

XXVII.—*On the Birds observed in the Kola Peninsula, Russian Lapland.* By HARRY F. WITHERBY, F.Z.S.

WITH the intention of crossing Russian Lapland and investigating the avifauna of the district, my friend Mr. A. E. Hamerton and I set out from England on June 3rd, 1899.

On our arrival at Vardö on June 14th, we found that the season was the latest within the memory of the oldest inhabitant of that town; and in consequence we had to wait several days before a Russian steamer arrived to take us on to Archangel. During this enforced delay we made a small collection of birds in the neighbourhood of Vardö. June 19th was spent at Petschenga, and it was not until we had returned home that we found that the Messrs. Pearson had been in the same place five days before us (see *Ibis*, 1899, p. 522). Like Mr. Pearson, we found the snow here waist-deep and the bare patches round the village alive with birds. As Mr. Pearson has already treated fully of the birds of this district, I need only say that the Wood-Sandpiper, which does not appear in his list, was very plentiful here on June 19th. We also found half-finished nests of the Red-throated Pipit and the Lapland Bunting, although the few small patches of ground bare of snow were practically under water; Temminck's Stints also were pairing.

We left Petschenga on June 20th, in a Russian steamer bound for Archangel, but we were still the victims of delay, ice and fog keeping us hove to for four days in the White Sea, and it was not until June 28th that we arrived at Archangel. Let me advise no one to go to Archangel with guns and cartridges if he can possibly avoid doing so. We were subjected to an enormous amount of inconvenience and considerable expense at the customs, and it was only by the kind help of the English vice-consul, Mr. Henry Cooke, as well as by dint of very hard work on our own part, that we were able to get our baggage cleared in three days and so catch the weekly steamer to Kandalax on July 1st. The following day we made a stay of some hours at the far-famed monastery of Solovetskoi. Within the high

walls of this wonderful monastery hundreds of Herring-Gulls are wont to breed. The birds are so tame that any of them will feed from the hand, and their nests are built on the paths and in the courtyards of the monastery itself. On the date of our visit the majority of the birds had young ones, and it was most interesting to watch the old birds feeding them, quite unconcerned by the innumerable pilgrims, many of whom had to step aside to avoid treading on the young birds and being pecked by the adults. On July 3rd we arrived at Kovda, where we very luckily picked up an interpreter to accompany us on our journey overland. Before leaving England we had supposed that we should find such a man in Archangel, but a most diligent search proved fruitless, every likely man being engaged in some way with the number of ships which had just broken through the ice in the White Sea.

The following day (July 4th) we arrived at the little village of Kandalax, at the head of the Gulf of that name in the north-western corner of the White Sea. Here, with the aid of passes from the Governor of Archangel (which, by the way, are absolutely necessary for any traveller in these parts), we were able to engage carriers to accompany us through the country to Kola.

Although more than once they struck and refused to proceed, these carriers on the whole behaved very well. They were, however, most ignorant and careless, and we were never able to trust them to do the simplest duties in camp without keeping them under observation. For instance, at one camping-place one of the men complained of a "very sick stomach." We discovered that they had been drawing all the water from a small stagnant backwater of the lake where the Lapps threw all their refuse. We duly impressed them with the evils that would attend drinking such water, and for two days they rowed over a mile into the middle of the lake to get water for any purpose whatever. But at the next camping-place they drew the water from the most convenient spot, which was of course also used as a deposit for refuse.

From Kandalax we followed almost the same route taken by Mr. Rae, as described in his book 'The White Sea Peninsula.' This route is in fact the winter post-route and the only one possible in summer, since much of the travelling has to be done by water, for which boats are provided at various points. Our itinerary was as follows:—

Kandalax, July 4–6; Kandalax to Zasheech (Imandra), 32 versts (3 versts=2 miles), July 7 & 8; Zasheech, July 9 & 10; Zasheech to Bella Guba (Imandra), 42 versts, July 11; Bella Guba, July 12; Bella Guba to Raz-Navolok (Imandra), 42 versts, July 13; Raz-Navolok, July 14–18; Raz-Navolok to Pulozero, 48 versts, July 19 & 20; Pulozero, July 21–25; Pulozero to Kitsa, 35 versts, July 26; Kitsa, July 27; Kitsa to Kola, 34 versts, July 28; Kola, July 29–31; Ekaterina, Aug. 1–8.

