

As the rain hit the birds on the flat they flew up with loud cries, circled about and alighted on the water before us. As the storm cleared and a rainbow appeared, the wind freshened, the evening sun came out and the Gulls splashed in the water, flying up a few at a time into the wind and returning again to the mud flat. We had an unparalleled view of all the species and saw the European immigrant to our entire satisfaction. It fluttered its wings like a Tern and was several times an object of attack by the many Bonaparte's Gulls.

In size it was about two inches shorter than the latter and markedly smaller when they were seen side by side. The color of the under surface of the wings looked absolutely black and the upper side was apparently not marked at all; the body, tail and back were white; head and neck, black. When alighting, the ends of the primaries seemed to be black with white tips, but in talking this feature over with Mr. John T. Nichols, he said that some of the dark gray under surface must have shown when in this position. The bill seemed to be red and the plumage of the under surface looked slightly rosy.—WARREN F. EATON, 63 Normal Avenue, Upper Montclair, N. J.¹

Larus minutus seen in Upper New York Bay.¹—Towards 7:50 A.M. on May 6, 1929, I stood near the bow of a Staten Island ferryboat, passing along the west side of Governor's Island. For some minutes I had been watching a party of about fifteen Bonaparte's Gulls, of which only two appeared to be in adult breeding plumage. Now it became evident that there were three black-headed birds, and I turned my field-glass on one that happened to be offering a splendid broadside view within about two hundred feet.

The morning sun behind me rendered visible a light pink blush on the bird's breast such as I had never been able to see in a Bonaparte's Gull until I actually held the bird in my hands. Next I began to notice that the usual white patch on the upper surface of the primaries was lacking, and instead the whole upper surface of the wing was light bluish gray, with only a white border along its whole posterior margin. The black tips of the primaries, conspicuous in Bonaparte's Gull, were lacking, and the whole bird looked a trifle small, if anything, for a Bonaparte's Gull.

At such close range no other bird was visible in the field of the glass, so I turned it toward one of the adult Bonaparte's Gulls, and verified the familiar markings of that species. By this time the other bird, which I had decided must be the Little Gull of Europe, had passed out of sight.

If I relate the circumstances of the observation in detail, and seem to be repeating what one may find in published descriptions of the birds, it is simply because on this evidence the identification must be judged. I regret that I did not note the relative size or the color of the bill; and I may add that I have never seen the Little Gull alive in Europe, nor have I had occasion for some years to study specimens or descriptions of it.

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While I have confidence in the points I have enumerated, I can only offer the observation for what it is: a sight record under unusually favorable conditions.—JAMES P. CHAPIN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York.*

Greater Snow Goose on Long Island, N. Y.—The Snow Goose (*Chen hyperboreus*) is such a rare bird along the Atlantic coast north of Delaware Bay, especially in Spring, that a summary of its recorded occurrences on Long Island, New York, and in the New York City region during the northward migration may be of interest.

Giraud, in his 'Birds of Long Island' (1844), says of "*Anser hyperboreus*:" "With us, the occurrence of this bird is not frequent. Occasionally the young are seen exposed for sale in the New York markets, though rarely the adult. In some seasons, small parties are seen on the South Bay, and now and then stragglers are seen flying in company with the Canada Geese." He does not state in which "seasons" they are seen. Braislin, in his 'List of the Birds of Long Island, New York,' (Abst. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. Y. Nos. 17-19, 1907), speaks of the Greater Snow Goose (*Chen hyperboreus nivalis*) as a "rare autumnal migrant" and mentions four autumn and winter records. Eaton, in 'Birds of New York' (1910) gives eleven records for the subspecies *nivalis* on Long Island, only one of these being in spring (Shelter Island, April 3, 1889. One male, Dutcher). He also speaks of Fisher's observation of several hundred birds, presumably of the same subspecies, on the Hudson River at Ossining, N. Y., April 8, 1882 (Bull. N. O. C., VII, p. 251).

On April 15, 1917, the writer had the unexpected pleasure of seeing a flock of at least twenty-five Snow Geese (subsp. ?) migrating northeastward over Long Beach, Nassau County, Long Island. The sight of these large white birds with black wing-tips against a background of alternating blue sky and dark strato-cumulus clouds rolling out of the northwest, combined with the high-pitched "honking" of the flock, left an impression which is still vivid in his memory after a lapse of twelve years. This record, and one by Mr. Roy Latham for Orient, April 17, 1919, are to be found in Griscom's 'Birds of the New York City Region' (1923) and constitute, apparently, the second and third (and, to date, the last) published spring records for the species on Long Island.

Recent observations of Snow Geese in the New York City region are as follows:—Messrs. T. Donald Carter and F. E. Watson saw a flock of thirty-seven flying north over the Jersey City Reservoir at Boonton, Morris County, N. J., April 6, 1924 (Auk, Vol. XLI, p. 472).

On April 11, 1926, Messrs. R. R. Coles and De L. F. Johnson found one individual on Long Island Sound off Sound Beach, Conn. (Auk, Vol. XLIII, p. 363). Mr. John R. Kuerzi has reported seeing one bird on Staten Island, N. Y., April 17, 1926, and Mr. Allan D. Cruickshank saw two flying up the Hudson River near Yonkers, N. Y., March 9, 1929. (These last two observations will be published in a forthcoming Abst. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. Y.).