

hillcock not far from our tent. With my two sons I stalked the birds, and we observed them through field glasses from a distance subsequently paced off at fifteen yards. The birds seemed wary but not shy, and when we finally flushed them they alighted again and permitted a second close approach.

The size, small straightish bills, mottled crowns without conspicuous central stripe, dark wings, and buffy faces and necks were all carefully noted. I neglected to record the color of the legs, and we heard no call of any sort. To the best of my belief, however, they were Eskimo Curlews.

Examples of this species have been collected as recently as January, 1925, in Argentina. While the present sight record is inconclusive, the circumstances connected with appearance, behavior, date, weather, and locality make it important, if only for bearing upon possible observations in the future.—ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

The Western Willet in Winter in Georgia and South Carolina.—

The 'Check-List' gives the winter range of the Western Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*) for the eastern United States as ". . . from the coasts of Texas, Louisiana, and Florida to Ecuador, . . ."

Nearly the same words are used, by Ridgway in 'Birds of North and Middle America' (1919), Forbush in 'Birds of Massachusetts, etc.,' (1925), and by Howell in 'Florida Bird Life,' (1932).

But Wayne in 'Birds of South Carolina,' (1910) wrote "This subspecies occurs commonly in autumn, winter and early spring." And in the Wayne collection, now in the Charleston Museum, are several specimens taken by him since this was written. Four specimens in the collection are in the speckled plumage of spring and summer, and are dated April 16 (marked "moulting") May 15, July 11 and July 12.

Since 1930 I have taken eight specimens near the Savannah River mouth, and on both sides of the Georgia-Carolina line. All were in the gray winter plumage, and each month is represented from October to February. If non-breeding birds were present in the summer plumage, I may have easily missed them. Of the eight all have bills well over the maximum length for the Eastern Willet (*Catoptrophorus s. semipalmatus*) in the same sex.

It is a little strange that no specimen of *semipalmatus* was taken with the others during the winter months, as no effort was made to pick out long-billed birds.

So, between Georgia and South Carolina, there are records of the western race with supporting specimens for all months but March, June, August and September. This should change the wording in any future revision of the 'Check-List.'—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. Dredge Morgan, Savannah, Ga.*

The Atlantic Kittiwake Taken in Central Iowa.—The first Iowa specimen of the Atlantic Kittiwake (*Rissa t. tridactyla*) was secured by

James R. Harlan at Des Moines, Polk County, on November 22, 1931. He found only this one bird along the Des Moines River about four miles northwest of the city.

The mean temperature during the week preceding had ranged from three to twenty-five degrees above normal with fog or rain on all days but one from November 17 to 23. There was rain with dense fog in the afternoon when the bird was collected. The wind was from the east but not above normal nor had it been for a few days previous.

A reference to Dwight's 'Gulls of the World'¹ shows this specimen to be a bird in the first winter plumage, with auricular spot and occipital band reduced but the black collar across the back, descending to the sides of the throat, the black band on the wings formed by the lesser coverts and the black terminal band across the median rectrices are all well marked. The bill, legs and feet were bleak. It proved to be a male and was mounted by Prof. Joseph Steppan, for the State Historical Museum, Des Moines.

Accidental occurrences have been recorded for Michigan, Wisconsin, etc., but the only previous Iowa record seems doubtful and the species is given in Anderson's 'Birds of Iowa' only in the Hypothetical List.

I am indebted to Prof. Steppan and Mr. Harlan for permission to publish this record.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa.*

Ring-billed and Herring Gulls at the Savannah River Mouth in July and August.—All during July and up to the date of writing (August 23) Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) sometimes as many as a dozen have been present near the discharge pipe of the dredge. This pipe, twenty inches in diameter, discharging a twenty inch stream of sand, mud and water, as well as many forms of gull food from the bottom of the river, is a concentration point for all the gulls in the vicinity, and sometimes the smaller terns also feed there.

The only summer records for the species which I can find in the works at hand, are single birds seen on July 13 and August 3, 1906, at Fernandina (Howell, 'Florida Bird Life'). And one from South Carolina, a June record (supplement to Wayne's 'Birds of South Carolina').

The number of birds seen preclude the idea that these were crippled or sick birds at the time of the spring migration. I think they were mostly two-year-old birds, because of the bill markings, which were those of mature birds, and because the subterminal spots in the tail were mostly small, and in some almost lacking. A couple of birds, however, had heavily banded tails. During July and August all molted some of the flight feathers and most of the body plumage.

A single Herring Gull (*Larus a. smithsonianus*) was present at the same time, a one-year-old bird which underwent a similar molt. It has emerged in a plumage very like the brown immature winter birds so commonly seen.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. Dredge Morgan, Savannah, Ga.*

¹ Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. LII, pp. 317-322.