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Review: Collett and Nansen's Birds of the Norwegian North Polar Expedition  
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The voyages here described were made in 1895 and 1897. In 1895 considerable time (June 20-27) was spent on the Murman coast of Russian Lapland, and (July 5-15) on Kolguer Island; Novaya Zemlya was reached July 17, and ten days later the party started on their homeward trip, reaching Bergen, Norway, August 9. The expedition largely failed of its original purpose, owing to the condition of the ice and the unsuitableness of the vessel. The purpose of the second expedition was to explore the tundra-land between the Petchora River and the Ural Mountains. Owing to unfavorable weather and ice conditions this country was never reached, and the "Great Tundra, . . . lying between the Petchora and Karataikha rivers, yet remains an unknown land, as far as its bird-life during the summer season is concerned." The voyage occupied eleven weeks, and the time was occupied in "interesting work on Waïgatch, Dolgor Island, and Novaya Zemlya."

The narrative of the two voyages occupies pp. 1-168, and is followed by appendixes on the botany and geology, by Colonel Feilden, of the regions visited, and on the ornithology by Mr. Pearson. Thus 'Appendix G, Ornithology,' contains a summary of the observations on the birds, giving briefly the principal facts, while reference to the index will give a clue to the fuller details. The list altogether numbers 67 species, while tabular lists indicate the species met with at the different points visited; namely, Waïgatch, with 38 species; South Island of Novaya Zemlya, 44 species; North Island of Novaya Zemlya, 32 species; Dolgor Island, 20 species, and Habarova, 25 species.

Of the sixteen species of passerine birds met with, the greater part were seen only in Russian Lapland, the birds found at the other points being the usual Arctic shore birds and water fowl, with a few species of raptorial birds. The colony of Brünnich's Murres found at Nameless Bay, Novaya Zemlya, was not only the largest met with, but "ranks as one of the most important in the Arctic regions." It is illustrated in plates 73 and 74 and described at length on pages 162 and 163. The higher parts of the same cliffs were occupied also by the Glaucous Gull in great numbers, — "handsome, well-fed birds, who looked as if they had not a care in life beyond the selection of the youngsters [young Murres] from the ledges below."

The book is well gotten up, and profusely illustrated with excellent halftone plates, showing the scenic, geological, and floral features of the coasts and islands visited, with many pictures of Lapps and Samoyedes, etc., as well as the many views illustrating bird life. — J. A. A.

#### Collett and Nansen's Birds of the Norwegian North Polar Expedition.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Norwegian North Polar Expedition, 1893-1896. Scientific Results. Edited by Fridtjof Nansen, IV. An Account of the Birds. By Robert Collett

— This sumptuously printed brochure of fifty-four quarto pages and a colored plate is compiled by Dr. Collett from the journals and verbal information supplied by Nansen, Sverdrup, and other members of the 'Fram' expedition, and is arranged in four sections. Section 'I, Siberian Coast (autumn, 1893),' (pp. 6-13) contains a list of 25 species, of which the Snowflake (*Plectrophenax nivalis*), observed all along the Siberian coast where a landing was made, is the only passerine bird here met with, and it was seen, as a rule, only singly or a few together. A Falcon (*Falco æsalon*), a Hawk (doubtfully identified as *Archibuteo lagopus*), the Snowy Owl, and a Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) were the only other land birds seen, and of these the Owl was the only species numerously represented. The Black-bellied Plover, the Purple Sandpiper and two species of Phalarope (*Phalaropus hyperboreus* and *Crymophilus fulcarius*) comprise the shore birds positively identified. Two species of Geese, the Old Squaw and Eider Duck, the Arctic Tern, the Kittiwake, several species of Gulls (*Larus*), two species of Jaeger, a Loon, and two species of Guillemot make up the list of sea birds, very few of which were seen in any considerable numbers.

