

by one or two feathers only. This, therefore, is comparable to the condition in specimen *No. 3* which shows black on one side only of the throat.

In the Golden-winged Warbler the early white-throated stage has, on this theory, been skipped in the normal bird, for the young have the dark throats of their parents. Brewster's Warbler with its white throat would then be an instance where the hypothetical ancestral stage has not been skipped. It is possible that some of these white-throated birds, if allowed to live, might ultimately develop black throats.

I wish here to express my indebtedness to Dr. Walter Faxon for assistance in the elaboration of this paper, and I would draw the following conclusions:

That Brewster's Warbler is *not* a leucochroic phase of the Blue-winged Warbler, but that it is either (1) a hybrid between the Golden-winged and the Blue-winged Warblers, or (2) that, in the white-throated form, it is a phase, ancestral in character, of the Golden-winged Warbler, and that there is a complete series of intergrades between this and the Blue-winged Warbler.

---

## BIRD RECORDS FROM GREAT SLAVE LAKE REGION.

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED BY MY 1907 EXPEDITION  
INTO THE ARCTIC BARREN-GROUNDS OF CANADA.<sup>1</sup>

BY ERNEST THOMPSON SETON.

COMMON LOON. *Gavia imber*. Common throughout the whole region from Fort Resolution to Back's River. Especially so on all the northern lakes. This and all the Loons stay until frost drives them out in October.

YELLOW-BILLED LOON. *Gavia adamsii*. Common and generally diffused from Fort Resolution to Alymer Lake. Its caterwauls and yodels are much like those of the Common Loon.

PACIFIC LOON. *Gavia pacifica*. Pacific or White-headed Loon. Common everywhere from Fort Resolution to Aylmer Lake, but most abundant on Great Slave Lake.

<sup>1</sup> For the identification of many species, chiefly the Gulls, I am indebted to Mr. E. A. Preble.



RED-THROATED LOON. *Gavia lumme*. Abundant everywhere from Fort Resolution to Aylmer Lake. It is the noisest of the Loons and has many notes quite unlike those of its kin. One of its cries is like the harsh squawk of a 'devil-fiddle,' and when three or four of the birds are doing it in chorus it suggests a band of hyænas, or a pack of goblin hounds in chase of a goblin buck.

PARASITIC JAEGER. *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Found throughout the region and quite common on the larger lakes of the Barren-grounds. It is usually seen in pairs. It lives much like a hawk or a raven, coming when a caribou is killed, to share in the offal. Once saw one capture a Lapland Longspur on the wing, and have often seen it pursuing ground-squirrels. The flight of the species is comparable with that of the swiftest falcons.

HERRING GULL. *Larus argentatus*. Abundant from Fort Resolution to Back's River, feeding much as Ravens do, on carrion, fish, etc. Will pursue wounded game and often follows the hunter to share in the kill.

CALIFORNIA GULL. *Larus californicus*. Abundant on Great Slave Lake.

SHORT-BILLED GULL. *Larus brachyrhynchus*. Very abundant on Great Slave Lake. Not seen farther east.

COMMON TERN. *Sterna hirundo*. Common around Delta of Great Slave River and noted in small numbers from there to the eastern end of Great Slave Lake. Evidently breeding.

ARCTIC TERN. *Sterna paradisæa*. Common on Great Slave River and Lake and Clinton-Colden and Alymer Lakes. Last seen, Alymer Lake Aug. 24. Much more abundant than the Common Tern.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. *Phalacrocorax dilophus*. Not seen by me, but I was credibly assured that a large number breed every year at Isle à la Crosse, N. lat. 56°, W. Long. 108°.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. The north most colony is that on Great Slave River at Mountain Rapids, 150 miles south of Fort Resolution. Here, about 80 pairs breed each year; on June 22 the young were beginning to hatch.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. *Merganser serrator*. Abundant on Great Slave Lake and northeast to Clinton-Colden; evidently breeding.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL. *Nettion carolinensis*. Common about the Slave River and Delta.

WHISTLER. *Clangula clangula americana*. Abundant along the Great Slave River, down to the Delta, not seen east of that; observed there Sept. 25.

LONG-TAILED DUCK. *Harelda hyemalis*. Generally distributed on the lakes of the Barren-grounds where it breeds. It was very abundant on Great Slave Lake in mid-September near Fort Reliance. doubtless migrating at the time.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. *Oidemia deglandi*. Saw four on Artillery Lake Sept. 8.

SURF SCOTER. *Oidemia perspicillata*. Saw a pair on Slave River Delta July 16 and found it very abundant on Great Slave Lake in mid-September.



