

or twice we also saw a skua (probably *Lestris parasitica*)—for instance, on July 14th. On July 21st we had a visit from a snow-bunting.

On August 3d a remarkable occurrence took place: we were visited by the Arctic rose gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*). I wrote as follows about it in my diary: "To-day my longing has at last been satisfied. I have shot Ross's gull,"* three specimens in one day. This rare and mysterious inhabitant of the unknown north, which is only occasionally seen, and of which no one knows whence it cometh or whither it goeth, which belongs exclusively to the world to which the imagination aspires, is what, from the first moment I saw these tracts, I had always hoped to discover, as my eyes roamed over the lonely plains of ice. And now it came when I was least thinking of it. I was out for a little walk on the ice by the ship, and as I was sitting down by a hummock my eyes wandered northward and lit on a bird hovering over the great pressure-mound away to the northwest. At first I took it to be a kittiwake, but soon discovered it rather resembled the skua by its swift flight, sharp wings, and pointed tail. When I had got my gun, there were two of them together flying round and round the ship. I now got a closer view of them, and discovered that they were too light colored to be skuas. They were by no means shy, but continued flying about close to the

* This gull is often called by this name, after its first discoverer. It has acquired its other name, "rose gull," from its pink color.