Our numerous delays counted nothing, for when we arrived on July 9th on the south shore of the Imandra Lake we were told that the ice had left it only four days before, so that had we arrived earlier we could not have proceeded further until the ice had disappeared.

The chief difficulties during our journey were connected with carriers and food. Of the carriers I have already given an idea. Except for the fish we caught, the few birds we shot, and the supplies of bread which we obtained at two places, there were no provisions to be had between Kandalax and Kola. We had taken a supply of tinned foods from England and a quantity of bread from Kandalax, and luckily fish were plentiful all along our route, so that, with care, we managed to feed ourselves and our nine men for three weeks.

About the mosquitoes and tiny dark blood-sucking flies I will say nothing, since no one who has had an experience of these interesting diptera in the interior of Lapland can adequately describe them; while those who have never been in these regions can never imagine what they have missed. I may, however, remark that even when the light is at its best the wearing of a veil is by no means conducive either to collecting or to good observation.

The scarcity of birds in this country greatly disappointed us. During the first two-thirds of our journey the country might be said to consist half of lakes and rivers, and half of pine-forest, with here and there a marsh. The lakes and rivers, although often dotted with islands, were singularly devoid of bird-life, while the interminable pine forests were nearly as destitute. Even the marshes, few and far between, were disappointing. Often we trudged six or eight miles to some marsh of which the Lapps had told us, and after tramping over it the whole day would see nothing but a couple of Whimbrel, a Wood-Saupiper, and perhaps a Greenshank, although the marsh looked as if it ought to be a perfect paradise for birds. Only two of all the many marshes we explored were productive of a fair day's collecting.

The further north we proceeded the thinner the forests became, and there the birds increased somewhat, but they were nowhere abundant. It may be that in a normal season the country contains more birds than it did in 1899, but it is difficult to imagine that birds are ever more than thinly scattered over the interior of Russian Lapland.

As I have already mentioned, the lateness of the season caused us many delays, and consequently we were too late for eggs by the time we arrived in the interior. Before we left England and again at Vardö we debated as to whether it would not be better to work from north to south, but had we done so we should have fared worse; for, owing to the deep and soft snow, the country in the north is quite impassable even at the end of June. However, some consolation for the drawbacks of the season was derived in observing the effects it produced on birds. These effects were especially marked in the north. For instance, Willow-Grouse had not yet attained full summer plumage at the very end of July, and fresh eggs of many birds were to be found at the beginning of August, by which time the mosquitoes had died, the berries were ripe, new snow had already fallen on the hills, and another winter had almost commenced.

As this particular portion of Lapland does not seem to have been visited before by British ornithologists, I have

endeavoured to make the list of the birds we observed more complete by comparisons with, and additions from, the volume on birds in the 'Beiträge zur Kenntniss des Russischen Reiches' by the Russian ornithologist T. Pleske, published in 1886. This book deals with the ornithology of the whole of Russian Lapland, but in the following list only those birds are referred to which Pleske mentions as occurring on our route. Pleske traversed this route in 1880, and he quotes freely from the observations of several other Russian as well as Swedish and Finnish ornithologists, who worked in the same district between the years 1840 and 1880.

In quoting from this book I have placed in parentheses the name of Pleske's authority for any record not made by himself. In all other cases the record is Pleske's own.

TURDUS ILIACUS.

TURDUS PILARIS.

Both Redwings and Fieldfares were present along the whole route from Kandalax to Ekaterina. They were, however, very unequally distributed as regards numbers, being common in some places and rare in others. A nest of the Fieldfare on the shores of the Imandra contained young of about a week old on July 12th.

[Pleske records *Turdus musicus* from Kandalax and the Imandra (Mela), and from Kitsa, near Kola (Enwald).]

CINCLUS MELANOGASTER.

A pair of Dippers which we supposed to be of this species frequented the river at Kitsa, near Kola. Pleske records it from several localities on our route.

SAXICOLA GENANTHE.

A Wheatear was not seen until we reached Pulozero, about 45 miles south of Kola. From Pulozero northward these birds became very common. Pleske records them as very common in all parts.

RUTICILLA PHŒNICURUS.

