

GENERAL NOTES.

The Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis wymani*) in the Chicago Area.—A dark-mantled Gull was observed on Lake Michigan, along the outer lagoon of Lincoln Park on October 19, 1927. As sight observations of the Great Black-backed Gull had been mentioned at a meeting of the Chicago Ornithological Club, it was presumed that the bird was of this species. It remained about this vicinity, and was usually to be found upon a certain post, during the next month. Although there were many Herring, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls about, this individual did not associate with them, so there was no opportunity of comparing them for size. It seemed small to us, however, for the Great Black-backed Gull, so on November 17 we asked Mr. A. M. Bailey, Director of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, to examine the bird. He doubted that it was a Black-backed Gull, so the specimen was collected, and identified by Mr. Bailey as the Western Gull. It was submitted to Drs. Hellmayr and Zimmer of the Field Museum, who tentatively identified it as the Western Gull, and Dr. Jonathan Dwight finally placed it as *Larus occidentalis wymani*, the southern form of the Western Gull, a male in winter plumage, with a faint trace of immaturity.

The taking of this bird so near Lincoln Park, and so far from its true home suggested the possibility that it was an escaped bird from the Zoo. The superintendent, Mr. Parker, assured us, however, that they have not had any Western Gulls in the collection for many years, so that the bird undoubtedly was a wild one. It might be said that Lincoln Park is a natural bird haven, and that rare stragglers are likely to appear along this bit of wooded and lagoon-studded coast line at any time.

Collecting this specimen also shows plainly the dangers of sight identification of species through eliminating forms not likely to occur in a given region. It was natural to suppose our bird the Great Black-backed Gull, as it had previously been recorded from Lake Michigan. This appears to be the first record for *Larus occidentalis wymani* for Illinois and the Chicago Area.—EARL G. WRIGHT AND EDWIN KOMAREK, *Chicago Academy of Sciences*.

Forster's Tern in Ohio.—On November 2, 1927, while observing a very heavy flight of waterfowl at Buckeye Lake, Fairfield County, Ohio, I sighted a Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) which I collected. It proved to be a female in adult fall plumage. The skin is deposited in the Wheaton Club Collection at the Ohio State Museum.

So far as I can ascertain there are only two other published records for this species in Ohio, both given in Wheaton's 'Report on the Birds of Ohio' (1882) and quoted by Lynds Jones in his 'Revised Catalogue' (1903).—MILTON B. TRAUTMAN, 618 South Fifth St., Columbus, Ohio.