

**The Status of Forster's Tern in the Western Lake Erie region of Ohio and Michigan.**—We are not aware of any published record of the occurrence of Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) in the western Lake Erie region of Ohio. The few published Ohio records of this species, by Wheaton,<sup>1</sup> Jones,<sup>2</sup> Dawson,<sup>3</sup> and Trautman,<sup>4,5</sup> refer to inland sections of the state. Wheaton,<sup>1</sup> however, suggests that "This Tern may possibly breed in Northern Ohio," which includes the western Lake Erie region, on the basis that "it has been discovered breeding in northern Illinois by Mr. Nelson. . . ."

There appears to be only one published record of the occurrence of Forster's Tern in the western Lake Erie region of Michigan, that of a juvenile bird, collected by Mr. J. Claire Wood<sup>6</sup> on September 10, 1890, along the lower Detroit River, which is considered a part of the western Lake Erie region. The only other definite record for extreme southeastern Michigan that has come to our notice, is by Collins,<sup>7</sup> who states that on June 15 [1880], on Strawberry Island, Lake St. Clair, he found "a nest of the Forster's on a lot of drift rushes." The nest contained three eggs. Collins also collected the nesting bird and later "found several other nests and shot more of the birds."

The three additional records for Lake St. Clair were given by Canadian ornithologists, who though reporting on Canadian birds were obviously considering the status of Forster's Tern on Lake St. Clair as a whole. The oldest of the three records is that of Morden and Saunders,<sup>8</sup> who in 1882 wrote that this Tern is "common" and "breeds at St. Clair." The second record by Langville<sup>9</sup> in 1892, states that there are "a few laying their eggs on the muskrat houses of the St. Clair Flats." The last record, by Macoun and Macoun<sup>10</sup> in 1909, states that this species "is not common at St. Clair flats, Ont., but nests have been taken there by Mr. J. A. Morden. . . ."

It is apparent from these Michigan and Canadian records that Forster's Tern, in former years at least, occasionally nested on the marshes and islands of Lake St. Clair. Apparently no one has reported this species for Lake St. Clair during the past twenty-five years, probably because the birds of this lake have been little studied during this quarter century.

Since the late summer of 1932, Forster's Tern has been repeatedly noted, by the writers and others, in the marshes, beaches and open waters of western Lake Erie, sufficiently often to indicate that the species is probably a regular and not uncommon spring and fall migrant and summer visitor, and may even occasionally nest in such large marshes as the Erie Marsh in southeastern Monroe County, Michigan, and the Little Cedar Point Marsh in Lucas County, Ohio. A rather careful survey in these marshes during the nesting season of 1934 and 1935, however, has yielded no actual nesting evidence, though two birds were observed on May 27, 1934, feeding each other and displaying other courtship behavior. We list below the sight records and specimens of this Tern for the western Lake Erie region since 1932. The majority of the records are of immature birds, which can readily be distinguished from the

<sup>1</sup> Wheaton, J. M., *Birds of Ohio*. 1882, p. 560.

<sup>2</sup> Jones, Lynds, *Birds of Ohio*. Ohio State Acad. Sci., 1903, pp. 31-32.

<sup>3</sup> Dawson, William Leon, *Birds of Ohio*. 1903, p. 558.

<sup>4</sup> Trautman, Milton B., *Auk*, 1928, p. 200.

<sup>5</sup> Trautman, Milton B., *Auk*, 1933, p. 235.

<sup>6</sup> Swales, B. H. and P. A. Taverner, *Auk*, 1907, p. 137.

<sup>7</sup> Collins, W. H., *Oologist*, 1880, p. 65.

<sup>8</sup> Morden, J. A. and W. E. Saunders, *Canadian Sportsmen and Naturalist*, 1882, p. 194.

<sup>9</sup> Langville, J. Hibbert, *Our Birds in their Haunts*. 1892, p. 532.

<sup>10</sup> Macoun, John and James M. Macoun, *Catalogue of Canadian Birds*. 1909, p. 52

vastly more abundant Common Terns (*Sterna h. hirundo*). We probably missed many of the adult Forster's Terns, for these, when silent, can be definitely identified in a flock of adult Common Terns, with which they usually associate, only under the most favorable circumstances.