The only Redstarts we saw consisted of a family of this species a few miles south of Kola. Pleske mentions it as rare.

CYANECULA SUECICA.

The Bluethroat was common in the south and the north, but rare in the centre, of our route.

PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS.

The Willow-Wren was common and breeding throughout. We shot several for identification, and searched carefully for *Phylloscopus borealis*, but could not discover it. A Willow-Wren's nest on the south shore of the Imandra contained six fresh eggs on July 8.

PARUS CINCTUS.

The Lapp Tit was common throughout the forest-region and was the only Tit we obtained or identified.

[Pleske records *Parus borealis* from near Kandalax (Lawrow) and from the Kola river, while Mr. Pearson records *P. camtschatkensis* from Petschenga. (Ibis, 1899, p. 525.)]

MOTACILLA ALBA.

A few pairs of White Wagtails were generally to be seen near every small Lapp settlement passed on our route.

MOTACILLA VIRIDIS.

The Grey-headed Wagtail was very common on many of the marshes in the centre of our route, but was absent in the south and north.

ANTHUS PRATENSIS.

From the Imandra northward the Meadow-Pipit was very common in suitable localities. It was especially common on marshes near the Pulozero.

ANTHUS CERVINUS.

We found the Red-throated Pipit near Ekaterina on the north coast only. Although Mr. Pearson took eggs at Petschenga on June 22nd, we found eggs only slightly incubated at Ekaterina on August 4th, which points to the rearing of a second brood notwithstanding the lateness of the season.

ANTHUS TRIVIALIS.

Only one specimen of the Tree-Pipit was obtained. The

bird was a female, and was shot while singing at the top of a pine-tree near Bella Guba on the shores of the Imandra. Pleske records a few from Kandalax and the Imandra.

LANIUS EXCURITOR.

The only Shrike seen was a bird of this species in some birch-scrub near Kola.

[Pleske has a few records of *Ampelis garrulus* from the Imandra and from Kandalax.]

MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA.

We saw only one pair of Pied Flycatchers, and shot the female, among some pine-trees on the south shore of the Imandra.

[Pleske records this species from the Imandra (Mela); also *M. grisola* from the Imandra and Kandalax.]

CHELIDON URBICA.

One House-Martin was observed at Kandalax, and a good many at Kola, where they were nesting on the houses.

COTILE RIPARIA.

The only examples of the Sand-Martin seen were a few near Kola.

[Pleske has a record of *Chrysomitris spinus* from Kitsa (Enwald).]

[According to Pleske, Middendorff, and Lawrow, *Passer domesticus* is not found in Kandalax; Mela, however, observed it there and mentions it as rare. T. Nitzén found one specimen in Kola. We did not see a single Sparrow anywhere on our route.]

FRINGILLA CŒLEBS.

One pair only of Chaffinches was observed near Kandalax. Pleske has a doubtful record of *F. cœlebs* from the same locality, and mentions that Nitzén killed a male in Kola.

FRINGILLA MONTIFRINGILLA.

The Brambling was common from Kandalax to Kola.

LINOTA LINARIA.

Mealy Redpolls were very common among the stunted birch-trees about Ekaterina. Of three nests found on August

5th, two contained fresh eggs and the third three young birds, just hatched, and one egg. On one of the nests with eggs we found the hen bird dead. The bird had evidently died "egg-bound," which is probably a rare occurrence in wild birds.

We noticed a very remarkable variation in the size of the bills of the birds we shot. Of two males from the same little company, one had a large bill, the other a small bill. Two other males had large bills. Of four females shot, only one had a large bill, the others having very small bills, much smaller, indeed, than the smallest of the males.

These birds were all shot in the same locality and within a few days of each other, and the variation in the size of the bills would seem, therefore, to be individual, and not seasonal or dietary.

We obtained a specimen of *L. linaria* at Elvenaes on the Syd-Varanger in June; about 60 miles east of this point, at Petschenga, in July of the same year, Messrs. Pearson obtained *L. exilipes* only (Ibis, 1899, p. 526); about 60 miles east of Petschenga we obtained in August, at Ekaterina, *L. linaria* only; while about 150 miles east of Ekaterina the Pearson expedition in June 1895 obtained at Lake Ukanskoc *L. exilipes* only. (Ibis, 1896, p. 208.)

