

GENERAL NOTES.

Herring Gulls: A Correction.—I am indebted to Mr. Hoyes Lloyd, Canadian National Parks Branch, Ottawa, Ontario, for calling my attention to two errors that appeared in my paper entitled "The Migration of Young North American Herring Gulls," which appeared in the January number of 'The Auk.'

In Table 1 on page 51, the return record is given for a bird stated to carry band No. 378978. This number should be 378078. This error is apparently a typographical one that was not detected in reading the proof, as I find that the number is correctly given on my carbon copy of the manuscript.

In this same table, Herring Gull No. 385656 is listed as recovered at Port Hope, Ontario. The locality should be Lake Eabemut, near the Albany River, Ontario. This return was reported from the Fort Hope Post, Tashota P. O., via Cochrane, Ontario. This point is more than 700 miles north and west of Port Hope, Ontario, which is located on the shore of Lake Ontario, about sixty miles east of Toronto.

This last return was originally carded as Fort Hope, Ontario, but in preparing the map that accompanied the paper the draftsman was apparently unable to find this point and so concluded that Port Hope was intended. This change also was made on the card and so became incorporated in the accompanying table.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Early Arrival of the Laughing Gull in Massachusetts.—March 31, 1928, at 8:45 A.M. I left Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard Island, Mass., on steamer "Islander." There had been an easterly rain storm of considerable intensity the previous day, and this morning it was partly cloudy, wind rather strong northwest and the temperature was about 40°. About 30 Herring Gulls were in view, some flying near the steamer, on the lookout for anything eatable that might be thrown overboard or brought to the surface by the motion of the propeller. When about 10 rods from the wharf I was surprised and much pleased to see a fine adult Laughing Gull, (*Larus atricilla*) appear with the larger Gulls near the boat, gracefully wheeling and scaling, showing its marking very distinctly. It appeared considerably smaller than *argentatus* and the slaty black head, sharply defined from the pure white neck, the black primaries and red feet and bill were clearly visible. I had 10x glasses in my hand but they were not needed, the Gull was so near me. I could watch the bird for a minute or two only as it did not follow the steamer, as both species mentioned often do.

I am very familiar with *atricilla* as the species is an almost constant feature of the scene, in summer, at Oak Bluffs, where I have a shore cottage. The bird is also well represented in my collection.

I at once realized this was an early record, and think others may substantiate it as the winter and spring to date have been exceedingly mild.

Upon consulting four bird books—two of recent issue—the earliest spring arrival for this state was April 12 at Muskeget Island, which lies about 15 miles southeast of Oak Bluffs.

While a great amount of data has been amassed in recent, leading publications, I was much impressed with the very meagre record of the spring arrival of *atricilla* off the Massachusetts coast.—CHARLES L. PHILLIPS, *Taunton, Mass.*

The Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) at Washington, D. C.—Mr. and Mrs. William J. Whiting and I spent the afternoon of May 20, 1928 off Hains Point, D. C., on a mud bar in the Potomac River. We were using 8x, 9x, and 16x binoculars. One of the larger Terns was seen flying down the river, and we all put our glasses on it immediately. The bill was solid black, being quite blunt and heavy and not needle-like. The tail but slightly forked, and the primaries had a dark edge. The bird was flying in a straight line, with steady wing beats, continuing in this manner until out of sight. The sun was behind us, furnishing a perfect light. I examined specimens in the U. S. National Museum and am absolutely certain of the identification. It has been previously recorded here, but there is some doubt about the record.—WILLIAM HOWARD BALL, *1233 Irving St., N. W., Washington, D. C.*

The Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata magnificens*) at Cape May, N. J.—In 'The Auk' for 1926, p. 536, I recorded the occurrence of Audubon's Shearwater at Cape May on August 2 of that year, following the West Indian hurricane of a few days previous. Recently I have received from Mrs. Emlen H. Fisher of Germantown, Philadelphia, the record of another waif driven north at the same time. Mrs. Fisher's letter on the matter is as follows: "I saw the bird at Cape May, N. J., three days after the Florida hurricane that devastated Miami. It was an unusually large bird having a wing spread of nearly three feet, I should say. The wings tapered to a point and were of a decided and curious shape, appearing from the rear to be arched close to the body, above the level of the back. The bird appeared slate gray all over. It had a long bill bent over at the tip and a long curious tail like that of a king crab but slightly forked at the extreme tip. I could not decide whether there was really a fork or whether two long outer tail feathers were crossed at the tip when folded. The neck was either drawn in like a Heron's, in flight, so as to form a bulge beneath the base of the bill, or else there was a sort of pouch there, but not forming a part of the bill as in a Pelican. The bird hung perfectly motionless facing the wind for fifteen or twenty minutes not moving an inch in space, apparently, although there was a strong wind blowing, nor moving a feather save to turn his head to look at the small group of people gathered below. It finally flew to the south where it disappeared."