LESSER SNOW GOOSE. *Chen hyperborea*. Saw a flock at the narrows of Great Slave Lake Sept. 20.

GRAY WAVEY. *Anser albifrons gambeli*. Saw three at the west end of Lake Aylmer Aug. 15, and others on the north shore of the same lake on the two following days.

CANADA GOOSE. *Branta canadensis*. Appears generally distributed up to the limit of trees. Saw a pair with their brood near Kahdinouay Island, Great Slave Lake, July 19.

HUTCHINS GOOSE. *Branta canadensis hutchinsii*. This is known to be the form of the Barren-grounds proper, so a flock of 20 seen near the southern end of Artillery Lake Sept. 9 were probably of this race.

WHISTLING SWAN. *Olor columbianus*. Not seen until the autumn migration; then saw two or three hundred in small flocks of 3 to 12 on Sept. 22, 23, 24 and 25, around the mouth of Great Slave River.

BITTERN. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. Generally distributed in Great Slave River region and quite common in the Delta about Fort Resolution but not noted farther east.

LITTLE BROWN CRANE. *Grus canadensis*. Generally distributed along Great Slave River. Common about Fort Resolution. Observed once only east of that:—on Sept. 14 saw a flock of 6 flying easterly over Fort Reliance.

CAROLINA RAIL. *Porzana carolina*. This species was common in the region south and up to Fort Resolution, but not noted farther northward or eastward.

YELLOW RAIL. *Porzana noveboracensis*. The peculiar flint-and-steel notes of this furtive species were heard frequently in the marshy country 50 miles south of Fort Resolution, along Little Buffalo Run, but no farther.

NORTHERN PHALAROPE. *Phalaropus lobatus*. One seen near Sandhill Bay, Aylmer Lake, Aug. 20.

WILSON SNIPE. *Gallinago delicata*. Abundant in all the bogs along Great Slave River to the Delta. Not seen beyond.

BAIRD SANDPIPER. *Actodromas bairdi*. Noted on Casba River Aug. 8, and on Aylmer Lake Aug. 13.

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER. *Ereunetes pusillus*. During early August great flocks were seen on the Barrens but all disappeared by the middle of the month.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS. *Totanus flavipes*. A few seen on Casba River Aug. 8.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. *Actitis macularia*. Abundant and breeding all along the Great Slave River and adjoining country, also sparingly from Fort Resolution, the whole length of Great Slave Lake to the edge of the woods. Saw it twice on the Barrens; at the east arm of Clinton-Colden Aug. 11, and on Aylmer Lake in mid-August.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER. *Egialitis semipalmata*. Saw a few breeding birds on Artillery Lake in early August, and an occasional one on Aylmer Lake about the middle of the month.



RUFFED GROUSE. *Bonasa umbellus togata*. Generally distributed in the woods up to Fort Resolution. Not seen or heard east of the Great Slave Delta.

WILLOW PTARMIGAN. *Lagopus lagopus*. Very abundant on the Barrens, where exclusively it breeds, migrating to the woods for the winter.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*. Generally distributed from Fort Resolution to Aylmer Lake; evidently breeding.

GOLDEN EAGLE. *Aquila chrysaetos*. Noted throughout the region from Fort Resolution to Clinton-Colden Lake.

NORTHERN BALD EAGLE. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus alascanus*. Found throughout the country around Great Slave Lake, but less common than the Golden Eagle. On Sept. 23 I saw one pounce three times to catch a fish, but without success.

DUCK HAWK. *Falco peregrinus anatum*. Generally distributed; noted at Artillery Lake and at Aylmer; evidently nesting.

PIGEON HAWK. *Falco columbarius*. Observed at several places on Great Slave Lake in September, the most easterly being Fort Reliance, Sept. 14.

OSPREY. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*. Saw one at the narrows of Great Slave Lake on Sept. 20.

GREAT GRAY OWL. *Scotiaptex nebulosa*. Saw only one during the summer. It was in the country south of Fort Resolution on July 11; evidently breeding.

ARCTIC HORNED OWL. *Bubo virginianus arcticus*. Abundant about Fort Resolution, and seen on the Great Slave River Delta; not observed farther north.

WHITE OWL. *Nyctea nyctea*. First seen on north side of Clinton-Colden Lake Aug. 11. But evidently it is of general distribution in the Barren-grounds.

HAWK OWL. *Surnia ulula caparoch*. Reported generally, but I saw only one; that was collected by E. A. Preble on Artillery Lake Sept. 3. It was at the Last Woods and had evidently come northward after nesting.