[Pleske records *Pyrrhula major* from Kandalax (Mela).]

PINICOLA ENUCLEATOR.

The Pine-Grosbeak was not common in the pine-forests, but we found it much more plentiful among the birches at Kola beyond the region of pine. Pleske also found it among the birches near Kola as well as in the pine-forests further south.

[Pleske has records of *Loxia curvirostra* at several points on our route, and a record of *L. pityopsittacus* from near Kandalax (Enwald).]

EMBERIZA CITRINELLA.

The Yellow Bunting was fairly common from Kandalax to Pulozero, *i. e.* within the pine-region, north of which we did not observe it.

EMBERIZA SCHÆNICLUS.

We identified the Reed-Bunting first at Raz-Navolok, near the northern end of the Imandra Lake. From this point to Kola it was met with rather frequently.

PLECTROPHENAX NIVALIS.

CALCARIUS LAPPONICUS.

Snow-Buntings and Lapland Buntings were seen at Ekaterina only, and were very uncommon there.

[Pleske records *Alauda arvensis* and *Otocorys alpestris* from near Kola.]

PERISOREUS INFAUSTUS.

Siberian Jays were very common from Kandalax to Kola, and usually acted as our scavengers, hopping about when the camp was asleep and seizing upon any tit-bits to be found.

PICA RUSTICA.

We saw two or three Magpies at Kandalax, but nowhere else.

CORVUS CORNIX.

We found the Hooded Crow nowhere common, but observed a few from Kandalax to the middle of the Imandra and also near Kola.

CORVUS CORAX.

We saw Ravens near Ekaterina only. Pleske records this species from the Imandra, Kolozero, and Kandalax.

[Pleske records *Cypselus apus* from Kandalax (Mela and Enwald).]

PICOIDES TRIDACTYLUS.

The Three-toed Woodpecker was very common from Kandalax to Kola, and was the only Woodpecker we saw. Twice we disturbed birds from apparently suitable nesting-holes, but in each case there were neither eggs nor young, although the bird behaved as if our discovery of its retreat was of some importance.

[Pleske records *Dryocopus martius* from Kandalax (Mela); also *Picus minor*, one shot by Lieut. Sandeberg near Kitsa

on June 3rd, 1877, and another shot by Lawrow on Aug. 26th, 1880, near Kandalax.]

CUCULUS CANORUS.

The Cuckoo was common from Kandalax to Pulozero.

SURNIA ULULA.

The only Owl we saw during the whole of our journey was a single bird which probably belonged to this species. Pleske found it common at Raz-Navolok, on the Imandra, and north of that point.

[Pleske records two specimens of *Asio accipitrinus* from near Kandalax (Lawrow); also *Nyctala tengmalmi* and *Bubo ignavus*, from Kandalax (Mela).]

ARCHIBUTEO LAGOPUS.

The Rough-legged Buzzard was met with here and there throughout our route.

HALIAËTUS ALBICILLA.

We saw several White-tailed Eagles at Kandalax and one at Ekaterina, and climbed up to an immense, but empty, nest said to belong to this species, at the top of a pine-tree near Kandalax.

FALCO ESALON.

A couple of Merlins, flying about an open heathy patch of country near Raz-Navolok, Imandra, were the only Hawks we identified. The scarcity of all Falconidæ was remarkable.

We did not see a sign of the Osprey. Writing in 1886 Pleske considered it a common breeding-bird in Russian Lapland, and himself observed it at Kandalax and on the Imandra.

[Pleske records the following from the district:—*Astur palumbarius* from the Imandra (Sandeberg), Kola Bay (Pleske), and Kandalax (Mela); *Accipiter nisus* from Kandalax (Sandeberg); and *Falco gyrfalco* from Kola.]

PHALACROCORAX CARBO.

Fairly common on the coast, both at Kandalax and at Ekaterina. Some nests in a cliff near Ekaterina contained young on August 4th.

[Pleske records *Anser segetum* and *Cygnus musicus* (Mela) from near the Imandra, and was told by the Lapps that *A. segetum* bred there. We were also told by the Lapps on the Imandra that Geese were common and Swans not rare. We were guided to a large marsh where these birds were supposed to breed, but notwithstanding a careful search we never saw a sign of Goose or Swan.]

