



1896. - IV
L. Stejneger.
Aug. 28 - Sep. 5.
Rotten Id., Iturup.

Rotten Id. 401 - 435
Iturup 436 - 457

1896

Aug. 28. - About 4 pm made
out Rotten Island and
dropped anchor off the
west side in $9\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms
at 6.15 pm.

No boat coming off
from shore, we conclude
that the landing is bad,
especially as we see
it break where the boats
are hauled up.

The evening is fine,
and the prospects for
tomorrow are good.

This year
only 11 officers to 15 men.
only 200 seals taken.
Kokik could not land on
A Sona, saw no seals.

June 26 ^{There were 200 females}
^{in all}
30 Mithlu and 1 female
on 30th 400 ♀.

When full 70 Mithlu
about 1000 Mithlu & holuit.
this year ♀ and hol
in same place, formerly
hol. by themselves at
south end.

♂ and ♀ must be driven
off and hol. selected.

Aug. 29. - The morning, on the
contrary was rainy and
disagreeable. However, the
whale boat was ready by
7.30 am. and with Mr.
Leigh I went ashore. We
landed without difficul-
ty on the sandy beach
further north than the
houses, and I discovered
to my surprise that
the low beach surround-
ing the high rock con-
sists of sand and pebbles
and not of a rocky
reef as I had anti-
cipated. From the

"Spent an" called for
3 or 4 hours, 11 July.
and Hamilton took some
photographs.

Tjullin

Lat. 48. 31. 30
Long. 144. 43. 48.

Carcasses are buried
in the sand.

32 skins taken this
morning. by 29.

Has a condenser for
distilling water and collects
seawater.

(29) now we had already
made out that the
breakers at the south
end of the island extend
a good deal further out,
in fact fully half a
mile, or nearly as far
as there at the north
end, and considerably
further, consequently than
on Schultz's plan.

Lieutenant Kolubakine,
I. R. N., in charge of the
island, met us and con-
ducted us, cold and
drizzling to the government
house. This is the uppermost

Birds, Robber Is. Aug 19

Larus schistisagus ✓

Streptopelas ✓

Charadrius mongolicus ✓

Uria aca. ✓

Phalacrocorax

Phalaropus pomarinus beak ✓

Limosa ✓

Actinactitis brevipes ✓

Tringa maculicollis ✓

Pissona pollicaris ✓

Heterosoma small flock ✓

(29) of the herons in the narrow gulch, and below that on the burracks of the sailors, below which again the building with the bath and the condenser, and not as on Sharov's plan the 'Company's building's'. The latter consisting of a small ramshackle frame but for the Beria Islands, and a still, ^{smaller and} more dilapidated salt house, which is propped up by sticks and through which the light can be seen everywhere are located on the beach.

Plants, Rother Id. Aug 29

Elymus mollis

Horrida (Cyperoides?)

Heteropogon monanthus - small, thick, glaucous leaves, blue flowers

- thick leaved big yellow composite

Lychnis

Lychnis like

1

(29) at the base of the rock
further towards the south
end of the island.

~~I saw~~ Several of
my old Rurik Island
friends came out to
greet me, Ivan Gal-
kin, Vasilii Burdakov,
Ski etc, and I learned
that the "Kotik" had
been here, on the 19th
of August, stopped for
an hour or so, and
then proceeded direct
to Petropavlovki without
taking off the natives,
as more skins were

(29) desired, and promising that the "Bobrik" would be sent shortly to take them and the remaining skins. It is curious then that we did not meet the "Kobik" on our way south from Petropaulski.

I also learned that the "Kobik" had been at St. Jona, but that no landing could be effected, and no seals had been seen there.

We at once went up on the top of the rock where

(29) we found perfectly smooth
and level and nearly
devoid of vegetation to
look at the seals, which
were located on the other
side just opposite the houses.
They occupied a very
small space, and the
whole did not look much
bigger than South By, Birg
Island. As it was
raining heavily a good
many were in the water,
so that most we saw
on shore were pups and
some bulls.

