

much extra and unsought labour for some one, who may, despite the best of intentions, make sad mistakes which the personal and local knowledge of the original writers might help them to avoid.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, *Chairman, Bird Census Committee.*

COMMENT BY ORNITHOLOGICAL EDITOR

Mr. Laing's justified protest against inaccuracies in certain informal bird lists and Dr. Lewis' reply in justification of his process of treatment of them raise an important question. It would seem to this critic that Dr. Lewis takes an exaggerated view of the fidelity that we owe to the A.O.U. Check-List even after having stated our allegiance to it. It does not seem justifiable to follow every comma and detail of it when so doing exposes us to the danger of error.

The discussion brings prominently into view one of the most serious of the defects of the Fourth Edition of that Check-List. It does not provide specific entities for just such uses as this. In fact, if its dicta are as strictly followed as Dr. Lewis attempts, there is no way, without awkward circumlocution, of referring to many groups of subspecies or to designate forms whose subspecific status may be uncertain. The case of the Flickers is an example. Three species are included under nine component subspecific headings but nowhere appears a name for either of these three groups. Ordinal, family and generic groups are well captioned but the specific group names that are most frequently required in general practice are absent. In formal use the scientific binominal is always available to the instructed but the general public who have little

occasion to familiarize themselves with scientific technicalities are given no vernacular alternative but to make exact subspecific designation whether they are justified in doing so or not. In the case of the Flickers it is quite apparent to common sense and common usage that *Colaptes auratus* is the "Yellow-shafted Flicker" and *Colaptes cafer* is the "Red-shafted Flicker" yet in the Check-list the former name does not appear and the latter, restricted to one particular race of the species, is not available for the specific designation to which it obviously applies.

We cannot condone carelessly written manuscript and it is to be hoped that census-takers will take the tenor of Dr. Lewis' words to heart and profit by them. On the other hand it does not seem expedient in lists of eyesight records by observers of various ornithological judgment to use subspecific terminology at all. In disregarding these finer distinctions there may be some slight loss of value in the case of a very few highly developed and well qualified specialists, but the danger of inaccuracy from others less prepared who naturally wish to follow their example more than negatives the benefits so obtained. It seems most desirable to make all such future Christmas Bird-censuses in terms of species, eliminating subspecific designation except where there are strong and valid reasons for the contrary. If the Check-List does not give us facilities for so doing, then so much the worse for the Check-List. That volume bears no imprint of infallibility and when it interferes with, or endangers, accuracy it should be disregarded.—P. A. TAV RNER.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FLORA OF NORTHERN MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WESTERN TERRITORIES, DOMINION OF CANADA. (LAT. 58° - 62°; LONG. 95° - 100°. HUDSON BAY)

By WILLIAM CARRUTHERS GÜSSOW



HAVING been assigned to a Geological Survey Field Party under the direction of Dr. L. J. Weeks during the summer months of 1932, I was afforded a good opportunity to follow suggestions made by my father, the Dominion Botanist, to collect and preserve plant material at

any of the points touched. My regular duties as a member of the party enabled me to devote only my spare time to an occupation which I found increasingly fascinating, but I believe I have succeeded in making the most of my limited opportunity. One set of the collections enumerated below has been

placed with the Herbarium of the Division of Botany, Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa, a duplicate set has been accepted by the National Herbarium of Canada, and a third set has been deposited with the British Museum (Natural History), South Kensington, London.

For the critical determination of the specimens (Phanerogams and vascular Cryptogams) collected, I am greatly indebted to the late Dr. M. O. Malte, Chief Botanist, National Museum, Ottawa, and to Mr. Herbert Groh of the Division of Botany, both of whom devoted much valuable time and also greatly stimulated my interest.

The cryptogams (fungi) were kindly identified by Mr. I. L. Connors of the Division of Botany and Dr. Eleanor S. Dowding, who, I am informed, succeeded in isolating an interesting new species of the genus *Fimetaria*, unique in two features, viz. a four-spored ascus and perforated spore walls, from ptarmigan dung.

Geologically there occurs but few outcrops in the territory covered, at least not until about 60 miles inland; the rock being hidden under heavy glacial gravel with occasional boulders. Most of the area is underlain by greenstone cut by small masses of granite. At Padli, about 150 miles inland, there are some hills of quartzite and conglomerate. The underlying rock, however, has little bearing on the flora, as the glacial deposits are laid down regardless of the substrata. Indeed the only specimens collected growing on rocks were *Thelypteris fragrans*, *Salix herbacea*, and the usual crop of lichens. Some plants were found only in certain definite zones bordering lakes or sloughs, or on characteristic sand and gravel beaches or typical surface swamps. Generally speaking, vegetation occurs on more or less shallow deposits of humus and it is truly remarkable what an interesting and varying flora is thus supported. The chief characteristic of the topography is the absence of prominent features. The inland is dotted with many small lakes; the rivers are shallow and navigable only by lightest craft. Eskers miles in length occur inland or form long winding points along the coast.

