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NATIVE BIRDS OF MOUNT DESERT ISLAND

PLEASE RETURN TO
NATURALIST OFFICE

CADIA NATIONAL PARK
R.F.D. #1, Box 1
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

by JAMES BOND

CURATOR OF BIRDS
THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
OF PHILADELPHIA

Second Revised Edition — 1971

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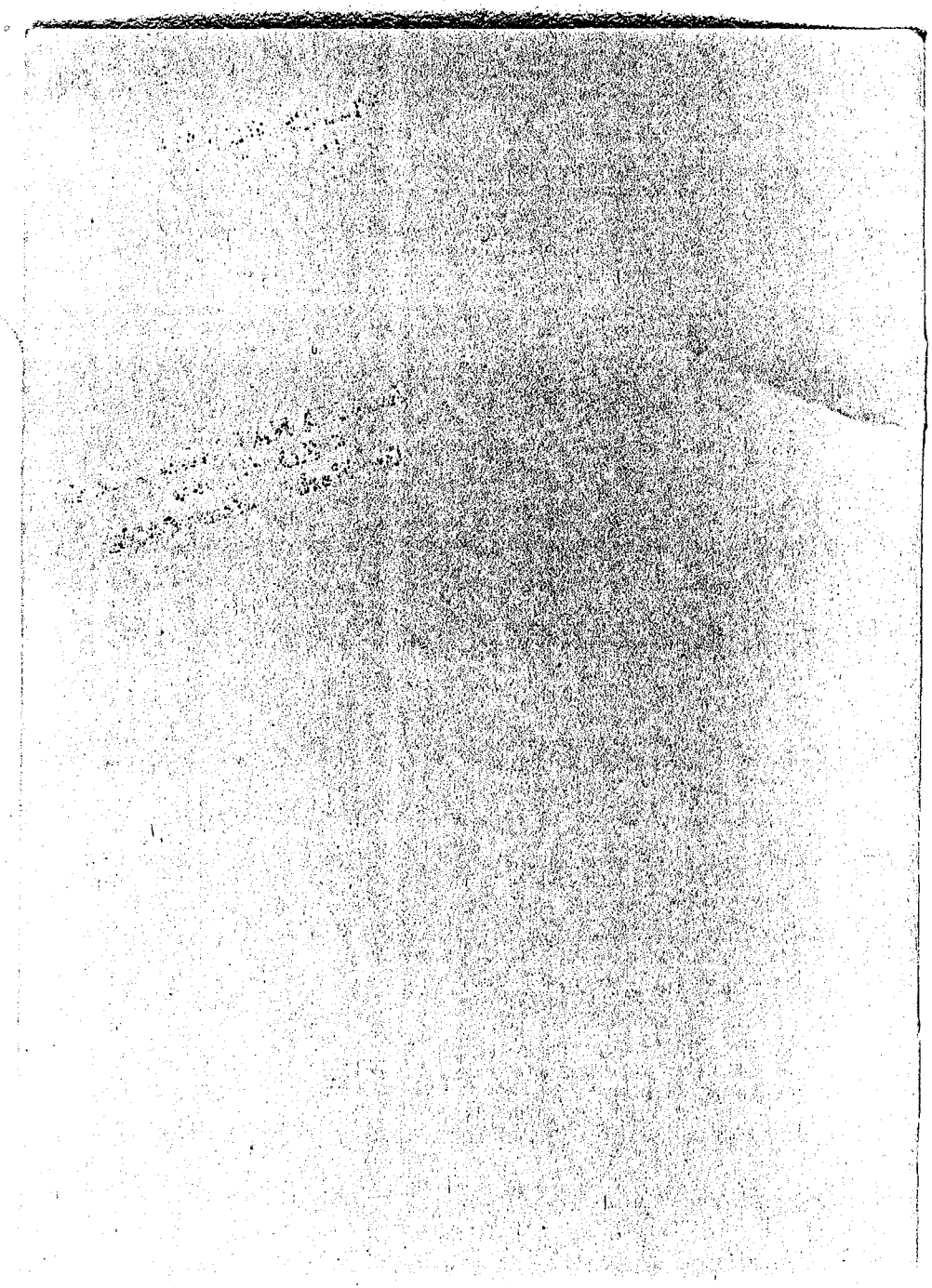

PLEASE RETURN TO
NATURALIST OFFICE

NATIVE BIRDS
OF MT. DESERT ISLAND AND ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK
R.F.D. #1, Box 1
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

By

JAMES BOND

1971

THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
OF PHILADELPHIA

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PREFACE

This booklet was prepared to serve two purposes. The first is to indicate all of the species of birds that are known to breed or to have bred on Mt. Desert Island, Maine, during the past forty years. Secondly, it is hoped that it will be a useful guide from June until August if used in conjunction with one of the current illustrated field guides to birds of eastern North America.

The area included covers Mt. Desert and small islands nearby, east to the Porcupines and Ironbound, west to Bartlett, Hardwood, Bar and Ship Island, and south to The Scrags or Green Islands and Great Duck (excluding Swan's Island), comprising about 120 square miles of terrain. It may now be said that our knowledge of the native birds surpasses that of any area of comparable size and diversity of avifauna in Maine or any other New England state. Of the ~~138~~ 140 species listed as indigenous during the period under consideration we have breeding evidence for all but ~~two, the Great Horned Owl and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker~~. However, it would be presumptuous to say that no other birds have nested here. Almost certainly a few more have done so occasionally.

There are over a score of *possible* summer residents that will continue to offer a challenge to the birder. These are now regarded as vagrants to the island and are mainly southern species. The majority are mentioned in the introductory paragraphs to various families. The Horned Lark and Loggerhead Shrike may be added. Neither has been recorded during the breeding season, but about thirty years ago I observed a pair of shrikes on the coastal mainland near Jonesport in June.

The native avifauna of the island includes an interesting mixture of predominantly Canadian birds and a southern element. Those in the latter category have increased in recent years, partly due to the new environment afforded by the burnt-over area (about 17,000 acres) that resulted from the disastrous forest fire of 1947, partly to the northern expansion in the ranges of a number of species. Generally speaking, because of environmental conditions, southwestern Mt. Desert has more northern, the northeastern part of the island more southern, birds. It is possible during June, when most of the small land birds are in song, to encounter at least seventy species in a day, and during the

entire summer season one should find over a hundred, including some transient shore birds and other water-fowl.

Favorable localities for birds on Mt. Desert are the "burnt lands" between Aunt Betty's Pond and Witch Hole Pond, the vicinity of Sieur de Monts Spring, the Emery District and near Ship Harbor. The last mentioned is particularly rich in wood warblers.

When visiting Ship Harbor one should enter the sphagnum bog .4 of a mile east of the parking space. Walking in the bog is easy and relatively dry. In addition to the Lincoln's Sparrow, which is not known to nest elsewhere on the island, beautiful orchids, including *Arethusa* and *Calopogon,* grow there profusely, as does the cloudberry a northern plant bearing a single yellow berry that tastes like baked-apple. The spruce woods west of Ship Harbor are also ornithologically productive, particularly in the early hours of the morning.

The most interesting island near Mt. Desert for sea birds is Little Duck, which is inhabited by Leach's Petrels, Double-crested Cormorants, Eider Ducks, Herring and Black-backed Gulls, and Black Guillemots. This island should be visited on a calm or moderately calm day in late June or early July. Islands closer to Mt. Desert where there are important colonies of sea birds include Ironbound and Ship.

I wish to stress the fact that this survey has been a cooperative effort in which many people have taken part. Those who have contributed particularly valuable information include Connee Jellison and Dale Coman of Salisbury Cove, Barbara Patterson and Reginald Allen of Somesville, Ralph Long of Southwest Harbor, Doris and Frank McLaughlin of the New Jersey Audubon Society, Mada and Hal Harrison of Sanibel Island, Florida, and former Park Naturalists Maurice Sullivan and Paul Favour. If any additional species is seen on Mt. Desert during the breeding season and suspected of nesting the record should be verified, preferably by Barbara Patterson, Dale Coman or Ralph Long, who are experienced and careful observers. Important nest records mentioned in this booklet, including my own, have been so checked.