NORTHERN FLICKER. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. This was the only woodpecker seen east of Fort Resolution; it was abundant all along the route to the edge of the woods, that is, a point some 20 miles northeast of Fort Reliance. It went southward about mid-September.

PHÆBE. *Sayornis phæbe*. Found nesting all along the route to Fort Resolution and northeasterly as far at least as the narrows of Great Slave Lake on the north shore at W. Long. 111°.

HOYT SHORE LARK. *Otocoris alpestris hoyti*. Common everywhere on the Barrens north to Aylmer Lake; in full song Aug. 29.

CANADA JAY OR WISKAJON. *Perisoreus canadensis*. Abundant everywhere to the edge of the woods, but not seen on the Barrens.

RAVEN. *Corvus corax sinuatus*. Abundant everywhere. Once saw 28 together on the Barrens.

COWBIRD. *Molothrus ater*. Slave River Delta, July 16.



REDWING. *Agelaius phœniceus arctolegus*. Slave River Delta, July 16.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD. *Euphagus carolinus*. Noted at several points along Great Slave Lake. At Kipling Lake, on Pike's Portage, 10 miles east of Fort Reliance, saw young of the year, now fully fledged, July 29.

PINE GROSBEAK. *Pinicola enucleator*. First seen on Et-then Island, Great Slave Lake, Sept. 21. Afterwards seen daily as we journeyed southward.

RED CROSSBILL. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. Saw one on Great Slave River Delta, Sept. 28.

LESSER REDPOLL. *Acanthis linaria*. Common on Pike's Portage, 10 miles east of Fort Reliance July 30, and thence northward to the edge of the woods. Evidently on its breeding ground.

SNOWBIRD. *Passerina nivalis*. First seen on the large central island of Clinton-Colden Lake, Aug. 11. Old ones with young of the year. After that, while we were going northward, others were seen, evidently on their breeding grounds, but it was not a common species.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR. *Calcarius lapponicus*. Beginning exactly at the edge of the woods and continuing as far as we went in the Barrens, were countless Lapland Longspurs. I think I did not see a dry ten-acres in the treeless region that was without at least two pairs of Longspurs. During the time we were there, Aug. 1 to Sept. 8, they were in flocks, at first of half-a-dozen, but finally of hundreds; in migration at Fort Reliance Sept. 14.

PAINTED LONGSPUR. *Calcarius ornatus*. One seen on the north shore of Aylmer Lake Aug. 13.

WESTERN SAVANNA SPARROW. *Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus*. Observed along the whole route in the Barrens, but nowhere plentiful and not seen in flocks. Several appeared about Fort Reliance in mid-September.

HOODED SPARROW. *Zonotrichia querula*. First seen on Kahinouay Island, Great Slave Lake, as we went North, July 20; it was there nesting. After that they were abundant, nesting in every large thicket right to the edge of the Barrens. In the Last Woods Aug. 5, I found the nest, the first I believe known to science. It was on the ground under a dwarf birch, was made of grass and resembled the nest of the White-throated Sparrow. It contained three young nearly ready to fly. I found this species in full song Sept 3.

GAMBEL SPARROW. *Zonotrichia gambeli*. Abundant on islands in Great Slave Lake in late July.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. Abundant at the mouth of the Great Slave River, but not seen farther northeasterly.

TREE SPARROW. *Spizella monticola*. First noted near the east end of Great Slave Lake; afterward abundant and nesting to the Barrens where there were small thickets. About the 1st of September the Tree Sparrows were gathered in small flocks to migrate and now were seen out on the Barrens many miles north of the summer range.

JUNCO. *Junco hyemalis*. Generally diffused, at least as far as the east end of Great Slave Lake.



LINCOLN FINCH. *Melospiza lincolni*. Nesting in the vicinity of Fort Resolution.

SWAMP SPARROW. *Melospiza georgiana*. Seen near Fort Resolution July 16.

FOX SPARROW. *Passerella iliaca*. Nests north to the edge of the woods, one noted at Last Woods on Artillery Lake Aug. 5. Also observed at Pike's Portage, east end of Great Slave Lake, Sept. 11.

CLIFF SWALLOW. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. Abundant, nesting in great colonies in the cliffs of Great Slave and Artillery Lakes, but not seen farther.

BARN SWALLOW. *Hirundo erythrogaster*. Several were seen July 21, about the tall cliffs of Et-then which is a large island in the north side of Great Slave Lake, W. Long. 112° 20'. Doubtless they nest there.

