

GENERAL NOTES.

Nesting of the Black Tern in Wisconsin.—An Ideal breeding ground for the Black Tern is on Big Muskego Lake, twenty miles southwest of Milwaukee. This lake covers an area of approximately four square miles overgrown almost entirely with cat-tail bogs, bullrushes, wild rice, pond lilies, pickeral weed, etc. The Terns find a wonderful home here inasmuch as they are undisturbed in this marshy retreat. One needs a rowboat or a skiff to work on the lake and I choose a row-boat as it is more substantial for an all day's scouting trip. It is not at all difficult to locate a nest as when one comes within sixty to seventy-five feet of it the owners will start a commotion, and all their neighbors will help, until soon there will be a dozen or more birds flying over your boat. Quite often as you row toward a nest a few individuals will become so bold as to fly down and strike the prow of the boat with their bills.

On one of my trips I rowed up to within ten feet of a nest containing three eggs. I arose to my feet the better to view the eggs when to my surprise one of the excited birds alighted on my head. My friend sitting in the same boat, made haste to get its picture and succeeded in photographing it on my head. Then while he reloaded his camera this dauntless bird would leave his unusual perch to dash at the camera and then arise over my head and again alight. This occurred at intervals of ten seconds and lasted about ten minutes, in which time we secured five good close-up pictures, besides two from another boat, the bird loudly protesting all the while. After making all the exposures necessary and satisfying our bird photographer I did some experimenting. First I talked to my companions, then I raised my arms shoulder high several times and found this did not disturb the bird at all; and it was not until I sat down in the boat that the exhibit was terminated and the bird remained in the air with its noisy defenders.

The nest of the Black Tern contains from two to four eggs and is composed of a mere handful of dead rushes wet and decaying, placed on small hummocks or upon floating broken down rushes that gather about the outer edges of the bogs. It is not unusual to find a half dozen nests in as small an area as twenty-five square yards, and on several occasions I have found the Pied-billed Grebe's nest, a round floating mass of decaying vegetable matter, held in place by living bullrushes, among them. Baby Terns soon leave their nest after hatching, swimming about or resting upon lily pads, patiently waiting to be fed by the parent birds, and consume large numbers of dragon flies, other insects and small fish. On June 21, 1925, a number of these youngsters were banded, two of which were picked up a week later, only ten feet from the nest where I had originally found them. During this time they had grown to twice their size.

The nesting period begins the middle of June and continues to the end of July. On June 14, I located a number of nests with eggs but no young. On June 21, I did some banding of young Terns, and on July 26, banded the last young of the season and was unable to locate any nests with eggs. Forty-seven birds in all, were banded.—PAUL W. HOFFMANN, *Milwaukee, Wisc.*

The Point Barrow Gull in Missouri—An Addition to the State List.—In March, 1922, while spending a few days at Hartwell, Missouri, I made notes of a mounted specimen of *Larus hyperboreus barrovianus* in the possession of the Hartwell Hunting and Fishing Club, which was killed on their property in the spring of 1921. Mr. Frank Ford, in charge of the Club House, stated that he sees a few of these Gulls there every year in early spring. Measurements of the specimen, taken at the time of my visit, indicate that it should be referred to the subspecies *barrovianus*, described by Ridgway in 1886 and recently revived by Oberholser.¹

The measurements are as follows: Wing, 430 mm.; exposed culmen, 53 mm.; depth of bill at base, 20 mm.; middle toe, 59 mm. It was not sexed.

This appears to be the first record of the bird from Missouri and likewise the most easterly record of the subspecies *barrovianus*.—ARTHUR H. HOWELL, *Washington, D. C.*

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) in Arkansas.—Since there is but one definite record of the occurrence of this Gull in Arkansas (Howell, *Birds of Arkansas*, Biological Survey Bulletin No. 38, p. 19), I deem it of sufficient importance to record the taking of a juvenile male on September 27, 1919, near Fayetteville. The specimen was left at my home during my absence so I did not learn whether it was the only one seen. It was in good flesh but its stomach was empty. The specimen is now in my collection.—ALBERT LANO, *Fayetteville, Arkansas.*

Black Ducks and Pintail at Boston.—There are large numbers of Black Ducks, and Mallards, intermingled, which live and breed in the Boston Fen-Way, and have become very tame, coming to be fed and some of them taking food from the hand. They present fine opportunities for photographing.

As I was riding through the Fen-Way October 11, 1925, with my two sons, my eyes caught sight of a different kind of Duck among them, and I exclaimed "There is a Pintail," my son, captain R. L. Mackay agreed with me, as he had shot them in Ventura County, California, just as I had in South Carolina.

In the afternoon on returning we took some bread to feed the Ducks, hoping the Pintail would still be there. We found him with the other Ducks as before, and coaxed him up within ten feet of us. It proved

¹ See 'The Auk,' vol. 35, p. 472, October, 1918.