QUERQUEDULA CRECCA.

We saw only one Teal during our journey. This bird was in a marsh near Pulozero, and had some 10 or 12 young ones (July 22nd).

CLANGULA GLAUCION.

Golden-eyes were common on all the lakes and rivers from Kandalax to Kola.

HARELDA GLACIALIS.

We saw a few Long-tailed Ducks on the coast at Kandalax and also at Ekaterina, but none were seen inland.

SOMATERIA MOLLISSIMA.

Eiders were fairly common on the coast at Kandalax and at Ekaterina.

EDEMIA FUSCA.

EDEMIA NIGRA.

The Velvet and Common Scoters were very common throughout our route. We found nests and eggs of both species; the Velvet Scoter was perhaps the commoner bird. We counted 20 males in a flock on a small lake in a marsh on July 22nd, and found one near the edge of the lake. It seems hardly possible that each of the 20 males had a mate with a nest in the vicinity.

MERGUS SERRATOR.

Mergansers were quite the commonest Ducks on all the lakes over which we passed.

[Of Ducks which we did not observe, Pleske records *Anas boschas* (Lawrow, Sahlberg, and Malmberg) from near Kandalax; *Dasyla acuta* as fairly common in all parts; *Mareca penelope* as common and breeding along our route; *Fuligula*

cristata from Kandalax (Mela) as well as from near Kola (Pleske); *Mergus merganser* (Lawrow and Mela) and *Mergus albellus* (Lawrow) from Kandalax.]

LAGOPUS ALBUS.

The Willow-Grouse was fairly common all along our route. Two male birds shot near Kola on July 27th had a number of white feathers on the underparts, and a few on the back and wing-coverts. At this time of year one would expect the Willow-Grouse to be attaining its winter plumage; but on examination the very opposite was found to be the case with these two birds, which had not yet attained their summer plumage. All the white feathers were clearly old feathers of the winter before. In the far north I believe Willow-Grouse often retain part of their winter plumage during the whole summer, but these two birds were in full moult, and the new feathers, which were sprouting all over the body, were all summer feathers. The toes were not altogether bare of feathers and the claws were exceedingly long. No doubt the lateness of the season accounted for the strange state of the plumage of these birds, but how long would they retain their summer plumage? A week after we shot these birds new snow had fallen on the hills and the autumn had commenced. On July 29th, at Kola, we found four broods of but a few days old.

[Pleske records *Lagopus mutus* from the mountains near the Imandra (Sahlberg and Malmberg) and Middendorff from the neighbouring districts.]

BONASA BETULINA.

The only specimen of the Hazel-Grouse we saw was shot near Bella Guba on the Imandra. Pleske considered its occurrence so far north as the Imandra as uncertain.

TETRAO UROGALLUS.

Capercaillie were common from Kandalax to Pulozero, north of which we did not observe them. We found chicks of a day or two old on July 24th.

[Pleske records *Tetrao tetrix* from Kandalax and the Imandra, and gives the Imandra as the northern limit of

the bird. Near Kola I put up in thick birch-scrub a large dark bird, which was certainly not a Capercaillie, but by its flight and general appearance seemed to be a Blackcock.]

CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS.

On all the marshes from the Imandra to Ekaterina the Golden Plover was met with, and often very plentifully. We found eggs much incubated on July 15th.

ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA.

Ringed Plovers were fairly common at Kandalax, along the shores of the Imandra, and at Kola.

EUDROMIAS MORINELLUS.

There were a few Dotterels on the stony hills about Ekaterina, but we saw them nowhere else on our route. The young of a brood found on August 3rd were still partially covered with down and could scarcely fly.

STREPSILAS INTERPRES.

A few Turnstones inhabited the islands in Kandalax Bay. A nest under a stone a few yards from the water contained four fresh eggs on July 6th. We saw a small flock in Kola Bay on July 29th.

HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS.

Oyster-catchers were common and breeding on the islands in Kandalax Bay. We also saw a few on the shores of the Kola Fjord.

PHALAROPUS HYPERBOREUS.

A couple of Red-necked Phalaropes, shot on July 16th on a marsh near Raz-Navolok on the Imandra, were perhaps breeding. A few were also seen in Kola Bay.

GALLINAGO CÆLESTIS.