In 1969 Paul Favour compiled a useful "Checklist of the Birds of Acadia National Park" that includes 314 species and four subspecies. This may be obtained at the Park Headquarters at Hull's Cove. It covers not only all of the birds known from Mt. Desert,

but also those from islands and islets west to Isle au Haut and south to Mt. Desert Rock, as well as the Schoodic Peninsula on the mainland. There are some remarkable records based on specimens collected and birds that had been banded; but several of those that are based on sight reports would be regarded as hypothetical by ornithologists. Of the non-breeding species, of which the majority are water birds, I have personally seen not more than 40 although I have encountered all of the 138 regarded as indigenous to the Mt. Desert area.

Various passerine species appear on Mt. Desert as vagrants from the south, for the most part in late spring and late summer. Some may be in full song in early June, but they remain on the island for a short time. Those reported include the Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo (banded May 21), Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler (banded May 14), Blue-winged Warbler (banded Sept. 11), Cerulean Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat (all seasons; six banded from Sept. 3 to Oct. 16), Hooded Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Summer Tanager (specimen), Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak (specimen) and Grasshopper Sparrow (specimen). Several western birds have also occurred here.

Pretty Marsh (1970)

NATIVE BIRDS OF MT. DESERT ISLAND

Loons

COMMON LOON. Loons are primarily birds of the far north, and Mt. Desert is near the southern limit of their breeding range. They frequent the lakes and ponds and also occur on coastal waters, particularly off the northern and western parts of the island. Their eerie "laughter" and mournful howling (*ooahoo* or *ooahao*) are often heard both during the day and night. "Nests" with eggs (1-2) or newly hatched young have been seen at Seal Cove Pond, Long Pond, Echo Lake, Somes Pond and Witch Hole Pond.

Grebes

PIED-BILLED GREBE. This little grebe is rare and seldom encountered in summer. A nest with eggs was found at Seal Cove Pond in late May, and a parent with a brood of young was observed on Aunt Betty's Pond in early July. During migration this species is often seen on various lakes and along the coast near shore, but is scarcer as a transient than the Horned Grebe.

Storm Petrels

If a small petrel is seen off Mt. Desert in summer during daytime it is apt to be the Wilson's, a species that breeds in the Southern Hemisphere. Both this and the Leach's Petrel, as well as shearwaters, gannets, phalaropes and many other oceanic birds, have been observed by bird-watchers while crossing the Bay of Fundy between Bar Harbor and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, on the "S. S. Bluenose".

LEACH'S PETREL. There are colonies of these little pelagic birds on the Duck Islands, for the most part on Little Duck. Here they nest in pungent-smelling burrows beneath the spruce trees, and are seldom seen unless extracted therefrom. When not engaged in incubation they spend their time far out at sea. They visit the islands at night to escape ravages of the gulls, but when there is bright moonlight are preyed upon by these birds.

Cormorants

The Great Cormorant is a winter visitant to coastal Maine, but an occasional individual may be seen during the summer. Most of the breeding colonies in the New World are on islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. Cormorants, or "shags" as they are often called, are among the most abundant sea birds in the vicinity of Mt. Desert, but it has been only within the past forty years that they have established breeding colonies here. One of these is on Bald Rock near Bar Harbor, another on the Green Islands, also known as "The Scrags", a third on Ship Island, and the most recent on Little Duck Island. Cormorants are often seen on buoys or on rocks exposed at low tide. Most of the fish that they capture (sculpins, cunners and eels) have no commercial value.

Herons and Bitterns

Several herons appear from time to time on Mt. Desert as vagrants from the south. These include the Common Egret, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret and Little Blue Heron. The Glossy Ibis has also occurred here.

GREAT BLUE HERON. The best place to look for the Great Blue Heron is near the bridge at Mt. Desert Narrows. Several may be seen there at low tide. Elsewhere these herons are often flushed from various ponds and coastal coves. At the present time there is a colony on Ironbound Island near Bar Harbor and a smaller one on Hardwood Island.

GREEN HERON. This little heron appears to be confined to the northern part of Mt. Desert, mainly between Fresh Meadow and Duck Brook. One is often flushed by canoeists on Northeast Creek during the summer months, and the species has been encountered on many occasions at Hamilton Pond where an adult and fledgling were observed in early July.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. This heron has become scarce on Mt. Desert in recent years: formerly it was rather common. Its characteristic *quock* could often be heard after dark at Northeast Harbor during the summer, and one or two individuals regularly frequented Bass Harbor Marsh. In 1923 and in 1949 there was a small breeding colony on Little Duck Island. Another was on Long Porcupine in association with a Great Blue heronry.

LEAST BITTERN. In 1967 a pair of Least Bitterns inhabited Beaverdam Pond south of Bar Harbor where they nested in a clump of cattails. The roughly built platform, about 14 inches above the water, contained six eggs on June 11, two young and

one addled egg on July 1. Another nest with two addled eggs was found there the following year. These are apparently the first nest records of the Least Bittern from Maine, although on June 15, 1895, a set of eggs was collected in southern New Brunswick.

AMERICAN BITTERN. Bush-covered swamps, freshwater marshes, and margins of ponds are where one usually encounters this bittern, but it is seldom seen in summer unless its haunts are invaded. During migration in spring and early fall American Bitterns are more in evidence. Unlike most herons, they rarely alight in trees and their nests are situated on the ground.

Ducks

The Hooded Merganser is a not uncommon summer resident on lakes and streams of inland Maine, as is the Common Goldeneye. I have seen a female of the latter with her brood of downy ducklings at Graham Lake near Ellsworth. Semiferal Canada Geese and Mallards have nested on Mt. Desert.

A number of non-breeding scoters or "coots" (all three species) summer about the island, mainly in Blue Hill Bay. They appear in good condition, but are perhaps barren individuals for their breeding ranges lie far to the north. Other northern sea ducks, such as the Oldsquaw, are occasionally seen in summer.

BLACK DUCK. This is a common duck on Mt. Desert, often flushed from freshwater ponds, salt marshes and secluded coastal coves. The nests are usually situated in swamps and about the borders of ponds, but are sometimes a considerable distance from water. In the fall, flocks of these ducks congregate on the "Jordan River" adjacent to Mt. Desert.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL. In recent years this teal has been seen frequently at various parts of the island, including Bass Harbor, Northeast Creek, and the Duck Pond near Western Mountain. In late June, 1964, a female with her brood of still flightless young was flushed from the little stream that is the outlet of Sieur de Monts Spring.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL. There have been many records of Blue-winged Teal on Mt. Desert in spring, summer and fall, for the most part from various ponds and streams in the northeastern part of the island. During the summer of 1966 a brood of nine young was observed on many occasions at Hamilton Pond near Salisbury Cove.

WOOD DUCK. This beautiful duck has increased on Mt. Desert during the past fifty years, and now occurs on many of the ponds and streams as well as on beaver flowages. Broods of young have been seen on several ponds, but no nest has as yet been reported from the island although boxes have been erected for the use of this species. The usual site is in a cavity of a tree.

RING-NECKED DUCK. Prior to 1940 this duck had never been reported from Mt. Desert, but has since been a summer resident here. The Ring-neck is a freshwater species and should be looked for on the more secluded ponds, such as Seal Cove, Hodgdon's, Aunt Betty's and the Breakneck Ponds, on all of which broods of young have been seen. The nests are situated close to open water, but none has been found on the island.