This morning a skin

(29) had been made which
gave 32 skins. Before this
only about 200 skins
had been taken, a terrible
falling off.

Until this year, I was
told, the bachelors used
to haul out by them-
selves near the southern
end of the island, but
this year they were so
few that they mingled
with the breeding seals on
the rookeries and that
both females and bachelors
had to be driven off to
the killing grounds and

(29) The latter picked out there.
The killing grounds are
on the grassy flat on the
beach at the south extremity
of the rock. The carcasses
are now buried in the
sand to prevent them from
being blown up on the
beaches.

The rain drove us
somewhat shelter.
Lieut. Kolubakine kindly
showed us a recent
plan of Tjuleni by
Lieut. Maksimov and
Mr. ... in 1891 (Russ. Hydrog.
Off. No. 383; Plan Ora Tjulenya)

(29) with proceedings which he
allowed Leigh to take
on board to have copied.

I remained on shore,
however, hoping that the
weather might moderate,
so that I might take
some photographs. At
11.30 it was not quite
so bad and I prepared
to make a few exposures
but before I could get
my camera in position
it was pouring down
more than ever. However,
I carried it with my
rain coat, and saw #10

(29) the slide and "pinned
the button". The whale-
boat now came up to
take me on board, but
accepting K's invitation
for lunch I sent it
back still hoping that
the afternoon might bring
a favorable change. In-
stead, however, the wind
was constantly increasing,
so that the walk I
took along the beach to
either end of the rookery
was quite laborious.
Photography was quite
out of the question of

(26) course.

In the mean time I

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 H. Robben Id.
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H. is now taking
 meteorological observations
~~twice~~ four times a day.
 The first systematic 412

1896

IV

Robben Od

Sturup

Scientific but more etc

Family ENGYS

The Eng

JAWS without tee
firmisternian and
cesses dilated.

Widely distributed
portions of the globe,
the United States, o
little Carolina Frog,
ense. Most of the
some burrow in the
aquatic, but none are

(26) course.

In the mean time I
plied K. with questions.

When he landed on Rellon
I. June 15th, there
were only 30 *Okatchi* and
1 *matka*. On June 26,
(n.s.) 200 females had
arrived, on June 30,
400. At its height
the rookery contained
70 *Okatchi* and about
1000 *matka* and *bachula*.

K. is now taking
meteorological observations
~~twice~~ four times a day.
The first systematic

(26) Observations taken. He promised me to ask the admiral - when he turns over his observation to him in Vladivostok, - to have a copy sent to me.

This year, for the first time there is only one officer and 15 men, instead of 2 officers and 20 - 22 men.

He manages to live pretty comfortably on provisions, fresh fish - cod and tripugi, hexagrammus? - fresh 413

(26) iron, as well as upon
a condenser.

He corroborates Hall's
latitude of $48^{\circ} 31' 30''$
as correct.

A flag staff is now
erected on the rock near
the houses, flying the naval
flag.

The houses are painted
red brown ^{with white trimmings}, except the
company's 'houses', of which
no paint is left.

The officers house con-
sists of an entry and
two rooms about 12 x 12
feet. The men's house also 415

(26) consists of two rooms,
one sleeping room, with bunks
and one eating and gun
room, as well as kitchen.

The rock is not "volcanic"
as stated in Seaman's
account, but consists of
layers of sand stone
and a conglomerate
of pebbles, all thoroughly
weathered and crumbling.
There is but very little
vegetation, a small
grassy (Elymus) flat
at the base of the south
end of the rock, and a
much smaller patch

(2da) at the north east point
on the eastern side. I only
saw 6 species of plants.

Birds were not numerous
except the narrowbilled
phalarope in the water,
and some sandpeeps
and turnstones on the
beach. *Pelecanus pollicarius*,
Uria arctica, *Larus schistis-*
gaster and according to
K. a *Phalacrocorax* are
the chief breeding birds
besides a pair of
Tringa. Shooting is not
allowed.

