

It appears that Palmer had fully intended to describe this form, and had even gone so far as to select a type-specimen. I am therefore choosing the same individual as the type. Dr. Bishop has also been aware of the distinctness of his birds from Cobb's Island, but has generously placed them at my disposal upon learning of my interest in the matter. I am further indebted to the authorities of the United States National Museum for the loan of the type series and for the privilege of describing the new race.

*Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.*

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#### GENERAL NOTES.

**Record of Brunnich's Murre for Lake Co., Ohio.**—December 12, 1920, found me seated at the end of a stone breakwater extending far out into Lake Erie. Discovering what at first sight I took to be a small Duck swimming rapidly in from the open water, I laid flat on my stomach with field glass ready to determine the species. The closer the bird approached the more puzzled I became, until at last I could plainly see the pointed bill, the end of which looked as though "whittled" off with one stroke of a knife blade. The bird passed the end of the breakwater so closely I could plainly see the black feet paddling behind the body. The tail was not raised as in the Razor-billed Auk which closely resembles this species in color pattern. When I arose and the Murre made a dive, which, for distance under water, was astounding. This record is interesting because one was shot at this very spot in 1896 and is now preserved at Lake Erie College.—E. A. DOOLITTLE, *Painesville, Ohio.*

**The Songs of Leach's Petrel.**—The nocturnal song of Leach's Petrel has been described by several observers, but it is so unusual in character that another attempt to describe it may be worth while. Another song of this bird, which seems to be a courtship song, has not, as far as I know, been described. During a visit of six days from July 30 to August 4, 1923, at the Life Saving Station at Outer Wood Island near Grand Manan, New Brunswick, I had ample opportunity to study these songs in the large breeding colony there.

The ordinary song was heard everywhere at night from the birds in the air and on the ground. The general theme or syllabication of this song did not vary, but the tones or pitch with which it was produced varied with the individual. Many songs were clear and melodious but some were harsh and rasping, and all ended with a sound as if of laughter or of a rapidly bouncing rubber ball. The song was executed with great speed, occupying in time only one and a half or two seconds, as closely as I could

estimate. The birds seemed to say *ipter-ipta, ut, ut, ut*. I have also written it down on different nights, *whipter-ipta, ha, ha, ha*, and *upter-upta, ha, ha, ha*. There was nothing indefinite or variable about the wording. It suggested a college yell of nocturnal sprites.

Another song, less complicated but of considerable interest, was heard several times and was called to my attention by Mr. Ernest Joy, one of the Life Saving men, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, a member of the New England Bird Banding Association and a keen and accurate observer. The song may best be described by saying that it resembles the trilling of a toad. One that I traced to its source came from a burrow, where, besides the trilling, could be heard a gentle cooing or clucking sound which appeared to come from a second bird. The sounds ceased abruptly when the light of a lantern was flashed in the hole. Mr. Joy called this the mating song, and in this I think he is correct, for he said the trilling was heard much more commonly earlier in the season, and on several occasions when he had investigated, he had found two birds in the hole.

These songs are certainly among the weirdest and most unusual of bird songs, and, coming out of the darkness often from birds close at hand, the effect is indescribable.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, 98 Pinckney St., Boston, Mass.

**Bonaparte's Gull Summering near Perth Amboy, N. J.**—A flock of about thirty Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) was seen on the Raritan River near Perth Amboy, N. J., by R. H. Howland, Rudyerd Boulton and the writer on July 28, 1923. I am informed by Ludlow Griscom of the American Museum of Natural History that other observers have reported them in the same locality in June, July and August.—CHARLES A. URNER, Elizabeth, N. J.

**Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) in Michigan.**—Doctor Christofferson and myself spent Sept. 1-3 at Brevort Lake, Mackinac County, Mich. Immediately on our arrival we were attracted by a loud squawking and on investigating we discovered a flock of more than twenty Caspian Terns, old and young, on a sand bar just off the shore of the lake and almost directly in front of our cabin. We watched them every day and the old birds were continually bringing fish which they were feeding the young.

On September 2 on a sand bar farther up the lake we found another flock of more than thirty and here also the old birds were bringing food to the young. On this same bar were also nine Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*); three Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*); three Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*); one Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) and one Least Sandpiper (*Pisobia minutilla*).

A farmer living at the lake informed us that the Caspian Terns had been there all summer. Brevort Lake is about a mile from the north shore of Lake Michigan.