefore used like oars.

A strange sight indeed was this large bird as, with the feathers of its head wet and matted into groups and ridges, it rowed itself in deliberate and determined fashion toward the shore, dragging its unseen prey through the water! It appeared to be entirely unconscious of my presence and I therefore entertained high hopes that it would choose to land on the beach just in front of my blind. Unfortunately, it did not do this, but pressed towards a point on the beach about forty feet to my left, which was the part of the shore nearest to the place where it had made its capture. Because of the sheltering mass of limestone on my left side, the Osprey passed out of my range of vision before it reached the land and even before it reached water sufficiently shallow to bring its prey into sight above the surface. That it arrived at the shore with its burden I do not doubt, for it was making good progress as it passed from my sight and a few seconds later I heard its notes in a direction that indicated that it was on the beach.

About forty-five minutes later, when I was once more busily occupied with observing and photographing the Eiders, an Osprey suddenly flew low from left to right in front of my blind,

carrying an object of moderate size in its talons. Probably this was the bird that I had seen previously in the water, though I do not know in what way it had become able to carry its captured fish. Possibly it had eaten part of it or perhaps it had merely secured a better hold on it and a better position from which to take off in flight. After I came out of my blind I examined that part of the beach where I supposed that the Osprey had brought the fish ashore, but I failed to find there any blood or other indications that the bird and its prey had been there.

I had no opportunity to recognize the fish that was captured on this occasion, but I surmise that very likely it was a blue lumpfish (*Cyclopterus lumpus* L.) as such fish come into shallow water on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence about the beginning of summer, presumably to spawn, and a large individual would make a heavy and awkward load for an Osprey.
—HARRISON F. LEWIS.

NOTES ON OBSERVATIONS OF CERTAIN BIRDS ON THE ISLAND OF ANTICOSTI, QUEBEC. — During a brief visit to Port Menier and vicinity, on Anticosti, from July 15 to July 17, 1938, I had time and opportunity to make only casual observations of birds. Those observations described below appear to be worth recording in published form. They may be considered as supplementary to previous publications about the birds of this island.*

Gavia stellata. RED-THROATED LOON. — Mr. Harold S. Peters and I saw two adult Red-throated Loons with one downy young bird in a pond on the border of a sphagnum plain near Port Menier on July 15th. On July 16th we saw one adult of this species with one downy young bird in another pond on the tongue of land that forms the west side of Ellis Bay. There appears to be no definite published observation of the breeding of the Red-throated Loon on Anticosti since that made by Professor A. E. Verrill, in 1861.

Hirundo erythrogaster. BARN SWALLOW. — On July 16th Mr. Peters and I saw two Barn Swallows flying near an old building at L'Anse aux Fraises, north-west of Port Menier.

Euphagus carolinus. RUSTY BLACKBIRD. — At least twelve were seen about the swampy shores

**Can. Field-Nat.*, 38:43ff. 1924, and 40:179ff. 1926.

of Lake Plantin, near Port Menier, on July 16th. *Melospiza lincolni*. LINCOLN'S SPARROW. — Two individuals were heard singing near Port Menier on July 16th. — HARRISON F. LEWIS.

OCCURRENCE OF THE AMERICAN COOT AND THE WHIP-POOR-WILL IN EASTERN SAGUENAY COUNTY, QUEBEC. — An American Coot (*Fulica americana*) was caught in a trap, near the village of Old Fort, Saguenay County, Quebec, in the autumn of 1934, by Frank McDonald, of that village. I examined and identified the preserved skin of this bird on July 3, 1936, at which time it was at St. Augustin, Saguenay County, in the possession of William Fequet. Old Fort is on the north shore of the eastern part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, twenty-nine miles west of the eastern boundary of the Province of Quebec. While the American Coot has been recorded from the eastern coast of the Labrador Peninsula, this is apparently the first certain record of it

from the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

A female Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*) was found dead on Cove Island, Saguenay County, Quebec, on June 11, 1936, by William T. Bobbitt, of Harrington Harbour. When found, it had apparently been dead for two or three days. Its skin is now preserved in the bird collection of the National Museum of Canada. Cove Island is situated about three miles from the mainland, on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, about ninety-eight miles southwest of the eastern boundary of the Province of Quebec, and ten miles southwest of Harrington Harbour. This is the first record of the Whip-poor-will in the region of the Labrador Peninsula.

These two records should have been included in my paper entitled "Notes on Birds of the Labrador Peninsula in 1936 and 1937" (*Can. Field-Nat.*, 52:47, 1938, but were omitted through oversight. — HARRISON F. LEWIS.

REVIEWS

The Geologic History of Magnolia State Park. By William Clifford Morse, Ph. D., State Geologist. Bulletin 37. Mississippi State Geological Survey. University, Mississippi, 1938. pp. 1-19, 12 figs., 1 map.

This nineteen page report recently published by the State Geologist of Mississippi is embellished by a dozen artistic photographs, each of which is dated. All of these were taken within a few days of Christmas, and together supply a good composite picture of the Gulf Coast as it appears in winter. One of them displays the beauty of a live oak whose branches have a lateral reach of 180 feet. Another shows a historic church and bears the cryptic title, "A Light House of the Soul".

This admirable little booklet fills the role of a lighthouse for those who are not geologists, in guiding them for this particular part of the Gulf coast, a little way back in geological time. The author lets the reader see in a brief and simple statement, omitting geological jargon, what has been going on in that fascinating border-land of marsh and bayou between the Gulf and the continent during recent geological time. He tells the Gulf coast people with fervour that they have in Magnolia State Park and its bayou something "beautiful beyond description" and

urges that "it must be kept in its natural state without the change of a bank, a channel, or the grass — even under the guise of landscape architecture. It is a God-given trust to the people of this generation and of the generations yet to come". Similar exhortations are needed in many other parts of the continent where misguided zeal in attempts to improve on the beauty of Nature leads to unhappy results. If this sound advice is followed, naturalists and geologists will have good reason to thank Dr. Morse for giving it.

Here a State Geologist is addressing the people of his state from much the same angle that Charles Kingsley a generation ago approached the readers of his *Town Geology*. Too many geological reports are prepared for professional readers only and too few for Mr. Average Citizen. This booklet will be appreciated by the general public whose existence the geologist often forgets about in writing his reports.—EDWARD M. KINDLE.

"ANIMAL TREASURE".—Doubtless many readers of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* read, or heard of, a book called *Animal Treasure*, by Ivan T. Sanderson (Viking Press). To most naturalists



Lewis, Harrison F. 1938. "Notes on Observations of Certain Birds on the Island of Anticosti, Quebec." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 52(8), 124–125.

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