There was a profusion of fleshy fungi, especially Boleti; unfortunately there was no time for preparing the necessary notes on specimens collected. They were as common

as dandelions in the east and were found from July to September. Here and there in hollows and along the lake and river shores occurred sparse low shrubs (willows, alder, some birch and poplar). Near Padli only, there was a vestige of timber, mainly spruce.

Thelypteris fragrans (L.) Nieuwl.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 19; in rocky crevices.

Equisetum arvense L.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 20; on sand.

Lycopodium Solago L.

Padli, N.W.T., August 16; in moist ground along water's edge.

Lycopodium annotinum L.

Padli, N.W.T., August 16.

Potamogeton tenuifolius Raf.

Padli, N.W.T., August 16; freshwater.

Hierochloa alpina (Sw.) R. & S.

Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7.

Trisetum spicatum (L.) Richter var. *molle* Piper ex Fern.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., August 8.

Carex aquatilis Wahlenb.

Henningayuk Lake, N.W.T., August 12; growing in swamps along lake.

Carex concolor R.Br.

Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7; growing on sand.

Maguse River N.W.T., July 20; growing on sand.

Tofieldia palustris Huds.

Maguse River, N.W.T., July 12.

Salix reticulata L.

Churchill, Man., June 19;

Long Point, Man., June 30.

Salix herbacea L.

Kaminak Lake, N.W.T., August 28;

Mouth of Maguse River, N.W.T., July 12.

Polygonum viviparum L.

Upper Maguse River, 2nd portage, N.W.T., August 29.

Honkenya peploides (L.) Ehrh.

Long Point, Man., June 29; growing on sand.

Minuartia rubella (Wg.) Graebn.

Kaminak Lake, N.W.T., August 28.

Stellaria longipes Goldie

Along right of way, H. B. Ry. Gillam to Churchill, Man., June 13;

Churchill, Man., June 19;

Long Point, Man., June 29; in sand.

Maguse River, (25 miles up) N.W.T., June 8; in sand.

Silene acaulis L. var. *erescapa* (All.) DC.

Mouth of Maguse River, N.W.T., July 12.

Ranunculus trichophyllus Chaix.

Padli, N.W.T., August 16; fresh water, along edge of lake.

Ranunculus lapponicus L.

Eskimo Point, N.W.T., July 12; wet ground.

Ranunculus pedatifidus J. E. Smith

Long Point, Man., June 29.

Anemone multifida Poir.

Along right of way, H.B.Ry. Gillam to Churchill, Man., June 13.

Anemone parviflora Michx.

Upper Maguse River, N.W.T., August 9.

Corydalis aurea Willd.

Along right of way, H.B.Ry. Gillam to Churchill, Man., June 13.

Cardamine digitata Richards.

Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7.

Eutrema Edwardsii R Br.

Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7.

Saxifraga nivalis L.

Kaminak Lake, N.W.T., August 28.

Saxifraga Hirculus L.

Maguse Lake (west end), N.W.T., August 23.

Saxifraga tricuspidata Rottb.

Churchill, Man., June 19; Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 8, and Henningayuk Lake, N.W.T., August 12.

Saxifraga cornua L.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., August 5; in sand.

Parnassia parviflora D.C.*Parnassia Kotzebuei* C. & S.

Kaminak Lake, N.W.T., August 27.

Parnassia multiseta (Led.) Fern.

Padli, N.W.T., August 16; moist ground near water's edge.

Dryas integrifolia Vahl.

Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7, and Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 28.

Potentilla palustris (L.) Scop.

Padli, N.W.T., August 16.

Rubus arcticus L.

Long Point, Man., June 30. Growing only in specific places; grass margin above high water mark of lakes.

Rubus Champemorus L.

Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7.

Asragalus alpinus L.

Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 8, and Henningayuk Lake, N.W.T., August 12.

Oxytropis Belli (Britton) Paibine

Long Point, Man., June 29; sand.

Oxytropis Maydelliana Trautv.

Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7.

Hedyscram boreale Nutt.

Maguse River, N.W.T., July 12.

Lathyrus palustris L.

Along right of way, H. B. Ry., Gillam to Churchill, Man., June 13.

Polygala Senega L.

Along right of way, H. B. Ry., Gillam to Churchill, Man., June 13.

Empetrum nigrum L.

Point Churchill, Man., June 19 and Long Point, Man., June 30.

Shepherdia canadensis Nutt.

Churchill, Man., June 19.

Epilobium angustifolium L.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., June 30.

Epilobium latifolium L.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 18; sand and gravel.

Hippuris vulgaris L.

