

Gulls 1

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As we approached nearer, out came a small delegation to meet us. When we got up to the colony, the whole city turned out in our honor. I have seen big bird colonies before and have photographed them, but this came up to the limit of my experience. I had never seen anything like it west of any place east. I was so excited that I simply tripped over one of the oars and fell overboard with three plate-holders in my hand, to express my feelings.

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To make a close study of some of the ^{Gulls} birds, we selected a small portion of one of the gull colonies and set up our blind. The birds were soon coming and going within a few feet of us. Although it was extremely hot and vile-smelling mosquitoes were biting and we were sinking in the mire, yet it was fascinating to be so close to these wild birds.

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With the telephoto lens we could bring these birds up so close that it seemed we could touch them.

Out - Astoria photos X

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The next day we went on down to a colony of Caspian terns and spent most of the day getting pictures of some of these birds. Although these birds nest by the hundreds so close together, each household of chicks has its special place, so the parents know exactly where to go with food. But at this time the young terns were old enough to run about and a few of the young ones nearest our tent had evidently got mixed. If birds ever swear, these terns certainly did as they came dropping in and couldn't find their own children. Every old lady in the vicinity was on the war path. Fights were common especially among the women. Chick behind

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But all the scenes in the tern village were not as boisterous as these. The birds were peaceful enough when

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Gulls 2

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their children were not mixed. Just on the other side of our tent a mother was hovering two chicks that had just hatched out. This picture shows the father who has just arrived with a very small fish in his bill. The little bird is reaching up to take it.

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