A couple of Snipe which must have belonged to this species inhabited a marsh near Raz-Navolok. We were, however, unable either to shoot the birds or to discover their eggs or young.

[Pleske obtained one specimen near Kola, and records it from Kandalax (Mela).]

LIMICOLA PLATYRHYNCHA.

The Broad-billed Sandpiper seems to be very rare between Kandalax and Ekaterina. Pleske has no record of it. We found a pair on a marsh near Raz-Navolok, and shot single birds on two marshes near the Pulozero. One of the latter shot on July 22nd, to judge from its actions, certainly had eggs or young, and an empty nest in some moss had perhaps contained them.

[Pleske records *Tringa alpina* from near Kandalax (Lawrow).]

TRINGA TEMMINCKI.

A number of Temminck's Stints were frequenting a piece of marshy land quite close to Kola on July 28th, and a week later we found a few here and there on the small marshes near Ekaterina.

MACHETES PUGNAX.

Reeves were common on several of the marshes near the Imandra and the Pulozero, but we neither saw nor obtained a single Ruff. We noticed that the legs of the Reeves varied considerably in colouring, from greenish-yellow to bright lemon-yellow.

TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCUS.

Common Sandpipers were fairly numerous on nearly all the lakes and rivers from Kandalax to within four miles of Kola.

TOTANUS GLAREOLA.

On every marsh, and on almost every bit of marshy land, between Kandalax and Kola the Wood-Sandpiper was to be found. This bird seemed to me to take the place of the Redshank on our home marshes and that of the Stilt in the Spanish marshes, in its only too successful endeavours to annoy the intruder.

TOTANUS CALIDRIS.

We saw a few Common Redshanks in Kola Bay and near Ekaterina, but nowhere else on our route.

[Pleske observed one specimen at Zashechh, and saw several broods near Kola.]

TOTANUS FUSCUS.

A pair of Dusky Redshanks on a small marsh near Raz-Navolok, on July 18th, were the first met with. We afterwards found a good many on several marshes near the Pulozero. These birds were invariably wild, and all those we shot were males.

Doubtless we were too late for eggs, and after prolonged searching we had to relinquish the idea of finding either eggs or young. A pair which I watched amid a swarm of mosquitoes for an hour or more were exceedingly wary. Perching on the tops of the pine-trees, they kept up an incessant rattle of alarm whenever I was in view. This alarm-cry was composed of a single note very rapidly and loudly repeated a number of times, and was uttered both on the wing and when perched. When I was in hiding the birds became silent, but the slightest movement on my part was signalled by the alarm "rattle." The call-note of the bird is a plaintive pipe, somewhat like that of the Golden Plover, but sharper.

[Pleske obtained young birds near Kola on August 12th, and saw three birds at Zasheech on July 16th, 1880.]

TOTANUS CANESCENS.

Like the Wood-Sandpiper, the Greenshank was to be found, a pair here and there, on nearly every piece of marsh from Kandalax to Kola. The birds were invariably wild and exceedingly difficult to approach. Chicks of about a week old were found on July 22nd near the Pulozero.

LIMOSA LAPPONICA.

A pair or two of Bar-tailed Godwits were found on most of the larger marshes near the Imandra and the Pulozero, and we also saw a small flock of mature birds in Kola Bay on July 29th. On July 16th and again on July 22nd we found broods of four each, of about a week old. In each case the young ones seemed to be attended only by the male bird, which was very bold and often swooped straight over our heads and then retired to the top of a pine, calling loudly all the while. In one case the male bird tried to entice us away

from the young, almost exactly after the fashion of a Ringed Plover. Unlike Mr. Popham, who met with "no two pairs occupying the same district while nesting" (*Ibis* 1897, p. 105), we found two pairs on the same marsh within 300 yards of each other. The nestlings, which were covered with down, with the primary-quills just appearing, had the following colouring of the soft parts:—Legs and feet light slate-blue; bill dark slate colour; iris hazel. The stomachs contained small beetles, flies, and green leaves.

NUMENIUS PHLEOPUS.

A pair or two of Whimbrels were to be seen in every suitable place from Kandalax to Ekaterina, and on many of the marshes they were numerous.

STERNA MACRURA.