Section 'II. The First Summer (1894) in the Ice,' (pp. 14-23) numbers only 9 species, two of which are not certainly identified. The only land bird is the Snowflake, a single individual of which visited the 'Fram' on June 21, 1894, in 81° 49' N. Lat.; there are no shore birds, and the sea birds are all Gulls, Jaegers, Fulmars and Guillemots. Interest here centers in the Ross's Gull (*Rodostethia rosea*), met with August 3-8, in N. Lat. 81° 5' to 81° 8', when eight specimens were shot, all young birds of the year, just old enough to fly. These apparently comprise all that were seen, as the birds shot on the 8th were probably those seen on the 6th. These specimens are of special interest as being the youngest yet taken; they are described in detail and illustrated in two plates (one colored).

Section 'III. The Sledge-journey and Franz Josef Land (1895-1896).' This list (pp. 24-43) contains 15 species, the Snowflake being again the only land bird; it was met with only on Franz Josef Land and the neighboring islands. This section contains very interesting notes on the habits of the Kittiwake, the Glaucous Gull, the Ivory Gull, the Parasitic Jaeger, the Fulmar, the Dovekie, etc., and further very important information respecting the Roseate Gull, which was seen in considerable numbers to the northeast of Franz Josef Land, between July 11 and August 14, including both adult birds and young. "They were not shot, as they were too small to serve as food." No suitable breeding

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and Fridtjof Nansen. Published by the Fridtjof Nansen Fund for the Advancement of Science. Christiania: Jacob Dybwad; London, New York, Bombay: Longmans, Green and Co.; Leipzig: F. A. Brockhans, 1899. 4to, pp. 1-54. 1 plain and 1 colored plate.

place for this species was discovered, although a strip of low bare ground seen on Liv Island may possibly afford it a suitable nesting place. "The last specimens were seen near the Coburg Islands between the 11th and 14th of August. After that they vanished completely, and no specimen was seen during the rest of the journey; and there was thus no sign of their inhabiting any locality in the region between Dickson Sound and Cape Flora."

Section IV is entitled 'The Last Two Summers in the Ice. Northeast of Franz Josef Land, 1895, north of Spitsbergen, 1896.' In this list (pp. 44-53) 19 species are enumerated, several being here for the first time noted, as *Ægialitis hiaticula*, *Xema sabini*, *Fratercula arctica glacialis*, etc. The Snowflake again figures as the only land bird, and Ross's Gull is again met with, having been observed on July 18, 19, and 22 and August 4, 9, and 11, — in all seven specimens being seen, in N. Lat.  $84^{\circ} 27'$  to  $84^{\circ} 46'$ , and all were apparently old birds.

The whole number of species recorded in the four lists is 33, of which some were seen only once or twice, and a few are not positively identified. Five only are recorded in all of the four lists, these being the Snowflake, the Kittiwake, the Glaucous and Ivory Gulls, and Mandt's Guillemot. Respecting many of the species a great deal of very interesting information is recorded, and besides this the memoir is a most important contribution to the ornithology of the high North. The two plates for the first time illustrate the first plumage of the little known Ross's Gull. — J. A. A.

**Stone on the McIlhenny Collection.**<sup>1</sup>— This is a technical report on the fine collection of 1408 birds of 69 species, secured by Mr. E. A. McIlhenny at Point Barrow, Alaska, from August, 1897, to August, 1898, the publication of Mr. McIlhenny's field-notes being deferred.

Mr. Stone states "The material obtained is the finest yet brought from the Arctic regions, and the series are so full that the molt and variations of plumage in many of the birds, that have not previously been understood are beautifully illustrated." It is therefore fortunate that this valuable collection has been studied by an ornithologist so well fitted for the task as Mr. Stone. Only one form, *Asio accipitrinus mcilhennyi*, proved to be separable but of almost all the others detailed descriptions of changing plumages and extended critical comments on the manner of molting are given, the remarks concerning the Eiders being of special interest and value. Six species observed by Murdoch at Point Barrow were not obtained, and thirteen species were added to Mr. Murdoch's list. — F. M. C.

<sup>1</sup> Report on the Birds and Mammals obtained by the McIlhenny Expedition to Pt. Barrow, Alaska. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1900, pp. 4-49 (birds, pp. 4-33). March 24, 1900.