Maguse River, N.W.T., September 10; close to water's edge.

Pyrola grandiflora Rad.

Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7.

Ledum palustre L. var. *decumbens* Ait.

Churchill, Man., June 19, and Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7.

Rhododendron lapponicum (L.) Wahlenb.

Churchill, Man., June 19, and Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7.

Loiseleuria procumbens (L.) Desv.

Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7.

Kalmia polifolia Wang.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 18; in wet moss on south-west exposure of banks.

Phyllodoce coerulea (L.) Bab.

Southern exposures of steep banks. Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 26.

Cassiope hypnoides (L.) D. Don.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 28; moist ground near water's edge.

Cassiope tetragona (L.) D. Don.

Maguse River, (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7, also found along Padli River, N.W.T., 100 miles further inland.

Andromeda Polifolia L.

Eskimo Point, N.W.T., July 12.

Arctostaphylos rubra (Rehder & Wilson) Fern.

Long Point, Man., June 30.

Vaccinium uliginosum L. var. *alpinum* Big.

Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7.

Vaccinium Vitis-idaea L.

Long Point, Man., June 30.

Diapensia lapponica L.

Maguse River, (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 7.

Androsace septentrionalis L.

Churchill, Man., June 19; and Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 8; sand.

Armeria labradorica Wallr.

Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 8, and Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 20; sand and gravel.

Mertensia maritima (L.) S. F. Gray

Long Point, Man., June 29; on sand.

Castilleja pallida (L.) Spreng. (var. *septentrionalis* A. Gray?).

Upper Maguse River, N.W.T., August 9.

Pedicularis arctica R. Br.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 19, and Hennin-gayuk Lake, N.W.T., August 12.

Pedicularis lapponica L.

Maguse River, N.W.T., July 12.

Pedicularis flammea L.

Eskimo Point, N.W.T., July 12; wet ground.

Pinguicula vulgaris L.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 27; swamps in clefts in the ground caused by polygonal solofluction.

Pinguicula villosa L.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 18.

Campanula uniflora L.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 25.

Erigeron eriocephalus J. Vahl.

Maguse River (25 miles up) N.W.T., July 8; sand.

Erigeron hyssopifolius Michx.

Upper Maguse River, N.W.T., August 9.

Erigeron acris L.

Upper Maguse River, N.W.T., August 9.

Antennaria campestris Rydb.

Along right of way, H.B.Ry. Gillam to Churchill, Man., June 19.

Antennaria isolepis Greene

Long Point, Man., June 30; Padli River, N.W.T., August 9, and Padli, N.W.T., August 12.

Saussurea angustifolia DC.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., August 5; very common locally.

Arnica terra-novae Fernald.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 20 and Padli River, N.W.T., August 9, sand.

Taraxacum ceratophorum (Ledeb) DC.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 20, and Padli River, N.W.T., August 9.

Puccinia Urticae Lagerh.; on *Urtica gracilis* Ait.

Churchill, Man., June 19.

Melampsora arctica Rostr.; on *Salix reticulata* L.

Long Point, Man., June 30; on *Salix* sp.

Maguse Lake, N.W.T., July 20.

Thekapsora sparsa (Wint.) P. Magn.; on *Arctostaphylos rubra* (Rehder & Wilson) Fernald.

Churchill, Man., June 19.

Leocarpus fragilis (Dicks), Rost.; fruiting on woody base of *Rhododendron lapponicum* (L.) Wahlenb.

Churchill, Man., June 19. Det. H. T. Güssow.

Mycosphaerella Astrogali (Currey) Cke. (or near); on *Oxytropis Belli* (Britt.) Palabine.

Long Point, Man., June 29. Det. J. Dearness.

Pleospora herbarum (Pers.) Rabh., on *Eutrema Edwardsii* R.Br.

Maguse River, N.W.T. (25 miles up), July 7. Det. J. Dearness.

Delitschia furfuraceae Niessl.; on rabbit dung.

Long Point, Man., June 30.

Sporormia corynespora Niessl.; on rabbit dung.

Long Point, Man., June 30.

Sporormia leporina Niessl.; on rabbit dung and grouse droppings.

Long Point, Man.; June 30.

Fimifaria fimicola Griff. & Seaver, on rabbit and cariboo dung.

Long Point, Man., and Maguse Lake, N.W.T., June 30.

Fimifaria sp., on ptarmigan droppings.

Long Point, Man., June 30.

Fimifaria discospora (Auersw.) G. & S.; on grouse droppings.

Long Point, Man., June 30.



Güssow, William Carruthers. 1933. "Contribution to the Knowledge of the Flora of Northern Manitoba and the North-western Territories, Dominion of Canada, (Lat: 58° - 62°; Long. 95° - 100°. Hudson Bay)." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 47(6), 116–119. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339485>.

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