

American museums, the question was not easy to answer. Hence, when an opportunity presented itself, in July, 1901, to examine the series of these birds in the British Museum, through the courtesy of the officers of that grand institution, I eagerly availed myself of it. The result of my examination of this material may be briefly summarized as follows: 40 adult birds were examined; 9 out of 15 specimens killed in the British Islands were of the *smithsonianus* type, and 6 of the *argentatus* type; of 16 specimens from various localities in North America, 4 were of the typical *argentatus* type and 12 of the *smithsonianus* type. Thus much more than half of the specimens killed in the British Islands were like the so-called *smithsonianus* type, and one fourth of the American specimens were of the so-called *argentatus* type. Most of the British examples, it should be added, were birds of apparently the second or third year, and the same is true of the American examples examined.

From the foregoing it is evident that there can be but one conclusion in respect to the Herring Gulls of the two sides of the Atlantic; namely, that the extent and form of the white apical spots on the first primary vary with the age of the bird, being small and separated in birds that have just acquired adult plumage, and increase in size with age till, in a small percentage, consisting of probably very old birds, the two white spots at the tip of the first primary become merged into one, forming a single greatly lengthened white area; that this is true of both European and American birds; and that the alleged characters of *Larus smithsonianus* are invalid, the supposed differences in the form and size of the bill being also variations due to age. — J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

**Leach's Petrel at Westford, Mass.** — Mr. E. Abbot informs me that a specimen of *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* was shot on Forge Pond, September 25, 1902, and that the bird is now in the Westford Public Library. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

**European Widgeon in Michigan.** — On March 27, 1902, Mr. William B. Boulton, of New York, was on one of the Bay points at Munroe Marsh, Michigan (on Lake Erie) with a friend, when a flock of five Widgeon came towards the decoys, but soaring well outside. Only one bird was hit and came down with a broken wing. The hunter went out in his boat and shot it, and not until the bird was in hand was there any suspicion that it was a splendid male specimen of *Anas penelope*.

Another male, in almost as good plumage, was taken in April, 1900, and a third in April, 1892. All were preserved. We have no records of females, nevertheless I believe we occasionally take them and their identity is not suspected, as there is not so wide a difference between the plumage of the females of the two species as there is between the males. — HAROLD HERRICK, *New York City.*