

"TO MARKET, TO MARKET"...TO SEE A LIFE BIRD!

By Emanuel Levine

585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, NY 11550

In the process of writing a history of The Linnaean Society of New York, historian Gil Schrank found in their archives, a handwritten list entitled "Birds Noted in Washington & Fulton Markets During Winter of 1871-1872 (133 Species)". The list was compiled by Harold Herrick, a noted ornithologist of that era and one of the founders of The Linnaean Society.

The list is reproduced below. Unless the name of the bird is followed by a quantitative comment, the species was considered to be "common" and was noted as such.

Where there might be some confusion as to what species is being referred to, I have taken the liberty of inserting the current English name in parentheses, and in one case, the Latin name.

Snowy Owl	Killdeer
Gt. Horned Owl	Golden Plover
Barred Owl	Bk Bellied Plover
Long Eared Owl	Piping Plover
Short Eared Owl	Ring Neck Plover (Semipalmated Plover)
Mottled Owl (Screech Owl)	Knot
Bald Eagle	Pectoral Sandpiper
Red Tail Hawk	Red Back Sandpiper (Dunlin)
Red Shoulder Hawk	Purple Sandpiper
Sparrow Hawk (Am. Kestrel)	Spotted Sandpiper
Pigeon Hawk (Merlin)	Solitary Sandpiper
Sharpshin Hawk	Least Sandpiper
Cooper Hawk	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Marsh Hawk	Buff Breasted Sandpiper
Fish Hawk	Sanderling
Rough Leg Hawk - Uncommon-one only	Great Yellowlegs
Long Bill Curlew	Little Yellowlegs
Short Bill Curlew (Whimbrel)	Willet
Esquimaux Curlew	
Field Plover (Upland Sandpiper)	

Dowitch
 Turnstone
 Oyster Catcher -Uncommon
 Wilson Phalarope-Uncommon
 Clapper Rail
 King Rail
 Sora

 Va (Virginia Rail)
 Yellow Rail -uncommon
 Coot
 Canada Goose
 Snow Goose
 Brant Goose
 Whitefront Goose
 Black Duck
 Mallard Duck
 Gadwall Duck
 Widgeon Duck
 Pin Tail Duck
 Long Tail (Oldsquaw)
 Golden Eye Duck
 Buffle Head Duck
 Harlequin -hardly ever
 Ruddy Duck
 Big Scaup
 Little Scaup
 Ring Neck
 Eider (Common Eider)
 Velvet (White-winged Scoter)
 Surf
 Scoter (Black Scoter)
 Shoveler
 Canvas Back
 Red Head
 Wood
 Bl Wing Teal
 GreenWing Teal
 Hooded Merganser
 Buff Breast Merganser (Common
 Merganser)

Red Breast Merganser
 Pied Bill Grebe
 Red Throated Diver (young)
 Loon
 Common Cormorant -several
 Herring Gull
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Yellow Bellied Woodpecker
 Golden Wing Woodpecker (No.
 Flicker)
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Red Head Woodpecker -Uncommon
 Red Bellied Woodpecker "
 Bk Bill Cuckoo
 Brown Thrush (Brown Thrasher)
 Wilson's Thrush (Veery)
 Blue Bird
 Robin
 Kingfisher
 Cedar Bird
 Snow Bunting
 Sky Lark
 Lapland Longspur - Uncommon
 Meadowlark
 Blue Jay
 Song Sparrow
 Red Wing- Rusty-
 Cow & Crow Bk Birds
 Bobolink
 Carolina Dove (Mourning Dove)
 Wild Pigeon (Passenger Pigeon)
 Raven – Rare-once or twice
 Wild Turkey
 Quail
 Ruffed Grouse
 Pinnated Grouse (Heath Hen)
 Spruce Grouse
 Sharp Tail Grouse
 W. Ptarmigan
 G + No Shrike (both Loggerhead and
 Northern)

Whooping Crane - one or two
Gt. Blue Heron
Night Heron
Green Heron
Bittern
Glossy Ibis -two or three
Woodcock
English Snipe (Common Snipe)
Marbled Godwit - not rare
Hudson Godwit - not rare
Bk back Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Wilson's Tern (Common Tern)

13 Species noted prior to 1871 by others
(no quantitative information given)

Golden Eagle
Goshawk
Broadwing Hawk
Jer Falcon (Gyr Falcon)
Pine Grosbeak
Sage Cock
Little Auk (Dovekie)
Caspian Tern
Labrador Duck
English Teal (Eurasian Teal)
English Widgeon (Eurasian Wigeon)
English Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)
Curlew Sandpiper

You will note that several of the species listed are now extinct , namely Esquimaux Curlew ,Wild Pigeon, Pinnated Grouse, and Labrador Duck. Of course market gunning played major roles in their demise.

Presumably these birds were being offered in the market as food. Considering the diet of some of these species , one must wonder how they could made palatable. I remember reading somewhere the recipe for cooking scoters. You place the scoter in a pot of water along with a brick. You bring it to a slow boil and allow it to boil for three days. You then throw the scoter away and eat the brick !