The sight records are: 4 birds, Sept. 13, 1932; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, E. L. Wickliff, Milton B. Trautman. 1 bird, June 24, 1933; Ohio, Lucas Co., Little Cedar Point, L. W. and B. R. Campbell. 1 bird, July 1, 1933; Ohio, Lucas Co., Little Cedar Point, L. W. and B. R. Campbell. 1 bird, July 4, 1933; Ohio, Lucas Co., Little Cedar Point, L. W. and B. R. Campbell. 4 birds, May 27, 1934; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, J. Clark Salyer, L. W. and B. R. Campbell, M. B. Trautman. 2 birds, May 30, 1934; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, Max M. Peet. 1 bird, June 15, 1934; Ohio, Lucas Co., Little Cedar Point, B. R. Campbell. 1 bird, July 7, 1934; Ohio, Lucas Co., Little Cedar Point, L. W. and B. R. Campbell. 2 birds, July 15, 1934; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, L. W. and B. R. Campbell. 2 birds, July 23, 1934; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, L. W. and B. R. Campbell. 2 birds, Aug. 12, 1934; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, L. W. and B. R. Campbell. 2 birds, Sept. 8, 1934; Ohio, Lucas Co., Waterville Twp., Maumee River, L. W. and B. R. Campbell. 2 birds, Sept. 9, 1934; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, L. W. and B. R. Campbell. 2 birds, Oct. 7, 1934; Ohio, Lucas Co., Washington Twp., Maumee Bay, L. W. Campbell. 1 bird, Oct. 21, 1934; Ohio, Lucas Co., Washington Twp., Maumee Bay, L. W. Campbell. 1 bird, June 15, 1935; Ohio, Lucas Co., Little Cedar Point, L. W. and B. R. Campbell. 1 bird, July 7, 1935; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, L. W. Campbell. 1 bird, July 28, 1935; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, L. W. Campbell, M. B. Trautman. 1 bird, Aug. 10, 1935; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, L. W. and B. R. Campbell. 4 birds, Aug. 29, 1935; Mich., Wayne Co., Gibraltar Bay, M. B. Trautman. 1 bird, Aug. 31, 1935; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, L. W. Campbell. 2 birds, Sept. 14, 1935; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, L. W. Campbell. 9 birds, Oct. 27, 1935; Ohio, Lucas Co., Washington Twp., Maumee Bay, L. W. Campbell. 6 birds, Nov. 2, 1935; Ohio, Lucas Co., Washington Twp., Maumee Bay, L. W. Campbell. 8 birds, Nov. 10, 1935; Ohio, Lucas Co., Washington Twp., Maumee Bay, L. W. Campbell.

The specimens collected are: Univ. Mich., 73811, ♂ May 27, 1934; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, M. B. Trautman. Univ. Mich., 73812, ♀ May 27, 1934; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, M. B. Trautman. Univ. Mich., 84834, ♂ July 28, 1935; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, M. B. Trautman. Ohio State Mus., ♀ Sept. 8, 1934; Ohio, Lucas Co., Waterville Twp., Maumee River, B. R. Campbell. Ohio State Mus., ♀ June 15, 1935; Ohio, Lucas Co., Little Cedar Point, B. R. Campbell. Ohio State Mus., ♀ Oct. 27, 1935; Ohio, Lucas Co., Washington Twp., Maumee Bay, L. W. Campbell. Max M. Peet Coll., 3600, ♂ May 30, 1934; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, Max M. Peet. Max M. Peet Coll., 3601, ♀ May 30, 1934; Mich., Monroe Co., Erie Marsh, Max M. Peet:

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**Kittlitz's Murrelet Breeding at Wales, Alaska.**—On July 19, 1934, a female Kittlitz's Murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*), with bare abdomen, was taken by a representative of The Chicago Academy of Sciences at Wales, Alaska. The label attached to the skin sent to us gives the specific locality as "top of Hill Point" and sets forth that the bird was found with one egg, heavily incubated. The egg according to the label, was broken. The collector failed to send the fragments.