

The line of flight followed by the Dovekies was not clearly evident as the ship caused many of them to turn aside. In any case they were moving to the west toward the coast of the United States, not in the direction of their breeding grounds in the far North.—THOMAS H. MCKITTRICK, JR., 28 Chelsea Park Gardens, London S. W. 3, England.

**Little Gull at Point Pleasant, N. J.**<sup>1</sup>—On the afternoon of August 11, 1929, in company with Messrs. Richard Herbert, C. A. Urner and L. L. Walsh, I found a large flock of Common Terns on the sand along the Manasquan River at Point Pleasant, N. J.

We noticed that one bird lacked the black on the head and when the flock suddenly arose and circled a few times before settling again, this bird was seen to have black under wing surfaces. We immediately surmized that it was a Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) having learned this character when the Little Gull appeared at Newark Bay in May of this year (see 'Auk,' July 1929, p. 376). We approached as near as we could and observed the bird closely as it stood on the sand. It was smaller than the Terns with a different build, resembling a Bonaparte's Gull. The under parts of the body were white. The head was white with gray spots, presenting a mottled appearance. The bill which was very small, appeared black and the eyes also were apparently black. The feet were very dark and to some of us appeared to have a reddish tinge. As the bird flew the wings were seen to be pale gray above with no white except for a distinct white margin on the posterior edge, which showed both above and below. The rest of the under surface appeared black and, contrasted with the white parts of the body, made a striking field mark.

As we approached nearer the Terns grew nervous and finally took wing leaving the Gull alone. We continued to approach and were within seventy-five feet of it when it arose and flew to another point.—JAMES L. EDWARDS, 27 Stanford Place, Montclair, N. J.

**Golden-eye Nesting on the Ground.**—In 'The Auk' for October, 1928, p. 498, I recorded finding the nest of a Golden-eye Duck on the ground under an old tree top. Correspondence on this matter with Mr. J. Hooper Bowles led to some doubt as to whether the nest really was that of a Golden-eye. When I visited the spot in June last I succeeded in finding some of the fragments of the egg shells which I sent to Mr. Bowles. The high water of the spring freshet had evidently covered the nesting place and how much change it had wrought on the egg shells I do not know.

Mr. Bowles writes me as follows: "I took the eggshells down to our museum where my collection is kept and compared them carefully with the eggs of every species to which they might possibly belong. They compare perfectly with eggs of the Red-breasted Merganser, being only slightly less buffy, which might easily be caused by exposure to the elements. They do not have the gloss of the Harlequin, which I doubt if exposure

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could entirely remove; neither do they have even a trace of the greenish blue of the Golden-eye, which I doubt greatly if exposure could remove.

"Generally speaking there is a striking similarity in the upper parts of the females of the Red-breasted Merganser and the Golden-eye, including the white wing patch. The beaks of course, are utterly different, so, if you had a good look at the beak, this theory is completely knocked in the head. Now, as I have said, I feel as though I were insulting an experienced duck hunter, like yourself, by suggesting that he might mistake a female Golden-eye for something else. However, I am treating you exactly as I would cross examine myself. If I did not get a good look at the beak and a clear impression of the bird as it left the nest—well, the mistake would have been possible."

I rather think Mr. Bowles has the best of it. Had his suggestion come up last year, when it was all fresh in my mind, it might not have made as much of an impression of doubt as it does now after a lapse of time. The place was so dark that I did not distinctly see the Duck on the eggs, and so thick that I did not crawl in to examine the eggs as I should have done, but the occurrence was so unusual that I am going to give Mr. Bowles the benefit of the doubt and make this acknowledgement so that a possible error may not be carried into the future as a fact.—WM. B. MERSHON, *Saginaw, Mich.*

**Breeding of the Pink-footed Goose in Iceland.**—American Ornithologists, particularly those primarily interested in oölogy, may be glad to hear that the vexed question as to whether the Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus* Baillon) does or does not breed in Iceland has at last been definitely answered by Mr. S. W. P. Freme, M. B. O. U. and myself, as one of the results of six weeks ornithological work in Iceland during the summer of 1929.

As we intend to shortly have a paper published in 'The Ibis' giving the results of our experiences I am unable to give readers of 'The Auk' full particulars as to our find, beyond stating that we were led to a very flourishing nesting colony of these Geese in the north central desert. Our guide insisted that he was leading us to a breeding colony of the White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons* Scopoli). Identification of the Geese presented no sort of difficulty, but for the education of the guide and for exhibition purposes my companion shot a Goose from the first nest we came to in the colony.

Nests seen contained from five to seven eggs but numbers had been harried by foxes and possibly by Ravens (*Corvus corax tibetanus*) as well. Many nests were inaccessible in the limited time at our disposal as they were mainly situated on the precipitous sides of a wonderful river gorge, many miles from our base. The question has now arisen, as a result of our discovery "Does the White-fronted Goose breed in Iceland? If so what race?" I know it is *supposed* to do so and many eggs purporting to be of this species have been sent from Iceland by native collectors. We propose