

**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

he saw a Gull even alight on the ground to eat these insects, but this was only for a minute. It was where the insects were very numerous, in a little valley where sometimes great numbers of Gulls, attracted by the abundance of their prey, gathered, and flew close to the ground and low growth. According to Mr. Wheeler, there seemed to be intervals between the feeding of the Gulls, when the sated birds flew high up or over Coonamessett Pond. At the time when the cicadas were most numerous the Gulls flew at three levels, close to the grass, at a medium height, and high up."

"Having been informed that great numbers of Gulls and Terns ("Mackerel Gulls") were destroying cicadas at Maravista, Falmouth Heights, I went there on the afternoon of July 4. The cicadas were practically everywhere in the woods and undeveloped lots, but were most abundant in certain spots. The Gulls frequented these places intermittently, coming back to them repeatedly. There were a great many Laughing Gulls; their numbers exceeded those of the Terns. They hovered in a screaming throng over the low growth, close to the foliage and sometimes alighted very briefly thereon. Yet out of the whole number thus seen repeatedly to hover low down, I did not see over two Laughing Gulls with anything in their bills. Probably the reason for this is that they swallowed their catch immediately, and unlike the Terns never came very near me."

"The Common Tern and the Roseate Tern were identified among the 'Mackerel Gulls.' The Terns were quite fearless and dashed into the low growth within a few yards of me, and the objects taken in their bills were the size and shape of the seventeen-year cicada; also they were darting down into bushes which were much infested with cicadas. The Terns flew off with their prey plainly held in the bill. They went in the same direction always, and the inference was that they were carrying food to their young on sand-bars or islets in the tidal arm of salt water not far away. The Terns were seen also to carry small fish (?) in their bills in the same direction."

"On July 5 on a sand-bar frequented by Terns and Gulls some distance away from the infested spots, I found many remains of cicadas, heads and wings attached left intact, but everything else was gone."

"Mr. Henry Peters, tree warden of Mashpee, told me that the same scenes had been witnessed in Mashpee. Cicadas seemed to be most abundant in the swales and little valleys, and in these places birds gathered very abundantly."

Mr. William F. Jenkins, of West Barnstable, reported that Gulls were doing similar work in Santuit, and another report came in to the effect that Gulls were taking the cicadas on the wing at Seven-mile Pond. Mr. Wilfred Wheeler reported that Robins, Bluebirds and Chipping Sparrows were eating the insects, and Mr. Farley saw a Robin in the act.

Mr. R. H. Allen, Director of the Division of Plant Pest Control of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, who was at Coonamessett Ranch, Hatchville, for one hour on the afternoon of July 9, asserts that the Gulls were hovering over the infested trees in the swale or little valley which

has been mentioned already. He found on the ground there, heads of cicadas, with wings attached, which apparently were the inedible parts of the insect which the Gulls had caught.

In a letter received on August 24 from Mr. Allan Keniston, superintendent of the Heath Hen Reservation on Martha's Vineyard, he asserted that he was on Muskeget Island at the time of the outbreak of the seventeen-year cicada on Cape Cod, and that the Laughing Gulls there were feeding their young on that insect. On further inquiry he said that when the young were frightened, they threw up "mashed cicadas." He reported that he saw about a dozen young regurgitate the remains of these insects, and around the spots where the young were congregated numerous parts of the cicadas, as wings, etc. were scattered on the ground.

Correspondence with the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology, elicited from Dr. J. A. Hyslop, entomologist in charge, the fact that in Barnstable County (Cape Cod) the seventeen-year cicada appeared this year in Sandwich, Mashpee, Falmouth, Barnstable and Yarmouth, with a few other records from the border line between the townships of Truro and Wellfleet. The most intense broods were found along the shore of Cape Cod from Falmouth to Yarmouth, with heavy broods on the east side of Buzzards Bay in Bourne and Sandwich. So far as can be learned there was no outbreak of the seventeen-year cicada south of Cape Cod on Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard or any of the Elizabeth Islands. Therefore if Laughing Gulls at Muskeget fed their young on these insects, they must have carried the food at least twenty-one miles from the Cape Cod region, for it is about that distance from Muskeget Island to the nearest colony. They must have carried quantities of the insects in their gullets and then regurgitated them into the mouths of the young. Laughing Gulls and the Common Terns are well known to feed largely on insects at certain times of the year.—EDWARD HOWE FORBUSH, *Boston, Mass.*

**First Ontario Record for *Fulmarus g. glacialis*.**—To add a new species to your own local list is always a very pleasant experience but to be able to make an addition to a provincial or state list is something that the average observer takes the greatest delight in doing. Consequently it gives me the greatest pleasure to be able to add the Fulmar (*Fulmarus g. glacialis*) to the avi-fauna of Ontario. Not only is this the first record for the province but it is also probably the only inland record for all of North America. The bird, a single individual, was taken on May 3, 1924, near Arnprior at the mouth of the Madawaska River where it empties into Lac des Chats an expansion of the Ottawa. As is usually the case with the species it was remarkably tame and its capture was easily effected by means of an ordinary fishing line with an enticing minnow as bait. Due to the fact that the bird had probably been feeding in fresh water for some time the musky odor, characteristic of the family, was almost entirely absent and there was no sign of the oil usually emitted by the species when captured. Arnprior is about forty miles north-west of the city of Ottawa and