COMMON EIDER. Many eiders may be observed at sea south and southwest of Mt. Desert in summer. Early in the century they were rare hereabouts during the breeding season. They nest on small, uninhabited islands, such as Little Duck, Trumpet and Ship, their eggs, often down-covered, concealed under raspberry bushes or in grass. Comparatively few ducklings reach maturity due to predation from Black-backed Gulls.

COMMON MERGANSER. If a merganser is seen during the summer on a freshwater lake or pond of Mt. Desert it is probably this species. Females with their broods have been observed on Long Pond and Bubble Pond in July, but there are few records for the island during the summer months.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. Forty or more years ago this duck, primarily a saltwater species, was often encountered off the coast of Mt. Desert in summer. Around the turn of the century several pairs habitually nested on Trumpet Island. Of late the species has apparently been only an occasional summer resident. A few years ago a female with her brood of young was observed at Northeast Harbor.

Hawks and Eagles

As is the case with ducks and owls, our knowledge of the hawks of Mt. Desert is limited. In addition to those known to breed here, the Cooper's Hawk and Red-shouldered Hawk may be, or may have been, rare or occasional summer residents. Both have been reported from the island. The Rough-legged Hawk, a transient and winter visitant, has been seen as early as September 18.

GOSHAWK. This large and fierce *Accipiter* summers in relatively small numbers on Mt. Desert. After its eggs are hatched it betrays its presence by squealing or cackling loudly as a warning to anyone approaching its nest or young, and sometimes will attack an intruder viciously if he does not retire. These hawks inhabit dense woodland on both sides of the island. They prey to some extent on Ruffed Grouse, and also capture smaller birds and various mammals including rabbits and squirrels.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. The Sharp-shin is a small *Accipiter*, the female much larger than the male. It has greatly decreased as a summer resident on Mt. Desert and is now rare on the island, although still reported regularly during the breeding season. About thirty years ago a cackling adult was encountered in July near the southern end of Long Pond: doubtless there were young nearby but none was seen.

RED-TAILED HAWK. I have observed this large *Buteo* most frequently soaring over open country near Bar Harbor, the Emery District and the burnt lands. A nest was found in 1961 in woodland north of Mt. Cadillac, and a pair nested about thirty years ago on Little Brown Mountain.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. This small *Buteo* is the commonest hawk on Mt. Desert, and is often seen by the roadsides when motoring through the island. It is primarily a bird of woodlands, seldom encountered in open country except during migration. Its nest is usually situated in a hardwood tree at no great elevation above the ground.

BALD EAGLE. Owing to pollution of rivers and streams, Maine has become the last stronghold of this magnificent bird in New England. In spite of the fact that comparatively few young have been raised successfully in recent years on and near Mt. Desert, eagles are in my experience seen almost as frequently as they were during the first half of the century. They may be found near any expanse of water, fresh or salt, and occur among the outer islands and exposed sea ledges. Their food consists mostly of fish that they discover dead along the coast or about the borders of lakes or ponds, but sometimes acquired by robbing Ospreys of their prey.

MARSH HAWK. A few pairs of these harriers summer on the island, but it is seldom that one encounters this species here. Perhaps the best localities are at the southern end of Seal Cove

Pond and in the swamps between Ship Harbor and Sea Wall. A nest (on the ground) with eggs of the Marsh Hawk was discovered on Mt. Desert in early June, 1941.

Ospreys

OSPREY. Although not as numerous as the Broad-winged Hawk, this species is more frequently seen on Mt. Desert. Ospreys search for fish over both fresh and salt water, hovering in the air for several seconds before plunging on their prey. Most of the nests are in trees, but precipitous rocks close to the sea have been chosen. Like eagles, they return to their old nests year after year.

Falcons

PEREGRINE FALCON. Probably never more than two pairs of these falcons have inhabited Mt. Desert. I know of only two former aeries, one on the steep slope of Champlain Mountain near Bar Harbor, the other on the "Eagle Cliffs" of St. Sauveur Mountain bordering Somes Sound. The flight of the Peregrine is exceedingly rapid. In 1954 I saw one at Pretty Marsh that was harassing an eagle high in the air, effectively driving the much larger but more cumbersome bird from the island. During the late "fifties" this species was extirpated as a breeding bird of Mt. Desert, a direct result of the use of pesticides; nor are there any aeries elsewhere in the eastern United States. However, an occasional individual may still be seen here while on migration, sometimes out at sea.

SPARROW HAWK. This small falcon, also and more properly called "American Kestrel", occurs in open country. It is often seen in the Emery District and on the burnt lands during the breeding season, but is commoner as a transient. A nest was found in early July in a cavity in the roof of an old barn on Beech Hill.

Grouse

There have been several records of Spruce Grouse on Mt. Desert, all by bird-watchers; but it is significant that neither I nor other small game shooters whom I have known have ever bagged this extraordinarily fearless and sluggish species on the island during the past fifty years. Indeed there is no proof that it has occurred here in historical times. On the nearby mainland I have encountered Spruce Grouse on the borders of Kilkenny Stream, and have seen many in northern Hancock County, usually in or near dense swampy areas where they often escape detection as a result of their torpid behavior.

RUFFED GROUSE. Forty years and more ago the Ruffed Grouse or "Partridge" was abundant on Mt. Desert, but has since become rather scarce owing to the increase in the numbers of deer which brouse on food relished by this bird, and of raccoons and foxes which doubtless take heavy toll of the eggs and young. This grouse is primarily a woodland bird, but is occasionally flushed from exposed ledges on mountain tops. There is considerable fluctuation in populations of Ruffed Grouse, but this is not apparent on the islands. For example, on Mt. Desert there was no great increase during the mid "fifties" as was evident on the mainland of northern Hancock County.

Pheasants

RING-NECKED PHEASANT. Pheasants are often liberated on Mt. Desert in September prior to the shooting season, but few survive the winter partly due to the prevalence of foxes and other predators. They thrive better on the outer islands, such as Isle au Haut, outer Long Island and Great Duck. On the last mentioned I flushed a hen with her brood of downy chicks in June. There they feed largely on cranberries that grow on the open, swampy parts of the island.

Rails

The Virginia Rail is the only species of its family known to breed on Mt. Desert, but the Sora may do so occasionally. An adult and immature of the latter seen at Hamilton Pond on August 18 may have been either native birds or early transients. Up to now there has been no report of the loud descending whinny that is characteristic of the Sora. The American Coot is known only as a transient.

VIRGINIA RAIL. On Mt. Desert this rail inhabits freshwater marshes and swamps, but is easily overlooked for it is highly secretive and not as vocal as the Sora. Broods of young have been seen in swampy areas north of Seal Cove until late in July. A nest was found on Grand Manan (New Brunswick) in early June.

Plovers

Although the Piping Plover is known to nest on beaches in Maine, it is evidently not a summer resident in the Mt. Desert area where it has occurred only as a very rare transient during the past fifty years. The beaches here are for the most part too stony, not sandy enough, for this species. Transient plovers often seen at Mt. Desert in summer are the Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers and the Ruddy Turnstone.

KILLDEER. Unlike the Spotted Sandpiper, the Killdeer is a rare summer resident on Mt. Desert, whence it has been recorded only from the northeastern part of the island. It occurs in meadows of the Emery District, and on many occasions has been seen on the beaches at Hull's Cove. Several "nests" have been found at or near Hull's Cove, one of these on the lawn of a motel.

Woodcock and Sandpipers

The Upland Plover and Common Snipe occur as transients but are not known to breed on Mt. Desert. A wisp of three of the latter, and a fourth winnowing and drumming overhead, were observed along the upper reaches of Northeast Creek in the Emery District as late as June 15. Transient species of this family seen in summer include the Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Dowitcher, Sanderling, and Solitary, Least, Semipalmated and Pectoral Sandpipers.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK. This attractive little game bird is widespread in summer, but is most abundant in late October and early November when "flights" arrive from Nova Scotia and the north. Woodcock are usually flushed from wet areas in rather open woodland or alder swales. One may see them near their coverts at dusk, flitting like bats to their feeding grounds. They breed mostly in early spring, but eggs have been found on Mt. Desert in June.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. Although many species of sandpipers occur here during migration, some of which are present in midsummer, the Spotted is the only one that breeds on the island. It frequents the seacoast and the borders of ponds or lakes. The "nests" are near water, on a beach, in a meadow or by the roadside.

