

when catching fish during flight. It was not "ploughing the main" at the time, and it would seem as if the peculiar bill must have been a hindrance to its success rather than an aid. My observation therefore in no way explains the peculiar structure of the bill but as a slight addition to Mr. Arthur's paper it seems worthy of record.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) Captured by Snapping Turtle.—

While employed during the past summer on the collecting crew of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, a very curious incident came to my attention. At the time, it did not occur to me that it was unusual, but at the suggestion of Mr. Henry W. Henshaw I am submitting this account for publication.

One morning in July, two of the collectors, Dr. H. B. Baker and Mr. Fred Erskine, while working at a fresh-water pond near Woods Hole saw a Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) struggling violently in the water. It seemed as if something had caught it from below and was trying to draw it under. The men secured a boat at once and rowed out to the scene. Once, before they reached the spot, the gull was drawn completely under, but immediately came to the surface again. When the men reached it they pulled it from the water. Its captor, a large snapping turtle, with carapace nearly eighteen inches long, did not release its grip and was hauled from the water with the bird.

The abdomen of the gull was torn completely open and the viscera mangled, so the bird was immediately killed by one of the men. The dead bird and the turtle were brought to the laboratory. I had an opportunity to examine the former. It was an adult, apparently healthy, and with both wings sound. The turtle was killed and its stomach contents examined by a well-known physiologist, Dr. McCullom. No bird remains were found. Mr. Henshaw told me that it was very unusual for a gull to be caught unawares while sitting on the water unless it were diseased or injured. Such may have been the case here, but the evidence was not found. Whether or no, the vitality of the bird seems to have been very remarkable.—E. GORDON ALEXANDER, *Fayette, Mo.*

A Mating Performance of The Least Tern.—On May 27, 1921, I was puzzled by the behavior of some Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) at Carpinteria Beach, Santa Barbara Co., Calif., which were feeding small fish to other Terns apparently full grown. On May 31, at the mouth of the Ventura River, Ventura Co., Calif., I had an opportunity to observe the performance again at close range. It was evidently a mating performance. There were four or five pair playing about an estuary, pursuing each other and screaming. Occasionally one bird would bring up a small fish and then be joined by, or join, another bird, and after some aerial skirmishing and much screaming, both birds would alight on the

beach. The bird with the fish, which I assumed was the male, fed it to the female, and then for an instant stood with bill pointed upward, in an attitude similar to that of a mating Herring Gull.

I have been able to find no published account of this habit of the Least Tern. Mr. Harry Harris, however, has called my attention to an article in 'British Birds' (Vol. XIV, Sept., 1920) by Thomas Lewis, illustrating by photographs practically the same performance of the European *Sterna minuta*, a closely related species.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, Cal.*

Brown Pelican in Oswego County, N. Y.—On December 21, 1920, there was taken at Richland, Oswego County, N. Y., an adult Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) which evidently had been forced to alight because of exhaustion. The bird died on the 25th and it was not until the 27th that I was informed by the game protector that such a bird had been taken. I immediately visited Mr. Ernest V. Spink of Richland, at whose home the bird had been kept and there I learned that the Pelican was at Lacona being mounted by Mr. T. H. Elmer. The same day, I went to Lacona and saw the Pelican, which was mounted and drying. Mr. Elmer informed me that the bird was very emaciated and one leg showed an injury. The specimen was an adult in the post-breeding plumage, with the hind head and whole neck white with a tinge of straw-color. At present the specimen is in the New York State Museum at Albany, N. Y.—MILES D. PERNIE, *McGraw Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.*

Jaeger at Sandy Pond, Oswego County, N. Y.—On August 8, 1920, while observing shore-birds and Common Terns at the outlet of Sandy Pond into Lake Ontario I saw a Jaeger and observed it pursue the Terns for quite a period of time. I was able to watch it closely both in the air and while resting on the sand. It was in a very dark plumage or phase and showed white shafts to the primaries, giving the effect of a white patch in the wing when spread. The central tail feathers were elongated and acuminate. I was unable to collect the bird because at that time I had no collecting permit. However, from what details I could observe, I feel very sure the bird was a Parasitic Jaeger, (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), a species which has been seldom reported from the interior of New York State, and for this reason I consider the incident worthy of recording, in spite of the fact that the specimen was not taken.—MILES D. PERNIE, *McGraw Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.*

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*) in Ontario.—From August 4 to 21, 1921, near Gargantua, Ont., north shore Lake Superior about 80 miles north of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, six of these birds were around the pound nets dily. The fishermen informed us these birds had been there since May.—M. J. MAGEE, *Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.*