The Arctic Tern was present on all the lakes and rivers from Kandalax to Ekaterina. A considerable colony was evidently breeding on an island in a small lake on a marsh near the Imandra.

LARUS CANUS.

Common Gulls were fairly numerous in Kandalax Bay, and we saw a few pairs on most of the lakes from there to Kitsa. At Kitsa a single bird frequented the river, and there were a few in the Kola Fjord. A small colony on a marsh near Ekaterina evidently had young.

LARUS ARGENTATUS.

We observed Herring-Gulls in Kandalax Bay and in the Kola Fjord. We also saw a good many on the Imandra, but could not discover whether they were breeding or not. A small colony seemed to be breeding in company with the previous species on a marsh near Ekaterina.

LARUS FUSCUS.

A few Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on the Imandra and the Pulozero, and one at Kitsa, while the bird was not uncommon in the Kola Fjord.

LARUS MARINUS.

The Great Black-backed Gull was seen in the Kola Fjord.

We observed neither this nor the preceding species in Kandalax Bay, but Pleske records both from there.

LARUS GLAUCUS.

We saw two or three of these Gulls in Kandalax Bay on July 4th and 5th. We also observed a few of them among the ice in the White Sea near the mouth of the Ponoï river, on the east coast of Russian Lapland.

RISSA TRIDACTYLA.

The Kittiwake was fairly common in the Kola Fjord.

STERCORARIUS CREPIDATUS.

A few Arctic Skuas were seen near Ekaterina. At Vardö on June 16th a pair (light male, sooty female), which had eggs on a bare patch of ground surrounded by deep snow, were accompanied by a dark bird at which they were continually swooping, as though with the intention of driving it away. We were unable to shoot this third bird, but at Ekaterina on August 3rd we found two pairs of light-coloured birds, each accompanied by a third dark bird, which was treated in the same way as the one at Vardö. On one of these dark birds being shot, it was found to be an immature bird of apparently the year before, since it still retained several rufous-edged feathers, had a barred breast and a pointed tail. Is it possible that pairs of Arctic Skuas are sometimes accompanied during the breeding-season by a young one of the year before? On the other hand, we found near Ekaterina three birds of the year together unaccompanied by any adult bird.

STERCORARIUS PARASITICUS.

A pair of Long-tailed Skuas, shot near Ekaterina, were the only ones seen. The stomach of one contained a mouse; that of the other held seeds, probably those of the crowberry.

URIA GRYLLE.

Black Guillemots were common in Kandalax Bay and at the mouth of the Kola Fjord.

COLYMBUS GLACIALIS.

On a small lake in a marsh near the Imandra, which we

visited on July 15th, we observed a large Diver, which was thought to belong to this species. The difference in the size of this bird and two Black-throated Divers swimming near it at the same time was remarkable. Its bill was certainly black, and therefore the bird could not have been *C. adamsi*. Pleske says that Middendorff shot a specimen of *C. glacialis* near the mouth of the Kola Fjord, in September 1840.

COLYMBUS ARCTICUS.

COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS.

The Black-throated and Red-throated Divers were perhaps equally common on the small lakes from Kandalax to Ekaterina. A Red-throated Diver shot near Ekaterina from fresh eggs on August 1st proved to be a male, and although we hid up near the nest for several hours in the hope of getting the mate, she never came back to the nest, and only once flew anywhere near us.

[Pleske records a few examples of *Podiceps griseigena* from near Kandalax.]

XXVIII.—*On further Collections of British-East-African Birds.* By SYDNEY L. HINDE, M.D. *With Notes by R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D.*

SINCE my return to British East Africa I have been stationed in Masailand, either at N'gong, or Nairobi, or out on the neighbouring plains. In these localities I have met with examples of a few species to be added to my former list of the birds of Machako's (*cf. Ibis*, 1898, p. 576).

The neighbourhood of N'gongo Bagas is hilly, dense bush and open grassland alternating. The station is about 6000 feet above the sea-level. The Athi river, where some of the birds were obtained, crosses a bare plain, and the nearest bush-country or forest is about 20 miles away; patches of mimosa and occasional fig-trees and rank grass grow on the river-banks.

1. PERISSORNIS CARUNCULATUS (Vieill.).

Dilophus carunculatus Hinde, *Ibis*, 1898, p. 576.