The wind was rapid.

(29) by increasing and the
landing threatened to be-
come impracticable in a
short while. The capt.

therefor, sent the whale
boat for me at 4.30
and as there were no
sleeping positions ashore
I reluctantly decided
to return to the "Albatross".

In sailing back to the
ship we took in a good
deal of water and got
on board with some difficulty,
but Jakobson, the Coxswain,
declared with glee that
it reminded him of home

(29) (Transc^d).

We arrived onboard in
the nick of time, for the
wind was now hauling
to the N. and the Capt.
anticipating a storm decided
to stand out to sea
westward and seek lee
under Sakhalin. And it
was well that he did,
for we soon found our-
selves in a howling
gale - the worst weather
we have yet had on this
trip.

Aug. 30. - The weather is moderate,
and later in the day we
got a nearly clear sky with
light wind and smooth
sea. At 4.30 pm we
again stand in towards
Rotten Island. It being
Sunday Capt. objects
to dredging. Anelond
off the rock in nearly
the same place as
before after dark.

Aug 31

Mount. Coos 2

Plenty of black pups, ^{but few adults} ~~see~~ gray ones
18 o'clock

The beach consists of sand and
whelp grows on it of course
a great amount was cast
ashore during yesterday's gale,
however, and at the south end
a small pod of pups are playing
with it, half in, half out of
the water where the gentle
surf agitates it taking it into
their mouths, shaking it, just
as kittens would pieces of
paper. If they fed on it, they
would be found further up on

Aug. 31. - Bright and early (7 am)
we went ashore, Mr. Miller
to take some photographs
with the big camera, Mr.
Garrett to make obser-
vations for position and
variation, and myself.

The "Albatross" shortly
after Mr. Miller's return
stood out to the westward
dredging

Went at once to the
rookery where, as yet, but
few of the females and
pups had entered the
water. At 8 o'clock there

the beach eating it in place.

I saw 1 dead pupa only,
but there may be a few more
down among the living ones.

Only two of them carcasses are
so and look flattened, the
others are plump.

Observation spot most excellent,
but the flies are most
atrocious.

Pups crawling everywhere

Thermometers bore small,
faces south.

As the sun rises and the
temperature gets higher, more
and more seals go into the

(31) were about 600 females,
as counted by me, and
18 or 20 males. No bachelors
could be made out. The
pups - considerably in excess
of females - were lying too
thick to be counted.

The spot for observation
- just at the top of the rock
just behind the houses,
is most excellent, as the
seals are located beneath
it only about 50 feet below,
and as I have before
mentioned, Robben Island
is the ideal spot for any
one who wishes to study

water, and the young ones
have an ideal day for
their practice of swimming
at which many of them are
quite expert already, although
the great majority yet
occupy the line behind the
cows. They are not - to any
extent - in pods by them-
selves, but form a continuous
line behind the cows.

Most of the pups are
black with indications of being
gray and only a few are
entirely gray.

Plenty of terns were
the pups picking flies off

(31) The habits of the seals on
the rookery. A little
precaution is needed in
approaching the edge of
the rock as one is so
near that the seals are
easily frightened. Today
the only drawback was
the simply overwhelming
number of small flies
which covered every body
and everything.

The ^{parent} rookery beach
consists of the same
pebbly sand which
forms the beach all
around the Robber

the sleepers, and the natives
were chasing them.

With only a few exceptions
the pikatchi look young
and small. I can discover
no difference between them
and Commander Island seals.

At 1:30 pm there were
no more than about 350
pikatchi on shore.

8 am ^{by 31.} ~~12.4~~ by bulb 12.4.

12 noon at C 16.8

(31) Island rock. There are
consequently no indica-
tions to be found of
the previous extent of
the rookery, and even
the scanty vegetation
of Elymus and the yellow-
flowered composite
failed to furnish any
evidence. The Rotten
Island beach, on the
whole, is about as different
from the rookery beaches
of the Pritylop and the
Commander as ~~it~~ it
can well be.

