

GENERAL NOTES.

The Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) in the North Carolina Mountains.—In a conversation with my friend, Mr. Alan Nicholson, of Union, S. C., he told me that he had recently seen a specimen of a Gull shot near Montreat, Buncombe County, N. C.

I interviewed the taxidermist who had the bird, Mr. G. C. Joyner, and he kindly allowed me to examine it. The bird is an immature Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). Mr. Joyner told me that it was taken in October, 1925, by Horace Rees, on a small lake at Montreat. Mr. Rees shot the Gull as an unusual bird, and took it to Mr. Joyner for mounting. It was, however, never called for, due to the death of Mr. Rees, and so remains in the possession of Mr. Joyner.

Montreat is a summer resort in the Blue Ridge section of North Carolina, located eighteen miles east of Asheville. The lake, an artificial body of water, covering about two or three acres, is about 2600 feet above sea-level. Mr. Joyner informed me that there had been a severe wind and rain storm a day previous to the appearance of the bird, and he had himself seen it fly along the creek in front of his house, this creek being the outlet of the lake.

I have examined the range of the species in several ornithological books but can find no record of the bird having been taken, or recorded from the Blue Ridge Mountains. The occurrence there is, of course, purely accidental, but the circumstances connected with the record are indisputable and, I think, worthy of record. I am indebted to Mr. Nicholson for calling the bird to my attention, and to Mr. Joyner for allowing me to examine it and furnishing me with the information relative to its capture.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Curator of Ornithology, Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

Forster's Tern in Massachusetts.—Dr. Winsor M. Tyler and I, in looking over a flock of Common Terns on the beach at the mouth of the North River in Scituate, Mass., September 23, 1928, found in it two Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*). I had been introduced to this species by Mr. A. C. Bent at Chatham, Mass., September 1, 1924, and had no difficulty in recognizing it on meeting with it again. One of the two birds had the crown whiter and the blackish stripe through the eye much more sharply defined than the other. This bird was noticeably lighter in general coloration above than the Common Terns of the flock, and, so far as we could see, showed no dark markings on the nape. It was probably, therefore, an adult in winter plumage, while the other was doubtless an immature in first winter plumage. Both, characteristically, stood higher on their feet than the Common Terns. We had these two birds under observation with our binoculars at rather close range for some