

'Life-Histories.' There is therefore a distinct soft, semi-downy plumage resembling that of the summer adult between the nesting down and the plumage of the first winter. A similar sequence of plumages is found in the Dovekie (*Alle alle*) but not in the Common Murre which goes from down into a conventional white-throated plumage similar in color and pattern to that of the first winter.—P. A. TAVERNER, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa.*

The Wedge-tailed Shearwater off the Coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia.—During August, 1919, I received a skin of a pale-colored Shearwater from Oliver Trafford, a taxidermist of St. Eugene, Ontario, the inscription "Vancouver, B. C." being the only data on the label.

A short time ago, while Dr. H. C. Oberholser was at my home, he identified the specimen as *Thyellodroma pacifica* and advised me that this species had as yet not been recorded for the coast of the United States or Canada.

It is much regretted that neither the collector's name nor the date of capture is known, but on account of the apparent rarity of this Shearwater on the north Pacific coast this specimen is now put on record.—STANLEY G. JEWETT, *Portland, Oregon.*

The Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) at Stone Harbor, N. J.—On January 13, 1929 at Stone Harbor, Cape May County, N. J., the writer with Ernest Evans, Joseph Stokes, and Woodruff Emlen found a dead Sooty Tern on the salt marsh about a quarter of a mile back of the Coast Guard Station near the head of an inlet. Except for the wings, feet, bill and tail the bird was in a very decomposed condition and had evidently been lying there for a long time. The wing measured eleven and an eighth inches and answered the descriptions in several standard text-books as did the other parts that were collected. The bird had probably been blown north by a tropical storm during the autumn of 1928 as there have been several other records of the same species occurring along the Atlantic coast in September 1928.—WILLIAM C. DOAK, *Germantown, Philadelphia.*

A Flight of Ross's Gulls¹.—I recently received from a correspondent of mine at Point Barrow, Alaska, a series of Ross's Rosy Gulls (*Rhodostethia rosea*). He writes to me that late in September, with a strong northwest wind, these rare Gulls came in over the beach in thousands. He never saw them so plentiful before or quite so early in the season. They arrived on September 26, but are generally not seen until late in October or in November. They always come, however, with a northwest wind seeming to arrive from off shore somewhere and working along northward. As soon as the wind changes they leave the coast for the islands off shore, remaining around as long as there is sufficient open water for the boats to get out whaling. For two days they were so numerous

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on the beach that the Eskimos shot hundreds of them for food. He could have taken all he wanted but collected only what he could personally save as specimens, some of which he sent to me.

He says that the Ivory Gulls were scarce this fall and did not come in to the shore at all. Boats that were out whaling reported seeing many of them as well as the Ross's Gulls.

As the birds in this series, which are in fresh, adult winter plumage, are so much more richly colored than any I have seen, it seems worth while to place on record an accurate description of the colors before they fade. This plumage is illustrated by Murdoch in his report on the natural history of the Point Barrow Expedition (1885) but the pink colors on my birds are much deeper and more extensive than appears on this plate; furthermore the bird in the plate has a white tail whereas my birds all have decidedly pink tails. During my absence Mr. Ludlow Griscom has kindly sent me the following description:

"General color shrimp pink of Ridgway, a warmer shade on the chest, sides, and under surface of tail, palest or dullest on the sides of the head and hind neck; auricular region and area around the anterior half of the eye tipped with blackish, the pileum and sides of the head elsewhere tinged tipped or clouded with pale gray; hind neck and fore part of the mantle pale shrimp pink, the feathers more and more tipped with pale gray, the mantle appearing gray faintly suffused with pink; wings pale neutral gray suffused with pink along the bend of the wing, tertials and scapulars; outer webs of outer secondaries and some of the greater coverts pale shrimp pink; shafts of three outer primaries dull pink above, bright pink on the under surface; entire under surface of the wing strongly suffused with pink; tail shrimp pink, the longer central tail feathers tipped for a short distance with very pale gray."—ARTHUR CLEVELAND BENT, *Taunton, Mass.*

The Fall Flight of Geese to Louisiana.—The uniformly early arrival of Geese along the gulf coast of Louisiana has always interested me, but I was never fortunate enough to be in the field when the Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) arrived on their wintering grounds, until the fall of 1928. These birds have a very limited range, the bulk of them making the coastal marshes of Louisiana their winter home. A great flock of thousands of individuals works the salt marshes at the mouth of the Mississippi River, and others are found near Marsh Island and Chenier au Tigre, about midway to the Texas border. As one travels west from Chenier au Tigre, fewer Blue Geese are seen and the Lesser Snow Goose becomes more common. At the mouth of the Mississippi, during the fall of 1928, we found about forty Blue Geese for each Snow Goose (*Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus*), while the ratio was reversed in Cameron Parish in western Louisiana, the first of November.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Joseph Leiter of Chicago, I was able to spend ten days on his estate at the mouth of the Mississippi River. He owns and leases some 15,000 acres of coastal marsh on the north side of