

young bird of this species was shot November 17, 1883, and is now in the collection of Mr. Anthony. The person who shot the bird said that many other Gulls were seen, but whether they were of this species is questionable. It was shot on a small lake a few miles from the city.—HORACE G. SMITH, JR., *Denver, Col.*

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]

### Revival of the Sexual Passion in Birds in Autumn.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE AUK:—

*Sirs:* In 'The Auk' for January (p. 141), Mr. Bradford Torrey speaks of the revival of the sexual passion of birds in autumn. A similar occurrence has been observed here for two or three years past. The early winter (November and December), this year was exceptionally mild in this locality. During this weather the English Sparrows were seen building their nests and the male birds were seen hopping about the females with lowered wings and acting exactly as they do in spring. The birds were very noisy and a great deal of fighting occurred. As soon as cold weather came on all this stopped and the Sparrows found it necessary to spend all their time in securing food.

Respectfully,

CHAS. KEELER.

*Milwaukee, Wis.*, January 29, 1886.

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Fish Commission Steamer 'Albatross' sailed from the Washington Navyyard February 15, for a cruise among the Bahamas and other islands in the West Indies. Among the islands which will be visited is Cat Island, or San Salvador, the first land discovered by Columbus. The 'Albatross' is well provided with trained naturalists and collectors, of whom Mr. James E. Benedict, Mr. Thomas Lee, Mr. W. Nye, and Mr. Chas. W. Townsend will pay special attention to the birds, of which they are prepared to make a judiciously limited and selected collection, while in no case will they jeopardize the continued existence of any local species,