

nail, where parasites had been removed. I laid the note away and forgot it for a year, until on December 3, 1936, when between five and ten miles off Monterey, I saw the whole performance repeated once, though I could not catch the fish, and several time noticed gulls sitting close to the Sunfish without pecking it. Furthermore my friend, Mr. Frank Lloyd, who is daily at sea off Monterey, told me he had seen the same occurrence many times. The Sunfish lie motionless, as though appreciating this marine-cowbird function of the gulls.—T. T. McCABE, *Berkeley, California*.

**Short-billed Gull in Massachusetts.**—In the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy there is a skin of a gull that came with the Brewster collection. It was originally labelled *Larus delawarensis* ? and has been kept with the Ring-billed Gulls. While examining this bird recently, I was struck by its very small bill and some peculiarities of plumage not associated with *L. delawarensis*. Comparison of specimens quickly lead to its identification as some form of *Larus canus*. *L. c. kamtschatschensis* (Bonap.) is a much larger bird than this one and need not enter into consideration, but whether the bird should be referred to true *L. canus* or to *L. canus brachyrhynchus* is not so easy to decide. The bird is in a transition plumage between the 'first nuptial' and 'second winter' and cannot be quite matched by available specimens of either race; the streaking on the top of the head, however, is much heavier than in western European examples and for this reason should, I think, be referred to *L. c. brachyrhynchus* of western North America.

The specimen in question, a female, was shot at Pleasant Bay, Chatham, Massachusetts, February 8, 1908, by N. A. Eldredge. It was acquired by Charles J. Paine, Jr., who gave it to William Brewster about a year later. It now bears the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy number 248,842. In the Brewster catalogue is the following entry in the 'remarks' column in Brewster's own hand: "Bill small for *delawarensis*; bird may be *canus* or *brachyrhynchus*!"—JAMES L. PETERS, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

**Forster's Tern on the Niagara River.**—Published reports, and indeed any form of record of the occurrence of Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) in the Niagara district seem sufficiently rare to warrant the following note. While travelling in company with Mr. F. W. Gregory from Niagara Falls, Ontario, to Fort Erie, via the Niagara River boulevard, on October 19, 1936, we saw among other Laridae, such as Ring-billed Gulls, Herring Gulls, and Bonaparte's Gulls, about one dozen terns in several small scattered parties. Although not by any means without precedent, the presence of terns on the river at this season was interesting. An opportunity for careful observation occurred at a point where Frenchman's Creek enters the Niagara River, and here a small party of terns was examined at very close range. Three immature, or completely winter-plumaged birds, were found to be definitely referable to the species *Sterna forsteri*. The diagnostic character of the white head, with elongated black patch through the eye only, was most plainly and repeatedly shown when the birds hovered with down-pointed bill, and dived within a dozen yards of the river bank. A fourth bird, more or less in company at the time with the Forster's Terns, was almost certainly an adult Common Tern changing into winter plumage with a whitish forehead and black cap extending over the back of the head. The several other small parties of terns seen hovering over the river, and diving, but not closely observed, may or may not have contained other examples of *Sterna forsteri*; but a rather distant glimpse of one small group of five birds, obtained while driving along the boulevard, left me with the impression that they were not all