Gulls and Terns

In addition to members of this family that breed on islands in the vicinity of Mt. Desert, Arctic Terns occur here in summer but usually far out at sea. They may be seen at Mt. Desert Rock, but neither this species nor any other bird nests there. A few Laughing and Bonaparte's Gulls are observed in summer, the former often near the docks at Bar Harbor, the latter usually well off the coast. On Petit Manan, a small treeless island about fifteen miles east of Mt. Desert, there are (1970) large colonies of Arctic and Common Terns, several pairs of Roseate Terns and approximately fifty pairs of Laughing Gulls. Possibly some Arctic

Terns nested among Common Terns in the Mt. Desert area early in the century.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL. Wherever gulls congregate we are apt to find this handsome species. Though the Black-backed has long been present along the coast of Maine in summer, forty or more years ago it did not breed here. Now colonies are established on several of the smaller islands, notably Little Duck, Ship Island, and the Green Islands or "Scrags". These gulls have had a detrimental effect on the populations of smaller sea birds, particularly the petrels.

HERRING GULL. This is the most abundant of our sea birds. Found mainly on salt water, Herring Gulls also frequent the lakes and larger ponds for bathing. They nest on a number of islets where there are no human habitations.

COMMON TERN. Forty years and more ago there were flourishing colonies of Common Terns on islets in Blue Hill Bay, including Ship and Trumpet, where they nested in company with Herring Gulls; but since the advent of Black-backed Gulls they have moved closer to the mainland. After vacating Ship and Trumpet, a colony was established for many years on Rumell's Hub, north of Goose Cove Rock, but this was deserted in 1970 when apparently terns nested only on islets or rocks near Indian Point and Squid Cove. However, bird-watchers who visit Mt. Desert in summer will have no difficulty in finding these birds, for many are present on migration in July and August.

Auks

Only one species of this family is resident in our area, but two others (the Razor-billed Auk and Atlantic Puffin) breed on Machias Seal Island and on Matinicus Rock, islets far out to sea and well worth visiting by the ornithologically minded.

BLACK GUILLEMOT. This small but chunky sea bird, known locally as "Sea Pigeon", is common in the vicinity of Mt. Desert, particularly among the outer islands. There is an important colony on Little Duck and many pairs nest in crevices of the steep cliffs of Ironbound Island near Bar Harbor.

Pigeons and Doves

Semi-feral domestic pigeons or "Rock Doves" occur in many of the towns and villages of Maine, including Bar Harbor and Southwest Harbor.

MOURNING DOVE. Although frequently encountered in late summer and early fall, few of these doves breed on Mt. Desert and their cooing is seldom heard here. They are usually in rather open places, about the borders of fields or near habitations, and are often flushed from the roadsides. Nests found near Salisbury Cove in June were in small spruces 6 to 12 feet above the ground.

Cuckoos

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo has been reported from Mt. Desert during the breeding season by a number of bird-watchers, but I have never seen or heard this species here at that time of year. It is sometimes not uncommon in late summer.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. This cuckoo occurs in alder thickets and scrubby country throughout the island, and is at times numerous in the vicinity of Sieur de Monts Spring. A nest was discovered in a viburnum shrub on the slope of Cadillac Mountain in early June.

Typical Owls

Less is known about the owls of Mt. Desert than any other family of birds. In addition to those listed, the Long-eared Owl* and Screech Owl have been reported heard, but there has been no sight record of either during the past fifty years. There are no summering records of either the Boreal Owl or Short-eared Owl, species known to nest or to have nested on Grand Manan Island about 65 miles east of Mt. Desert. One dark and foggy day on Grand Manan I heard an owl that sounded much like a Screech Owl. However, the late Allan Moses, an authority on the birds of that island who was with me, assured me that it was the voice of a Boreal Owl. This species is at least a winter resident on Mt. Desert whence a specimen was collected in late December. In April, 1925, Hawk Owls were observed on Grand Manan, their behavior indicating that they were breeding: this owl is only a "winter visitant" on Mt. Desert, although I examined a wounded individual that had just been shot on Town Hill as early as October 17. It is said that a pair of Barn Owls occupied an old barn at Great Head about seventy years ago.

** GREAT HORNED OWL. This powerful and ferocious owl, a rare resident on Mt. Desert, has been recorded from various parts of the island. In 1970 I often heard its eerie hooting (*huhuhoo-hoo-hoo*) in the spruce woods behind our Pretty Marsh camp, both during the night and after daybreak. At times two, probably a pair, were present. Great Horned Owls breed in late winter and early spring, their eggs deposited in old nests of other large birds.

BARRED OWL. The dark-eyed Barred Owl is occasionally seen on woodland trails and mountain slopes. Its characteristic two-phrased hooting (*hu-hu-huhu, hu-hu-huaw*) may be heard at night and sometimes even during the day. A nest was found in a cavity of a tree on the slope of Cadillac Mountain, another south of Western Mountain.

SAW-WHET OWL. The little Saw-whet is rather rare on Mt. Desert, where it is more often heard than seen. It has been encountered most frequently in spruce woods on the western side of the island. A nest was discovered in a cavity of a tree stub at Little Oak Hill near the old Seal Cove Road, another (with young) near Bass Harbor Head. *

Goatsuckers

WHIP-POOR-WILL. Although abundant in many parts of eastern Maine, few Whip-poor-wills summer on Mt. Desert except on the burnt lands. They are quite common in the scrubby growth that now covers this area, but are rarely seen. At night in June one often hears their loud, repetitive *purple-rip* in the northern and northeastern parts of the island. A "nest" with two eggs was found here in June.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK. Nighthawks, like Whip-poor-wills, mainly frequent the burnt lands during the breeding season, laying their eggs on bare ledges or other open spots. There are several nesting records from the island, including one from the southern ridge of Cadillac Mountain. In late summer the Nighthawk occurs commonly on Mt. Desert as a transient.

Swifts

CHIMNEY SWIFT. Swifts are often seen at Bar Harbor and at other villages or settlements. Sometimes they course open fields in company with swallows. All nests reported from the island have been in chimneys.

Hummingbirds

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. Gardens are the best places to look for hummingbirds, which appear to be most prevalent in the vicinity of Bar Harbor and Northeast Harbor. Many

* See p. 29
** nest in spruce west of Little Round Pond; late Feb. 1974

* probably roosting site; 11 see p. 29

people put out vials that contain syrup on their porches or outside their windows to attract these little birds, offering an opportunity to observe them at close range.

Kingfishers

BELTED KINGFISHER. Kingfishers are among the more conspicuous birds of Mt. Desert, often seen along the coast and about the borders of lakes and ponds, their loud rattling voice betraying their presence. The usual nesting site is in the side of a gravel pit, sometimes at a considerable distance from water. On only one occasion have I found a kingfisher's burrow in the side of a bank by the sea.

Woodpeckers

A pair of Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers, a species much scarcer in eastern Maine than the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, was reported seen many years ago on Beech Mountain during the second summer after a forest fire. There have been several records during the winter months.

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER. Flickers are among the familiar birds of the island. Most in evidence along the roadsides and in meadows during migration in late summer and early fall, they are also common as summer residents. The white rump is a conspicuous field mark.

PILEATED WOODPECKER. By far the largest of Maine woodpeckers, the Pileated is rare on Mt. Desert where it is encountered most frequently on the western side of the island. In spite of its rarity at least five nests have been found here. On two successive years a pair occupied a birch stub, but different cavities, near the road to Fernald Point.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. Although common during migration in spring and fall, this is one of the scarcer woodpeckers on Mt. Desert in summer. From late May through June one may hear its characteristic irregular tapping in woodlands or copses with considerable deciduous growth. Many nests have been found in recent years.

