

Pink of White Clouds

Sarah Gwinn: Looking back, I enjoyed myself so much, if I was young I'd go back again. It's a beautiful spot, St. Paul's. There were times in winter I'd get lonely but I'd never get lonely in the summertime--because of the Newfoundland fishermen. In the evening we'd have high as 16 to supper. I've seen 7 or 8 Newfoundlanders in a single day each with a nice great big fresh halibut. I used to bottle it and have it for a whole year out there. It was a good life. I was only married a little over a year when we went out there. I never had any regrets.

John S. Erskine: (From observations made mid-August, 1953, and published in an article on St. Paul's in the "Journal of Education," 1955) The birds of the island are of comparatively few species. The fall migration had begun to the extent of bringing a few shorebirds which had not nested, but otherwise my observations are purely of summer birds. As might be expected, the island is ringed with seabirds--gannets, cormorants, gulls and shearwaters. Leach's petrels nest on the island. Spotted and solitary sandpipers were common along the shores and beside the lakes and may have nested there. A few savannah sparrows on the western shore, a few goldfinches and crossbills in the woods, were the only seed-eaters. Warblers were in fall plumage, but I could be certain of mourning, magnolia and blackpoll warblers and northern waterthrushes. Olivebacked thrushes were common but difficult to observe. Crows were common and ravens rare. Browncapped chickadees, golden-crowned kinglets and red-breasted nuthatches haunted the firwoods. There were three swallows on the island, a pair of barn swallows which did not seem to have nested, and a very brown young tree swallow which spent its time with the barn swallows. Eagles were commoner than I had ever seen them, for I roused eleven at one time from a small bog, all of them in immature dark plumage. Woodpeckers were surprisingly scarce. I saw none, though once I heard a flicker call, but the only wood-boring that I noticed resembled the bark-stripping technique of the arctic threetoed woodpecker so common on Cape North. Later in the season this island is on the flyway for migrating birds from Newfoundland, so that a great variety of birds may stop here on their way through. My observations, however, suggested a breeding population of about twenty-two species.

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