WHITE-BREASTED SWALLOW. *Iridoprocne bicolor*. Common at Fort Resolution. Not seen farther northeast.

BANK SWALLOW. *Riparia riparia*. Found in thousands along the Great Slave River to Fort Resolution. Not seen farther northeasterly.

NORTHERN SHRIKE. *Lanius borealis*. Saw two at Fort Reliance Sept. 15.

RED-EYED VIREO. *Vireo olivaceus*. Common about Fort Resolution.

TENNESSEE WARBLER. *Helminthophila peregrina*. One seen near the eastern end of Great Slave Lake July 28.

YELLOW WARBLER. *Dendroica æstiva*. Fairly common, and nesting at Fort Resolution, and thence to the north shore of Great Slave Lake, at least as far east as W. Long. 109°.

BLACK-POLL WARBLER. *Dendroica striata*. Female observed feeding young at Artillery Lake, Aug. 5.

MYRTLE WARBLER. *Dendroica coronata*. On Sept. 3 a small flock appeared at Last Woods, Artillery Lake. This may be a northward fall migration.

WILSON BLACK-CAP. *Wilsonia pusilla*. Preble collected one at Last Woods, Artillery Lake, Sept. 5. Another north migrant in fall.

WESTERN WATER-THRUSH. *Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*. Common about the Slave River Delta in mid-July.

PIPIT. *Anthus pensilvanicus*. First seen July 24 on north shore of Great Slave Lake about W. Long. 110°, probably nesting; thence northward to Clinton-Colden Lake. Very abundant in migration at Fort Reliance in mid-September.

LONG-TAILED CHICKADEE. *Parus atricapillus septentrionalis*. Abundant along Great Slave River to the Delta; not seen afterwards.

HUDSONIAN CHICKADEE. *Parus hudsonicus*. Abundant along Great Slave River and on the islands of Great Slave Lake to the north shore about W. Long. 112°. Not seen farther north or east.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH. *Hylocichla alicia*. Abundant, and apparently nesting from Kahdinouay Island, middle of Great Slave Lake, to south end of Artillery Lake. Common at Fort Reliance on Sept. 14.



OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH. *Hylocichla ustulatus swainsonii*. Abundant along Great Slave River to near Fort Resolution, but not beyond.

HERMIT THRUSH. *Hylocichla aonalschkae pallasii*. Common in dry woods along Great Slave River north to Kahdinouay Island in Great Slave Lake, not beyond.

ROBIN. *Merula migratoria*. Abundant and nesting throughout the wooded region traversed, as far as the edge of the woods. In the first week of September the species appeared in flocks on the edge of the Barrens.

---

## TWENTY-FIFTH STATED MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

THE Twenty-fifth Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union convened in Philadelphia, Pa., Monday evening, December 9, 1907. The business meeting was held in the Council Room, and the public sessions, commencing Tuesday, December 10, and lasting three days, were held in the lecture hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

BUSINESS SESSION.—The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Charles F. Batchelder. Twenty Fellows were present. The Secretary's report gave the membership of the Union at the opening of the present Stated Meeting as 850, constituted as follows: Fellows, 48; Honorary Fellows, 14; Corresponding Fellows, 61; Members, 72; Associates, 655.

During the year the Union lost eighty-one members, eleven by death, thirty-two by resignation, and thirty-eight for non-payment of dues. The deceased members include two Honorary Fellows, one Corresponding Fellow, one Member, and seven Associates, as follows: Prof. Alfred Newton,<sup>1</sup> an Honorary Fellow, who died in Cambridge, England, June 7, 1907, at the age of 78 years; Howard Saunders,<sup>2</sup> an Honorary Fellow, who died in London, Oct. 20, 1907, aged 72 years; Dr. Rudolph Blasius, a Corresponding Fellow, who died in Braunschweig, Germany, Sept. 21, 1907; Dr. William L. Ralph,<sup>3</sup> a Member, who died in Washington, D. C.,

---

<sup>1</sup> For an obituary notice, see Auk, XXIV, pp. 365, 366.

<sup>2</sup> For an obituary notice, see Auk, XXV, pp. 103-104.

<sup>3</sup> For an obituary notice, see *Ibid.*, XXIV, pp. 461, 462.



Seton, Ernest Thompson. 1908. "Bird Records from Great Slave Lake Region: A Preliminary List of Birds Observed by My 1907 Expedition into the Arctic Barren-Grounds of Canada." *The Auk* 25, 68–74.

<https://doi.org/10.2307/4070251>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/54097>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.2307/4070251>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/86947>

#### **Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

#### **Sponsored by**

Smithsonian

#### **Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.