(31) As a consequence of
the sandy nature of
the beach no Kelp grows
on it as a matter of
course, and if the
pups, as alleged by
Walker, had been obliged
to feed upon the algae
which grow on the
beach there would have
been no seals there now.
However, a considerable
quantity of Kelp had
been thrown up on
the beach by yesterday's
gale and at the south
end of the breeding 425

(31) Found a small pod
of pups were amusing
themselves by playing
with it half in, half
out of the water where
the gentle surf agitated
it. They would take
large pieces of it in
their mouths, and
shake it exactly as
kittens would a
piece of paper. If they
fed on it they would
also be found higher
up on the beach where
they could eat it in
pieces.

(31) The pups were frisky and a good many of them went into the water later on, some of them being quite experts in diving through the surf. They all seemed to be in excellent condition and I saw none that might be considered sick, or starving.

I counted 7 dead pups only on the beach back of the ^{living} seals, and but a few may also have been lying between the latter, though a pretty close

(31) examination in the
binocle failed to reveal
any. Five of them car-
casses appear fresh and
are quite plump, only
two are older and
flattened.

Quite a number
of turnstones (Arremonia
interpres) are busy
among the pups picking
flies off the sleeping
ones and dodging the
others who seemed to
take delight in chasing
the birds.

As the sun rose

(31) and the temperature
got higher more and
more seals went into
the water, though some
seemed oppressed by
the heat. The pups have
an ideal day for
swimming practice, at
which many are quite
expert already, though
the great majority yet
~~accept~~ remain on
shore. They do not -
to any extent - flock
in pods by themselves
but form a continuous
line behind the cows.

(31) The pups are as yet
mainly black with
indication of gray, only
a few of them being entirely
gray.

I can see no difference
between the adults here
and those of the Com-
mander Islands.

The S'katchi, with
a few exceptions, look
young and small. An
attempt is made to
prevent the females
from going into the
water, but with but
poor success. At 1.30^{PM}

(31) there were not more than about 950 females on shore.

During the day I tried to obtain some crania, but failed to get a single one, as all carcasses are thrown in the sea, or buried.

Lieut. Kolubakine furnished me with the following temperatures for the day

8 am. +12.4 C.
12 noon +16.0 C.

He has promised me

(31) to apply his ad-
miral for permission
to send me a copy of
his temperatures and
the meteorologic observations.
I may mention here,
that his thermometer
box is small and
that it faces south
without being shaded.
It is a solid box with
a number of fine holes
bored through it to let
in air.

Lieut. K. kindly invited
Mr. Garrett and myself for

(31) take lunch with him.

After the return of the "Albatross" Capt. Moore came ashore and with us made an inspection of the workery. Mr. Kolubakos took dinner with us on the ship.

In the evening I had a consultation with Capt. Moore that it was now already so late that it would be impossible for him to be able to return to Unalakpa by September 15

(31) even if he could start on
the return voyage at once,
and that consequently,
according to his order from
Dr. Jordan he would have
to ~~return~~ go to Japan with
me.

It certainly seems
to be a big apparatus
in order to protect the
handful of seals now
on Rotten Island, to
have the 30 mile limit
patrolled by several men-
of-war and to station on
the rock an officer and

434

(31) 15 men for 5 months
of the year. The 250
skins taken this year
must become very
expensive when the
bills come to be counted
up.

By the way
Birds of the area

Pisson *gossamer*

Aras

Malacornis

Corvus *strigatus*

Sturnus *opacus*

Pyrrhula in caps

Turdus

Motacilla *flava*

Alcedo? - white feet under tail

Great Tit

Parus

Corvus

Merula *melanocyanus* flycatcher *fluviatilis*

Gallinago *gallinago*? landrail

Merula *melanocyanus* flycatcher

By the way at the area

Turkey

8.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM.