HAIRY and DOWNY WOODPECKERS. These two woodpeckers look much alike apart from size, the Hairy being the larger. Both are common residents of the island. The subdued pecking one hears so frequently in the woods in summer is usually caused by one or the other.

BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER. This rare woodpecker inhabits mainly spruce woodland. It has been recorded from many parts of the island during every season of the year, including all the summer months. On several occasions pairs have been observed, but up to the present time there has been no evidence of nesting.

Tyrant Flycatchers

EASTERN KINGBIRD. Open country is where one should look for this flycatcher, which is often seen while perched on a telephone wire by the roadside. It may be encountered in the Emery District south of Salisbury Cove and at beaver ponds on the burnt lands. The nest is sometimes placed at a low elevation over water of a stream or flowage, but is usually well out on a branch of a tree.

GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER. This is one of the birds that has apparently extended its range to Mt. Desert as a result of the great forest fire of 1947, for the burnt lands are its favored habitat. Its loud screeching is often heard there in late spring. Nests found near Sieur de Monts Spring were in old flicker cavities in dead tree stubs.

EASTERN PHOEBE. Phoebes are found about bridges, barns or other man-made structures. They also frequent beaver flowages, such as that between Halfmoon Pond and Witch Hole Pond, where they nest among the roots of upturned trees.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER. Of the three flycatchers of the genus *Empidonax* that inhabit Mt. Desert (the Yellow-bellied, Traill's and Least) this species is most seldom seen. It is for the most part a bird of swampy woodland and in such environment is locally not uncommon, particularly on the western side of the island. Its voice is either a plaintive *oo-ee* of pewee-like quality, or a harsh *chebec* uttered much more deliberately than the closely similar call of the Least Flycatcher. Nests found here have been on the ground or among the roots of upturned trees, usually but not always in swampy places.

TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER. This is a common flycatcher in shrubbery in rather open country. It occurs on the borders of woodland but not in the forest and is much more often heard than seen, its voice a rapid *eeze-we-up*. Nests have been found in bushes, chiefly alder and meadowsweet.

LEAST FLYCATCHER. The "Chebec" is a bird of deciduous copses and woodland. It occurs on the outskirts of Bar Harbor and in or near other villages of the island. The nests are in trees, the eggs immaculate white.

WOOD PEWEE. Copses and open deciduous woodland are inhabited by the Wood Pewee. One may observe this flycatcher near Sieur de Monts Spring where nests have been found saddled on limbs of hemlock and deciduous trees bordering the trails. The Phoebe also occurs there as do all the other flycatchers of Mt. Desert with the possible exception of the Yellow-bellied.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. The loud *"hic-three-beers"* or the oft-repeated alarm notes (*pit-pit-pit*) call attention to this pewee-like flycatcher which is widespread on Mt. Desert in summer. It is a bird primarily of spruce growth, and is numerous in the Ship Harbor area as well as near Bar, Seal and Northeast Harbors. It often perches at the very top of a tall tree, and builds its nest usually high up on a horizontal branch of a conifer.

Swallows

Five species of swallows are summer residents on Mt. Desert. Many years ago (1888) a "small colony" of Purple Martins was reported from Bar Harbor, but the nearest colony in later years has been at Franklin Road on the nearby mainland east of Ellsworth. A pair in a vain search for a nesting site appeared at a motel near Salisbury Cove in June, 1964.

TREE SWALLOW. This is one of the common swallows of Mt. Desert, nesting for the most part in bird houses erected for its use. Occasionally a mail box will be chosen, or an old woodpecker's hole especially if over water.

BANK SWALLOW. Colonies of these swallows on Mt. Desert have been in recent years at gravel pits near the Southwest Harbor dump, between Somesville and Town Hill, and at Hull's Cove. There is also a colony on nearby Ship Island. The burrows are excavated in steep banks.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. The Rough-wing is a southern swallow that has been steadily spreading northward and now appears regularly on the island. Individuals have been netted and banded at Somesville in May; and in June, 1964, a pair nested in an old kingfisher burrow in a gravel pit between that village and Town Hill in company with several pairs of Bank Swallows.

BARN SWALLOW. Open farming country is favored by Barn Swallows. They nest in barns, sheds and other man-made structures to which they have access, and nests have been found in Anemone Cave near Bar Harbor and on a sea cliff at Great Duck Island.

CLIFF SWALLOW. This is another abundant swallow on the island, nesting in colonies under the eaves of buildings. The bulky nests are constructed outwardly of mud or clay, and differ from those of the Barn Swallow by their bottle-shaped instead of cup-shaped appearance.

Crows and Jays

GRAY JAY. Very few Gray or Canada Jays inhabit Mt. Desert Island in summer, and they are far from common in the winter months. From 1963 to 1966 adults accompanied by one to three young were often seen in the swampy coniferous woodland near Bass Harbor Marsh in June and July, and young were observed in the vicinity of Salisbury Cove in 1969. Nesting takes place in late winter or early in the spring, often when the ground is covered with snow.

BLUE JAY. Twenty or more years ago Blue Jays were seldom seen here but since have become plentiful. They occur in woodland as well as in open country, including the burnt lands. Nests found in May at Salisbury Cove were in thickets of spruce and fir at moderate elevations above the ground.

COMMON RAVEN. The raucous cries of ravens are often heard on Mt. Desert and the smaller islands nearby. For the most part they occur near the coast and on the higher mountain slopes, but are found virtually everywhere. The usual nesting site is on the side of a cliff, but a tree may also be chosen.

COMMON CROW. Crows are ubiquitous, but in spite of their abundance few nests have been found here. These are well hidden in conifers, and usually contain young by late May.

Titmice

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE. The familiar Black-capped Chickadee is abundant in the woodlands of Mt. Desert and often nests in a bird box erected for its use. Most nests are in cavities of trees or stubs at low or moderate elevations above ground.

BOREAL CHICKADEE. This brown-capped chickadee is an inhabitant of spruce woods and the borders of sphagnum bogs,

particularly on the western half of Mt. Desert. It also occurs on many of the small wooded islands nearby. Nests have been found in birch or spruce stubs from 3 to 30 feet up, those with eggs (6-7) in late May and early June, those with young in late June. Broods of young with the parents have often been reported in early summer.

Nuthatches

The White-breasted Nuthatch,* though primarily a southern species, is for the most part a winter visitant to Mt. Desert. It does occur on the island during the late spring and summer, but the few records during this period of the year may pertain to vagrants. The only individual that I have encountered was near Hull's Cove in mid June. It is possible of course that this nuthatch breeds here, but further observations are needed before we can say that this is probable. Predominantly deciduous woods in northern and northeastern Mt. Desert are where we should look for the White-breasted Nuthatch.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. This is an abundant bird on Mt. Desert, and during midsummer may be encountered in woodland more frequently than any other species. Its voice reminds one of a tiny tin trumpet. Red-breasted Nuthatches nest in holes of trees, the entrance to the cavities smeared with pitch. A nesting box is sometimes used for this purpose.

Creepers

BROWN CREEPER. The mouse-like little creeper easily escapes detection, for it is usually quiet. However, it is by no means uncommon in the woods. Nests are built behind slabs of loose bark on trees or stubs, and several have been found on the island that were on the sides of camps.

Wrens

HOUSE WREN. During the past forty years House Wrens have appeared on Mt. Desert as summer residents, but there are probably never more than half a dozen pairs on the island. This wren has often been encountered in or near Bar Harbor, and occasionally one is heard singing on the burnt lands. There are few records from the western side of the island. A nesting box in Bar Harbor was occupied by this species in June, 1938.

