

GENERAL NOTES.

Franklin's Gull at Philadelphia—A Correction.—In 'The Auk' for January, 1912, p. 99, I recorded an immature Gull taken at Philadelphia as a Franklin's Gull (*Larus franklini*) mainly on account of the small size of the bill. Dr. Jonathan Dwight, who has studied so carefully all the plumages of these birds, recently examined this specimen and pronounces it an unquestioned Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*), basing his decision on the definite differences in the juvenal plumages of this and the Franklin's Gull and the fact that the size of the bill in these young birds proves unreliable as a specific character. I hasten to acquiesce in his identification and to cancel the record of Franklin's Gull as a Pennsylvania bird.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*.

Gulls and Terns Feeding on the Seventeen-Year Cicada.—In the summer of 1923 considerable numbers of the seventeen-year cicada (*Tibicina septendecim*) emerged from the ground in Plymouth and Barnstable Counties, Mass., and attacked the trees. On June 26 Mr. Wilfred Wheeler, manager of the Coonamessett Ranch at Hatchville, Falmouth, Barnstable County, notified the Division of Ornithology that "Mackerel Gulls" were coming there and eating seventeen-year cicadas. On July 2 he wrote that on that morning he watched a flock of over 200 Gulls feeding on the cicadas and that they caught the insects in the air, sometimes very high and sometimes quite low near the ground.

Mr. John A. Farley was dispatched to investigate this statement, and the following is extracted from his report: "Laughing Gulls and Common Terns were seen devouring seventeen-year cicadas this year at the outbreaks in Falmouth, Mashpee and Barnstable. Mr. Wilfred Wheeler furnishes an interesting statement. He says the 'peak' of the numbers of the locusts was apparently July 2. On that day Laughing Gulls came close down over the office of the Coonamessett Company, and were seen within two or three rods to catch the imagoes of the cicadas on the wing. The imagoes flew freely from one tree to another, or from one clump of trees to another—quite long distances sometimes. On the special occasion referred to the cicadas were very abundant close by the office, having flown into an oak tree from the nearest woods some distance away. There were a great many of them in the trees, and numbers of them dropped down into the grass beneath. This abundance attracted the Gulls, which were seen to catch the cicadas very close at hand. They were seen also daily in various other places to catch cicadas on the wing. Besides the cicadas that took long flights, the Gulls also caught those that flew only from one tree to another, or from one branch to another. They picked them off deftly from the leaves themselves, and even alighted for a second on the twigs or branches, the better to do this. Mr. Wheeler states that on one occasion