

single godwit appeared. The migration was over for the time, although early in September a few small flocks were again seen.

In 1936 and 1937, I watched the spring and autumn migrations of the godwits with great interest. The Hudsonian Godwits arrived fairly early,—the earliest birds were seen on April 6,—while the last left about the 24th, when they were nearly in full plumage. The first Marbled Godwits appeared about April 10, and were seen until about the end of that month. In the autumnal migrations of these two years only a few scattered flocks were noted in early September.—ADAM BALMER, *Westport, Washington*.

Avocet in South Carolina.—Records of only about eight individuals of the Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) from South Carolina have appeared in print since the time of Audubon, and it may therefore be of interest to record an additional sight record of a bird seen during the field trip on November 19, 1937, at the extreme northeastern end of Bull Island, Charleston County, South Carolina, following the annual meeting of the A. O. U. in Charleston. The bird was seen by a party of five observers and was first noticed by Dr. Clarence Cottam, who was able to call it near us. It walked slowly past at a distance of about fifty feet, giving everyone ample opportunity to observe the characteristic bill and winter plumage pattern, which cannot easily be confused with those of any other bird. Both Dr. Cottam and the writer are familiar with Avocets in the West, and are certain of the identity of the bird.—CLARENCE F. SMITH, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

A Skua in the Caribbean Sea.—In view of the little known concerning the occurrence of skuas in tropical waters (see Murphy, Robert Cushman, 'Oceanic Birds of South America,' pp. 138, 1007-1008, 1936), it is of interest to report one of these birds seen on November 26, 1937, from the steamer 'Caracas,' formerly of the Red D Line, and now of the Grace Line, as the ship was approaching Puerto Rico from the south. The bird appeared in early afternoon, and was around the vessel until dusk, several times passing within thirty yards of me as I rested in the sun on the top deck. I had many excellent views of it. At nine o'clock that evening the ship was within sight of the light on the southwestern point of Puerto Rico. As it was not practicable to collect the bird its racial identity is not known.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Glaucous Gull in Illinois.—There are but two previous records of the Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) having been taken in Illinois, and it is regarded as a rare winter visitant in the Chicago region. Consequently, the writer while observing ducks on the Illinois River, April 11, 1936, near Ottawa, Illinois, was very much surprised to see a nearly pure-white individual fly ten feet overhead. The gull continued its slow flight up the river until out of sight. On returning two days later, it was observed resting on a small sand bar with a number of Herring Gulls. Upon procuring a boat and a shotgun the gull was pursued and finally collected. The bird, a male, proved upon dissection to be badly diseased: many trematodes were found in the small intestine, and the peritoneum was covered with a greenish mold, probably of the genus *Aspergillus*. Such a diseased condition might account for its occurrence so late in the season far from its normal range. It was made into a museum specimen by Dr. A. C. Twomey and will be deposited in the Chicago Academy of Sciences.—FRANK BELLROSE, *University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois*.

Glaucous-winged Gull in Oklahoma.—Looking through the collection of mounted birds at the Northwestern State Teachers' College at Alva, Oklahoma,

recently, I encountered an adult specimen of gray-winged gull which I felt must be of a species not listed for Oklahoma. I wrote Professor T. C. Carter, head of the Department of Biology at the College, asking him to send the bird to me. This he courteously did, giving me an opportunity to identify it as a Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens* Neumann), probably a female. The specimen has but one wing, this measuring almost exactly 400 mm. The height of the bill at the base is 18.5 mm. According to Professor Carter the bird was taken near Capron, Woods County, Oklahoma (about fourteen miles north of Alva), on February 15, 1912. The Glaucous-winged Gull is not listed by Margaret Morse Nice in the revised edition of her 'Birds of Oklahoma' (1931).—GEORGE MIKSCH SUTTON, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

Longevity of a Black-headed Gull.—In the review of G eroulet's paper in 'The Auk' for April, 1937, on the Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) in Switzerland it is mentioned that longevity records for wild banded birds are now available of from six to ten years (one case). On June 13, 1910, I banded a chick of this species in a Cumberland gullery with ring No. 30870, which was recovered in the parent gullery on May 26, 1930, making the bird twenty years old. It was sitting dead on a nest and had not died of old age, but was egg-bound. This is, I think, the oldest banded bird so far recorded.—H. W. ROBINSON, *Lancaster, England.*

Bonaparte's Gull a summer resident in northern Indiana and the Chicago Region.—On June 13, 1937, I made a trip to Whiting, Indiana, the oil-refining metropolis, to look at the nests of several species of birds rare for this region, and at the same time to become better acquainted with a group of younger, but very zealous and efficient ornithologists there. They are Messrs. A. F. Wilson, H. M. Smith and Bob Saunders, who have been finding nests of the elusive Wilson's Phalarope, the Yellow-headed Blackbird, and even the Common Tern, as lately recorded in 'The Auk' by Dr. A. W. Butler, Mr. Perkins, and Captain Wolfe.

It is interesting to note that the first two species have never nested further east and south than this swampy region at the Indiana-Illinois state line, and they are still hanging on to a precarious existence where our destructive civilization is turning things upside down in an especially wholesale manner. We went to the phalarope's nest, with the male protesting our intrusion; the Yellow-head's nest was in water too deep to be negotiated by me on such a visit, and the nest of the Common Tern had for this year not been located. Harry Smith, however, reported that he had seen three flying about the day before in the general neighborhood where they had been nesting the last five or six years.

But what caused some surprise on my part was when they mentioned that there was a number of Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) in the vicinity. We promptly visited the spot. It was where the nest of the Common Tern was last year, where the Indiana-Illinois line runs into Lake Michigan, at the site of the large Edison Electric plant. We could see the gulls from a distance, because they had chosen the crest of one of the many large, long coal piles for a roosting place. There were about fifteen of them; five had the blue-black head of the adults, four had a grayish head, and the rest were in the juvenal plumage. They allowed us to approach to within thirty feet. Mr. Wilson states that they have been there regularly since 1929. Of course, they are non-breeders. Even then it comes in the nature of a shock to find birds in your neighborhood in summer that for some reason you have been associating with the latitude of Hudson and James Bay. They have, however, been found on the coast of New Jersey in summer before.—C. W. G. EIFRIG, *River Forest, Illinois.*