WINTER WREN. Tangled woodlands are favored by this little wren. In such environment its rollicking song is often heard among the mossy stumps and undergrowth. Most nests found on Mt. Desert were among the roots of upturned trees, but at least two were attached to lower branches of spruces. On two successive years a pair built a nest on a beam under our camp at Pretty Marsh, refurbishing what was left of the old structure on the second occasion.

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN. Wherever there are cattails one should listen for the rattling song of this wren, which is very rare on Mt. Desert whence it has been recorded only during the past decade. In 1968 a pair was located on the border of Beaverdam Pond near Bar Harbor, and seven "cock nests" were found there; but a nest with eggs or young has not as yet been discovered on the island.

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN. These wrens inhabit lush meadows, occasionally occurring in little colonies. In all instances they have been discovered by hearing their oft-repeated chattering, for they are highly secretive. The only active nest found on Mt. Desert was in a meadow midway between Southwest Harbor and Bass Harbor Marsh. This contained five young and one egg on June 30. Several "cock nests" were scattered about nearby.

Mockingbirds and Thrashers

Mockingbirds have been reported many times from Mt. Desert, but I believe all have been vagrants from the south. The species has extended its range northward in recent years and has been found nesting in Nova Scotia and even in Newfoundland. During over forty summers on the island I have seen but one, a bedraggled individual that spent several weeks at the Goose Cove cemetery. Males in song have been recorded from northeastern Mt. Desert during the breeding season.

CATBIRD. This is one of the birds that has increased as a summer resident on Mt. Desert since the great fire, for it has become abundant on the burnt lands. Elsewhere, Catbirds are often observed in shrubbery on the borders of woodlands, in gardens and about settlements in all parts of the island.

BROWN THRASHER. Prior to the great forest fire Brown Thrashers were rarely seen on Mt. Desert. At the present time the burnt lands offer suitable habitat, and they occur about the villages of the northeastern part of the island. Nests have been found in June, one in a brush pile, the others in shrubbery only a few inches above ground.

* nest in birdhouse in 16 Bar Harbor; late May 1974, young fledged June 10.

Thrushes

ROBIN. Robins are unquestionably the most widespread of Mt. Desert birds. They are as much at home along the streets of Bar Harbor as they are in spruce woods. They occur on the borders of the sphagnum bog near Ship Harbor, and there are many on the burnt lands. Outside of the center of villages almost every house or camp has one or more pairs of Robins nearby.

WOOD THRUSH. This southern thrush has steadily increased on Mt. Desert and is now well established as a summer resident in the northeastern part of the island. Prior to 1940 only one had been reported. Perhaps the best locality for the Wood Thrush is in the vicinity of Sieur de Monts Spring, where several pairs now occur during the breeding season. Nests found there were situated in deciduous saplings from 5 to 15 feet up.

HERMIT THRUSH. The beautiful song of the Hermit Thrush is familiar to all who are bird conscious. This species is more often found in mixed deciduous-coniferous woodland than in the dense spruce woods favored by Swainson's Thrush, and is present on the burnt lands. The song period lasts well into August, although the Hermit is not often heard as late as this. The nests with their immaculate bright blue eggs are situated on the ground, sometimes out of earshot of a singing male. They have been found from late May until early September.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH. The Swainson's or "Olive-backed Thrush" is one of the common birds of Mt. Desert, where it frequents coniferous woodland. One cannot fail to hear its song that spirals out of the spruces. This does not vary like the songs of the Hermit Thrush and Wood Thrush, but possesses a richness that is most pleasing. The song period lasts through July, but peters out during the last week of that month. Swainson's Thrush is an arboreal nester, although an occasional nest is built near the ground. Unlike other thrushes of the island its eggs are spotted.

VEERY. Wet areas on the burnt lands of northeastern Mt. Desert are the best places to look for the Veery. Several pairs occur regularly in the vicinity of Sieur de Monts Spring, where nests were found within a foot of the ground.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD. Formerly this beautiful bird was often seen about farms and along the roadsides, but in recent years it has become scarce on the island as well as elsewhere in

eastern North America. However, it has shown a slight increase during the late "sixties". At least three nesting boxes were occupied by Bluebirds in 1968.

Kinglets

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. These tiny birds are easily overlooked for they frequent dense spruce woods and their singing, unlike that of the Ruby-crowned, is very weak. Several of the globular, mossy nests have been found here, attached to branches of spruce trees at moderate or high elevations above ground.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET. Forty years ago far more Golden-crowned than Ruby-crowned Kinglets inhabited Mt. Desert in summer, but the latter is the commoner at the present time during this season. The loud warbling of the Ruby-crown, quite unlike the weak voice of its relative, may be heard anywhere on the island where there are extensive growths of conifers. At least nine nests were found here during the "sixties", situated well out on spruce branches from 8 to 40 feet up.

Waxwings

CEDAR WAXWING. Waxwings are abundant and conspicuous summer residents of the more open areas of Mt. Desert. They are among the few birds of the island that often associate in flocks. Their nests are situated at various elevations in trees, and are frequently near houses or camps.

Starlings

STARLING. The abundance of this introduced European species may in part be responsible for the rarity of Bluebirds on Mt. Desert, for Starlings are apt to drive the latter from their nesting holes. They occur in open country throughout the island.

Vireos

The Warbling Vireo breeds in the suburbs of Bangor and Old Town and in Orono, but is merely a vagrant to Mt. Desert Island.

SOLITARY VIREO. This is the vireo of coniferous woods. It is readily distinguished from the Red-eye by having two white wing-bars and a conspicuous white eye-ring. Like all vireos it builds a pendant nest. In the case of the Solitary Vireo this is usually situated at moderate elevations in evergreens, often in cedars. The song is heard throughout the summer, and even in early autumn.

RED-EYED VIREO. Woodlands with much deciduous growth, the burnt lands, copses and villages are localities frequented by the Red-eyed Vireo, one of the most abundant birds of the island. Like the previous species the Red-eye may be heard singing until late in summer.

Wood Warblers

Mt. Desert is deservedly renowned for the variety of wood warblers that occur here. Nests of twenty species have been found in the southwestern quarter of the island during the past forty years, and that of an additional one, the Blackpoll, on Little Duck Island about five miles southeast of Bass Harbor Head. The Mourning Warbler, now regarded only as a transient although it is sometimes in full song in late May or early June, may also breed here occasionally. The Pine Warbler is another possibility, but the only satisfactory records have been during the winter, one based on a specimen, another on a banded individual. There is little suitable habitat for the Pine Warbler on Mt. Desert, but it is not uncommon locally in southern Maine.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER. Woodland and mountain slopes with considerable deciduous growth, burnt lands and other extensive clearings are inhabited by this "creeping" warbler. Nests discovered near Southwest Harbor were on the ground in overgrown clearings, one of these concealed under an old stump.

TENNESSEE WARBLER. Perhaps the best locality for the Tennessee Warbler on Mt. Desert is among the larch and alder thickets bordering Marshall Brook and its main tributary Lurvey Brook. It is also apt to be found in forest clearings near Ship Harbor. This warbler often associates in scattered colonies: as many as ten singing males were recorded on one occasion in mid July at Schoodic Point on the nearby mainland. A nest with six eggs was discovered on June 4, 1968, situated in grass at the edge of an alder thicket in a rather open area near Lurvey Brook and approximately fifty feet from that of a Nashville Warbler. The only other warbler known to lay as large a clutch as this on Mt. Desert is the Cape May.

NASHVILLE WARBLER. Clearings bordered by clusters of gray birch are favored by this warbler, one of the shyest of its family. Its characteristic song is often heard on sunny mountain slopes as well as in low country. Nests on the island were situated on the ground among clusters of bunchberries or under blueberry bushes.