MEMORANDUM.

To 1896
Tulane

I Sep 4 Shana from heights
above town 4.75 pm
Dia 32 feet from

ii, iii. Shima, Shima do do

iv-v Shrubberies, Shima do do

vi Outcrop do do west.

(4) Japanese servant on board,
and one Stewart, a lad
of 26 who has not been
in Japan for 10 years acts
as interpreter.

They have had orders from
Tokyo advising them of
our arrival and to extend
all possible facilities to
us, but in spite of that
it was evident that they
had some hesitation, for
they asked repeatedly for
passports and whether
we had no letter from
the minister in Washington.
Upon our denial they

(4) wanted to know the reason
and were clearly not quite
satisfied with our explana-
tions. However, ~~they~~^{he} gave
permission to haul the
skinn on the beach, allowed
us to buy provisions
and to go on shore, but
positively prohibited us
from shooting saying that
it was against the law.
He would, however, at once
send out people to collect
specimens for me, and
promised to send them
aboard tomorrow before
we sail.

(4) We then commenced our interrogations concerning fur seals and the fur seal company (Dainippon Suisan Kaisha) which in the Fur Seal Act, VI, p. 233 is represented as having been given the exclusive permission to hunt seals and sea-otters, we could only extract from them the information that the company did not longer exist; that fur seals do not occur in Iturup; that the office house and other ²³⁹ ~~houses~~

(4) at Tanikame built for the fur trading business is no more; and that in general, as they did not know anything about fur trade or the whole business as it does not concern this island, they advised us to go to Hakodate for further information.

Capt. Neve and I in the afternoon went ashore in order to return the call and to possibly get some further information from the captain of the 470

(4) steamer "Toko Maru" of
Hakodate, which arrives here
simultaneous with us.

We went on board her on our
way to town, but the
Captain being ashore we
proceeded to the village.

Shana is situated
at the mouth of a rather
wide but narrow shallow
river and consists of
~~a number~~ of regular
Japanese houses, the roofs
of which are loaded down
with plenty of heavy stones
to prevent them from being
blown off. The inhabitants

(4) are said to be about
400, mostly Japanese
fishermen, though evidently
some of the inhabitants have
more or less admixture
of Aino blood. The
principal means of
subsistence is the
Salmon fishery, a large
canning establishment
and a regular cannery
giving employ to numerous
workmen. Vegetables, large
and of good quality, f. inst.
potatoes, onions, radishes,
squash etc are cultivated
with apparent success,

442

(4) but no cattle are kept.
We saw quite a number
of ponies, many dogs
resembling Kamshatka
dogs, and a few chickens.
The village is the seat
of the prefect, with quite
a bureau of clerks, 6
policemen in white uni-
forms; it boasts also
a hospital, two or three
Shinto temples and
a number of stores
supplying the simple
wants of these people.
There were Sapporo Lager
beer, sake, soy, ⁴⁴³ Pickles

(4) and confections for sale,
also a few books and the
pictures from the last
Chino-Japanese war familiar
to us from Washington.

The people moved about
in their native costumes
and looked healthy and happy.
We were everywhere received
with smiles and kindness.

We soon found the captain
of "Toko Maru", a full blooded
Japanese who dressed in
European clothes, but could
speak no English. Unfor-
tunately he could give us
no information, except that

(4) There were no fur seals
around this island, and he
referred us to Hakodate
as the only place where
to get reliable data. Upon
being asked whether infor-
mation might not be
had in Nemuro or in
Mororan he replied,
as had the officials before,
that he thought not, and
that Hakodate was the
headquarters of whatever
self-interest the Japanese
now have.

Thereupon we proceeded
to the prefecture, or police

44

(4) headquarters, a long one story building with two wings in one of which was the office. The prefect was seated at an ordinary office desk at the further end, while about a dozen clerks, most in Japanese attire occupied chairs along long tables on either side of the middle aisle. They all got up and bowed deeply as we passed along. The ceremony of paying our respects to the government representatives.

