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LAKE SUPERIOR:

ITS

PHYSICAL CHARACTER, VEGETATION, AND ANIMALS,

COMPARED WITH THOSE OF OTHER AND SIMILAR REGIONS.

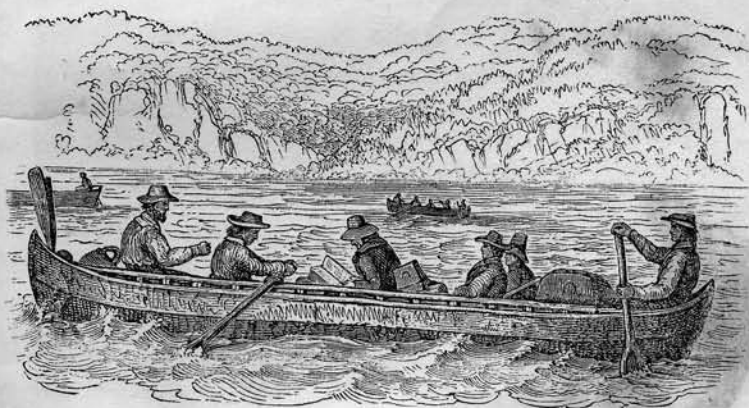
BY

LOUIS AGASSIZ.

WITH A NARRATIVE OF THE TOUR,

BY

J. ELLIOT CABOT.



AND

CONTRIBUTIONS BY OTHER SCIENTIFIC GENTLEMEN.

ELEGANTLY ILLUSTRATED.

BOSTON:
GOULD, KENDALL AND LINCOLN,
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VIII.

REPORT OF THE BIRDS COLLECTED AND OBSERVED AT LAKE SUPERIOR,

BY J. E. CABOT.

THE striking scarcity of birds and quadrupeds about the lake has already been noticed in the Narrative. In the case of the granivorous and frugivorous species, this might be accounted for from the scarcity of their proper food. To the insectivorous birds, however, this reasoning certainly could not apply. One would have expected to find the warblers, especially, breeding in abundance in this region. But the only birds that could be called tolerably abundant (except in special localities) were *Zonotrichia pennsylvanica*, and in a less degree, *Parus atricapillus* and *Ampelis cedrorum*. Something, no doubt, must be attributed to the season, many birds having passed further northward, and others being engaged in incubation. Then all birds are more silent at this season, and less inclined to locomotion. On the other hand, we found a great abundance and variety of birds at the Sault, much greater than would be found in Massachusetts at that season. And whenever we came to a trading post, we found a great difference in this respect, although the Indians, whether from scarcity of food or from wantonness, destroy great numbers even of the smaller species. It would seem, that apart from a more abundant supply of nourishment, the neighborhood of man is in some way attractive to birds,—partly perhaps from the greater freedom of such situations from beasts and birds of prey. As to the water-birds, the nature of the country would at once indicate that none but piscivorous species were to be expected. In the annual migrations, it is said large numbers of ducks, and particularly of geese, alight, for a day or two, in the streams and

pools of the shore. But the deep, cold waters of the lake, permitting no growth of water-plants, except occasionally in a sheltered cove, possess no attractions further. Accordingly, the only water-birds we saw were *Larus argentatus*, *Colymbus glacialis* and *Mergus cucullatus*, all which we usually saw in small numbers every day, and one specimen of *Colymbus septentrionalis*. In the neighborhood of Detroit we saw black terns in abundance, and heard that some of the light-colored species bred about St. Joseph's Island, but we saw none of them beyond the St. Clair.

Seeing the importance that is beginning to be given to even minute details of geographical distribution, I have subdivided the following list of species observed, so as to present first the species of most extensive range, and afterwards those of more confined localities.

From the Sault to Fort William.

Corvus cedrorum.
Ampelis cacalotl.
Parus atricapillus.
Regulus satrapa.
Vireo olivaceus.
Mniotilta coronata.
Hirundo bicolor.

“ *rufa.*

Zonotrichia pennsylvanica.
Ectopistes migratorius.
Tringoides macularia.
Larus argentatus.
Colymbus glacialis.
Mergus cucullatus.

From the Sault to the Pic, and at Fort William.

Bonasa umbellus.
Zonotrichia melodia.

From the Sault to St. Ignace.

Turdus migratorius.
Mniotilta virens.
Fringilla hiemalis.
Carpodacus purpureus.
Tinnunculus sparverius.
Halietus leucocephalus.

From the Sault to the Pic.

Sialia Wilsoni.
Mniotilta aestiva.
Setophaga ruticilla.
Sitta canadensis.
Fringilla pinus.
Zonotrichia socialis.
Pandion Carolinensis.

From the Sault to Michipicotin.

Corvus Americanus.
Cyanocorax cristatus.
Mniotilta maculosa.

From Michipicotin to Fort William.

Tetrao canadensis.
Myiobius Cooperi.

From the Pic to Fort William.

Perisoreus canadensis.
Parus Hudsonicus.
Loxia americana.
 “ *leucoptera.*
Picus villosus.
 “ *pubescens.*
Picoides arcticus.
 “ *hirsutus.*
Totanus melanoleucus.

At the Sault.

Agelaius phœniceus.
 Vireo noveboracensis.
 Mniotilta maritima.
 " Pennsylvanica.
 Trichas Philadelphia.
 Setophaga Wilsonii.
 Guiraca ludoviciana.
 Zonotrichia Savanna.
 Syrnum nebulosum.
 Colymbus septentrionalis.

Neighborhood of Mamoinse.

Chordeiles Virginianus.
 Mniotilta striata.

At the Pic.

Colaptes auratus.
 Turdus brunneus.

At the Pic.

Mniotilta peregrina (and young).
 Myiobius nunciola.
 " virens.
 Zonotrichia pusilla.
 " Lincolnii.

Neighborhood of St. Ignace.

Falco peregrinus (unfledged).
 Surnia ulula.

At Fort William.

Cotyle riparia.
 Ceryle alcyon.
 Tringa Schinzii.
 Totanus flavipes.

At the Sault and Fort William.

Setophaga canadensis.