PARULA WARBLER. The Parula is the smallest of our warblers, and unlike others of its family the female is noticeably smaller than the male. It occurs wherever the gray-green, moss-like lichen *Usnea* festoons the trees. In this the bird builds its nest, and appears to be remarkably successful in rearing its young. Nests found on Mt. Desert were situated from 4 to 50 feet above ground, usually in evergreens.

YELLOW WARBLER. Unlike other warblers, this brightly colored species is chiefly a bird of small towns and villages in Maine. It also inhabits alder thickets and roadside shrubbery and has been found nesting near Ship Harbor. Yellow Warblers often nest close to houses, a lilac bush or thicket of meadowsweet offering suitable sites.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER. This beautiful warbler is widespread in the woods, where its sprightly singing is heard in June and July. Magnolia Warblers choose areas where there are thickets of young spruce and fir in which the flimsy nests are built. These are usually less than 4 feet above ground, but at times as high as 12 feet.

CAPE MAY WARBLER. Occasionally Cape May Warblers are fairly common as summer residents on Mt. Desert, but are usually very rare or absent. During the past forty years the late "thirties" was the best period for these warblers. They should be looked for in stands of tall spruce not far from the sea. In 1936 a nest was found at the top of a red spruce west of Ship Harbor. This was the first nest record of this species from the United States and is still the southernmost.

MYRTLE WARBLER. The Myrtle is a hardy warbler, reaching us earlier in spring and departing later in fall than any other species of the family with the possible exception of the Palm Warbler. In early May its sleigh-bell-like jingle is heard before other woodland warblers have reached the island. Myrtle Warblers occur in lowland woods as well as on mountains and on the burnt lands. Their feather-lined nests have been found in spruce, fir, cedar and larch from 3 to 40 feet up. One on the border of Long Pond contained eggs as early as May 23.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. Rather dry woodland with an admixture of coniferous and deciduous growth is the habitat of this warbler, which is apt to occur in scattered colonies. Look for it near the trails along the lower slopes of Beech Mountain. Here several nests have been found, all situated in clumps of

little spruces within two feet of the ground. These are comparatively bulky and constructed largely of strips of cedar and birch bark.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. This is one of the commonest summer residents of the island, and is certainly the most abundant in the spruce woods. A familiar song here is a drawling *zee-zee-didi-ze,* a lovely soothing sound on warm early summer days. Nests have been found in evergreens from 2 to 30 feet up.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. The beautiful Blackburnian Warbler has increased as a summer resident on Mt. Desert. It is a bird of high spruce and hemlock where its wiry song will be heard only by those with unimpaired hearing. Nests found on the island have been from 30 to 50 feet above ground near the ends of spruce branches, not close to the trunks as are those of the Cape May.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. Scrub-covered clearings, alder swales and, in particular, the burnt lands are favored by this warbler, a bird that has increased on Mt. Desert since the great forest fire. It has been found nesting among alders and in *Spiraea.*

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER. Dense spruce woods, as those bordering the road to Bass Harbor Head, at the northern end of Long Pond and on the lower slopes of Asticou Hill near Northeast Harbor, are where one should look for this warbler. In such environment is heard the lisping, nondescript song of the Bay-breast. Many of the relatively bulky nests have been found on Mt. Desert. These were situated between 12 and 40 feet above ground, well out on branches of spruces and firs.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER. A few Blackpolls breed on the Duck Islands, and they have been recorded in early summer from Great Cranberry and Sutton's Island and from Isle au Haut. A male was seen at Otter Point in late June, and two males have been reported from extreme southwestern Mt. Desert in late June and early July, an indication that the species may breed on this island as well. A nest located on Little Duck was in a white spruce 33 feet above ground, an unusually high elevation for that of a Blackpoll; the adult male was photographed while feeding the young. This warbler is a late transient, and many pass through en route to Canada in late May and early June. Some transients have dark legs (apart from the yellow soles), and these are virtually indistinguishable from Pine Warblers when viewed from below.

PALM WARBLER. So far as known, the Palm Warbler breeds on Mt. Desert at only two localities, both in the southwestern part of the island. There is a colony on the "Big Heath" near Seawall, where many nests have been found embedded in the reindeer moss and sphagnum. The other colony, comprising about ten pairs, inhabits a dry, overgrown clearing (an old burn) about halfway between Southwest Harbor and Bass Harbor Marsh. Three nests located here were in little spruces 14 to 18 inches above ground.

OVENBIRD. Largely deciduous woodland in the lowlands is the habitat of Ovenbirds, which are common on Mt. Desert. The domed nests, situated on the ground, have been found on both sides of the island, but not as yet in the Ship Harbor area.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH. Waterthrushes inhabit woodland swamps, alder swamps bordering ponds, and beaver flowages; occasionally they may be observed along some of the larger streams (e.g. Denning Brook and Duck Brook). They are among the rarer summer resident warblers of Mt. Desert, and are seldom encountered except during late May and early June when their loud and pleasant song is heard. The only nest discovered on the island was in a swamp near the Cape Road. It was situaated among the roots of an upturned cedar about a foot above the water and contained five eggs on June 5.

YELLOWTHROAT. This is one of the most abundant warblers of the island, frequenting thickets, swampy places and the burnt lands. The songs of Yellowthroats hereabouts are loud and often five-syllabled. The nests are built in grass, shrubbery or weeds, always close to the ground.

WILSON'S WARBLER. Although rather scarce, the Wilson's Warbler has been found during the breeding season in many parts of the island. It inhabits alder swales and bush-covered clearings and is present here and there on the burnt lands, occasionally even on the outskirts of Bar Harbor. All nests that have been discovered on Mt. Desert were on the ground, each of two that I examined at the base of an alder. On the nearby mainland there has been for many years a small colony of these northern warblers bordering the highway 1.5 miles east of the junction of Routes 1 and 3 at Ellsworth.

CANADA WARBLER. This pretty warbler, with the black "necklace" across its yellow breast, inhabits mosquito-infested swamps and fern-carpeted woodlands, environments also favored

by the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. One nest was situated several inches above ground in a thick clump of little firs beside the path to "The Bowl", another was embedded in a bank on the border of a clearing near Denning Brook, whereas a third was in the side of a mossy hummock near Lurvey Spring.

AMERICAN REDSTART. This is the most abundant warbler on Mt. Desert and is virtually ubiquitous, but is found for the most part in deciduous growth. Nests are usually at moderate elevations above ground, but occasionally as low as two feet. A birch is often selected for this purpose.

Weaver Finches

HOUSE SPARROW. Few House Sparrows inhabit Mt. Desert, but they are numerous in Bar Harbor. Elsewhere individuals may be seen at Southwest Harbor and Somesville and near the docks at Bass Harbor.

Meadowlarks, Blackbirds and Orioles

The Rusty Blackbird is not known to summer on Mt. Desert, where it is often seen in spring and early fall. In Hancock County it occurs sparingly during the breeding season along the upper reaches of the Narraguagus River.

BOBOLINK. The best locality for Bobolinks on the island is on the meadows bordering Northeast Creek. Elsewhere they should be sought wherever there are open fields. The nests are well hidden in the grass and are difficult to find.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK. Few meadowlarks summer on Mt. Desert Island. Most of these are in the Emery District where there are extensive open fields. They may also be encountered near Bar Harbor and on Town Hill and Beech Hill. Nests have been found in northeastern Mt. Desert.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. Freshwater swamps and bushy borders of lakes or ponds are where we find Redwings. They nest in shrubs and cattails in the wetter places, but wander far afield sometimes when foraging for food.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE. This beautiful bird may be found in or near villages, particularly where there are elms, and also should be looked for in copses of tall deciduous trees in northern Mt. Desert. It occurs regularly in the vicinity of Sieur de Monts Spring, particularly at the parking lot. Nests have been reported from near Bar Harbor, at Hull's Cove and at Southwest Harbor.