44

(4) were soon over, and he
reiterated his promise of
gathering in all kinds of
specimens of birds and
fishes etc, and said that
he had already sent men
out. This eve we went
through the town, and
were then invited into
the house of a gentle-
man, the owner of a
big salmon salting estab-
lishment, who was now
loading the steamer with
salted salmon, and
as events proved the next

(4) important and wealthy
man in town. We were
warned ~~that~~ we going to
see an Aimer, but it was
plain that but little
time blood is in his
veins, and it was
apparently his aim to
pass for a full blooded
Japanese. He showed us
through his establish-
ment, where we found
the salmon roamed, salted,
mostly humpback salmon,
and a few silver salmon,
the latter having ~~not~~ appar-
ently just begun to run.

(4) He afterwards took us through the house insisting that we keep our shoes on, and entertained us in the parlor with Sapporo Lager Beer. With the exception of a European soft black ^{alpaca} hat he wore Japanese costume and so did his whole household, men and women; only one of the young girls wore European shoes outside the house, the straw sandals inside; except in the weather 449

54
(4) covered parlor and the
polished hall ways where
she went in her socks only,
of course.

The whole entertain-
ment was highly inter-
esting as it showed
us a gentleman's
private home hold as
yet almost entirely
unaffected by European
innovations.

Afterwards we strolled
lightheartedly through the
town, went inside
the shops, I bought a
few cheap books, a 450

(4) school atlas of Japan for
25 yen = 12½ cents, and
then took a few photo-
graphs, which turned
out quite successful.

The day was beautiful,
the sun shone from a glorious
blue sky, the air was mild,
the hillsides covered with
grass and bushes and in
the distance we saw re-
spectably looking pine trees.

At the landing place
we observed a number
of kettles over the
beach built under large
iron kettles, in which 457

54
(4) were evidently used in
trying out whale oil, as
large pieces of whale
tins were hanging on the
scaffolding surrounding
the ovens

Sep. 5. - This morning was
about as gray and
uninviting as yesterday
was glorious. In expectation
of the collections, which
the prefect had promised
— a few tin birds having
been sent on board last
night — the sailing was
delayed until after
~~the~~ noon, and the

452

(5) officers were given an opportunity to go ashore. I went with them and our first task was to call upon the prefect to pay our respects, a policeman and the "interpreter" of yesterday waiting for us on the beach. We had the steward with us, but at the critical moment he was missed so that we sat for nearly half an hour in a semi-circle about the prefect in his office solemn and mute while the Japanese interpreter was scouring the

54

(5) town in search of our
interpreters. The latter finally
arrived, the interview was
brought to a satisfactory
conclusion and we were
again invited to the house
of our 'Aini' friend, who
this time treated us to
saki and tinned Sturges
salmon. We afterwards
inspected the cannery
across the street and
after a stroll through the
town returned on board
in time for lunch.

The latter was not over
when a large Sarupau

454

(5) belonging to our "Ainu" friend
 and swimming with his
 entire "family" and retainers
 was announced. They were
 invited into the cabin and
 entertained with tea and
 sweetmeats, even the babies
 at the mother's breast. The
 jolly and kind nature
 of these people, men,
 women and children, and
 their frank, yet extremely
 polite and civil behavior,
 and their intelligent
 curiosity at all the new
 things they saw was
 very pleasing and made

(5) a very favorable impression. They seemed, moreover, to be a healthy and vigorous race, keen and alert, and upon seeing these fishermen, living upon the extreme border of even Japanese civilization one does not wonder at the progress of Japan.

An easterly gale was rapidly progressing while these visitors were on board, and when the Scurpan finally left (see photos 73 and 74) it had some difficulty in getting ashore. The wind ⁴⁵⁶

(5) ~~was~~ soon reached such a velocity that it was considered best to remain overnight at our present anchorage.



2000