COMMON GRACKLE. During the past thirty years grackles have greatly increased on Mt. Desert, and the species is now a common summer resident. They may be seen at Bar Harbor, Somesville, Southwest Harbor and Bass Harbor, and about ponds and beaver flowages. The nests are usually situated in evergreens, but some are in shrubbery bordering ponds at or near water level, and several have been in boxes erected for the use of Wood Ducks.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD. Cowbirds occur on open fields or lawns and near farm buildings. Occasionally one is found in dense woods. Warblers and vireos are often victimized by this parasitic species, but I have never seen a cowbird nor a parasitized nest on the extensive sphagnum bog near Seawall.

Tanagers

SCARLET TANAGER. Few Scarlet Tanagers are present on Mt. Desert during the summer. They inhabit mainly deciduous woodland and the burnt lands. This beautiful bird occurs regularly near Sieur de Monts Spring, where in 1967 a nest was located on a branch of a hemlock about 30 feet above the ground, the first ever to have been reported from Maine.

Finches, Grosbeaks, Buntings and Sparrows

Although the Vesper Sparrow, a regular transient on Mt. Desert, has often been reported by bird-watchers during the breeding season I am loth to accept these records most of which are from localities quite unsuitable to this species, such as Somesville, Baker's Island and freshwater marshes bordering Northeast Creek. In my experience this sparrow in eastern Maine is now confined in the nesting period to extensive blueberry barrens and potato fields, and is a summer resident in such dry terrain near Ellsworth and Franklin on the nearby mainland. Adult and young "Pine Grosbeaks" were reported seen here in 1911, but the photograph that accompanies the article (Bird-Lore, 1911) indicates that the birds were crossbills.

EVENING GROSBEAK. The large and strikingly colored Evening Grosbeak has since 1957 become established as a summer resident along the Union River at Ellsworth. It first appeared during summer on Mt. Desert in 1961, and has since been present here during this season, occurring chiefly in the vicinity of habitations where it is usually seen picking up grit by the roadside. Fledglings being fed by adult females have been observed near Seal Harbor in July and at Somesville in September.

PURPLE FINCH. Purple Finches are abundant on Mt. Desert, and their pleasant warbling is sure to be heard in June and July. They are widespread in distribution, but favor spruce woods. They are often seen near houses and readily come to feeding stations. Nests have been found in spruces from 20 to 50 feet above the ground.

PINE SISKIN. Siskins may not summer here every year, but during some seasons they are plentiful. Favorable localities include Asticou, Seal Harbor and the vicinity of Ship Harbor. They have been reported feeding young and carrying nesting material, but a nest has not been discovered on the island. Like crossbills, they are apt to associate in flocks.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. This canary-like finch is common on Mt. Desert, where it frequents villages and fairly open country. Goldfinches are attracted to feeders, but less so it would seem than Pine Siskins and Purple Finches. The nests are built in shrubbery or trees.

RED CROSSBILL. From 1920 to 1940 this crossbill was extremely rare in summer on Mt. Desert, but since 1945 has become familiar to bird-watchers. Occasionally it is abundant, and certainly breeds here for fledglings have been recorded in April. Although both crossbills may be present on the island, usually one or the other predominates. A good Red Crossbill year is a poor one for White-wings and vice versa.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. During some summers this finch is extraordinarily plentiful on Mt. Desert and nearby wooded islands. Both crossbills frequent spruce woods, but the White-winged is less apt to be seen in villages. They often breed in winter when the ground is covered with snow. Adult White-wings feeding young have been observed here in June. A nest that I found in the Magdalen Islands (Canada) in early June was in a small spruce: it was interesting to note that the adult female associated with a flock of her species when feeding nearby.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. This beautiful bird is most apt to be seen on the eastern side of the island where it frequents deciduous copses and the borders of woodland. The vicinity of Sieur de Monts Spring is one of the most favored localities. A nest found there in early June was about ten feet up in a beech sapling.

INDIGO BUNTING. This is one of the birds that has increased as a summer resident on Mt. Desert where it inhabits for the most part the burnt lands of the northeast, including the outskirts of Bar Harbor. Its nest has not been found here, but adults were seen feeding a fledgling at Somesville in early July.

RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE. This is another of the southern birds that has been extending its range northward. It is now a rather common summer resident on the burnt lands. The only nest so far recorded was under a small spruce on the rocky slope of Paradise Hill near Hull's Cove.

SAVANNAH SPARROW. Although not limited to boreal regions during the breeding season, one associates this sparrow with bleak and wind-swept northern shores as on the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Islands. On Mt. Desert it inhabits meadows, open bogs and salt marshes, and is present on most of the smaller islands nearby.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW. The best locality for Sharp-tailed Sparrows is Bass Harbor Marsh. Elsewhere on the island they have been recorded only from the head of Somes Sound. They evidently are confined to saltwater marshes on Mt. Desert where they frequent wetter terrain than the Savannah Sparrows that also are present in this habitat. Usually they flush close to one's feet and fly but a short distance. The song of these "Acadian" Sharp-tails is a wheezy *cheee-suk*, reminiscent of that of a Henslow's Sparrow and the last two notes of the song of some Savannah Sparrows. Several nests have been found in Bass Harbor Marsh.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. Every bird-watcher on Mt. Desert knows the Junco. Primarily it is a bird of clearings and roadsides. The nests are usually on the ground or among the roots of upturned trees, but in 1962 a pair refurbished and occupied the thrice-used nest of a White-throated Sparrow in a little spruce close to our camp at Pretty Marsh.

CHIPPING SPARROW. This familiar little sparrow is seldom seen far from habitations. It occurs in gardens, particularly on the eastern side of the island, as well as on the borders of fields in farming country. Nests are usually in small evergreens near houses, but one near Salisbury Cove was situated well out on a spruce limb about 30 feet above ground.

FIELD SPARROW. Like the Towhee this is one of the southern species that has become established as a summer resident on Mt. Desert since the great fire, for the burnt lands offer suitable habitat. Fledglings being fed by their parents have been seen in early July on the outskirts of Bar Harbor.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. No bird voice is more characteristic of Mt. Desert than the clear piping of the Whitethroat. We hear it in the lowlands as well as on the mountain tops, wherever there are clearings or brush-covered open spaces. In 1958, 1959 and 1961 a pair nested in a dense little spruce about 18 inches above ground and a few yards from our Pretty Marsh camp. After the first year the birds utilized what was left of the old nest. The usual site is on the ground.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW. The extensive sphagnum bog near Ship Harbor, known as the "Big Heath", is the only locality on Mt. Desert Island where Lincoln's Sparrows are known to breed. In early June the loud gurgling song, resembling somewhat that of a House Wren, should be heard there, but at most two or three singing males will be encountered. Three nests with four eggs and one with two young were found in June in the more open parts of this bog during the late "sixties". These were embedded in the moss like those of the Palm Warbler. After the young have fledged these sparrows are occasionally observed in swampy areas outside the true bog.

SWAMP SPARROW. Freshwater swamps and bushy borders of lakes, ponds or streams are where one finds this sparrow. There are many such places on Mt. Desert Island. The nest resembles that of a Song Sparrow but is situated in a wetter location.

SONG SPARROW. An abundant and familiar bird of villages and settlements, the Song Sparrow also occurs on the borders of woodlands and ponds and on all of the small islands. Occasionally it is encountered in a comparatively open area in the heart of the forest.

ADDENDA. Long-eared Owl: adults and at least 2 young on Hardwood Island, July-August 1972. Saw-whet Owl: sometimes exhibits ear tufts; nest with 3 fledglings and addled egg in cavity of spruce stub near Cape Road, mid-June 1971. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: nest with young being fed by both parents in cavity of live spruce 12.5 feet above ground on border of clearing near Seal Harbor, June 10, 1972. Red Crossbill: nest with fledged young about 30 feet up in spruce on Grindstone Neck on mainland east of Bar Harbor, Sept. 2, 1972.