

forward portion; wings entirely black above, but the saddle, or back, was of a lighter shade, with a distinct brownish cast. That the bird was a Lesser Black-backed Gull was as obvious as anything could well be. Happily, Dr. Murray was familiar with the bird, having seen hundreds of them on a European trip recently. He concluded at the time that it was the British Black-back (*Larus fuscus fuscus*) but we subsequently found that it was possible to confuse this bird with the Yellow-footed Gull, that form of the Western Gull known as *Larus occidentalis livens*.

Dr. Murray, having to be in New York shortly afterward, went to the American Museum of Natural History and spent some while there going over skins of these gulls, and has reached the following conclusion. *L. o. livens* and *L. f. graellsii* are so similar that identification in the field is hardly possible. However, this does not apply to the Scandinavian form, *L. f. fuscus*, which is darker than either *graellsii* or *livens*, and in addition, has brown on the back which neither of the others has. The Key West bird certainly had brown in the back, and he says that "we are entirely justified in reporting it as *Larus fuscus fuscus*." This is the first record for Florida or any part of the South, and the second for North America, one having been seen September 9, 1934, in New Jersey by Charles A. Urner and James L. Edwards (Auk, 52: 85, 1935). Though aware of the fact that the above is a sight record, it appears so conclusive that no hesitation is felt in giving the record.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, South Carolina.

Herring Gulls following the plow.—During the last two years around the New York City region I have been extremely interested in the apparently newly acquired habit of the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) of following the farmer's plow in search for food. In other sections of the United States I have seen the Ring-billed Gulls and, of course, the Franklin's Gulls acting in this manner. On the other hand, I have known the Herring Gull quite intimately for a score of years on both breeding and wintering grounds, but not until the last two years have I seen them fluttering, gliding and diving behind the plow. Until recent years the ever increasing number of wintering gulls around New York City depended on the extensive city rubbish-disposal centers for a great deal of food. Today we find these waste dumps disappearing and the efficient incinerators taking care of all refuse disposal. Perchance this change in one of our major concentration areas of wintering Herring Gulls is causing them to seek new sources of food; and perchance within a few years these birds will be frequent companions of the farmer.—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK, *National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York City.*

Food of young Laughing Gulls.—At Stone Harbor, New Jersey, on July 11, 1937, I was banding young Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*). During the process several of the birds disgorged their food. One disgorged twenty-three Japanese beetles, which would indicate that this bird is another potential enemy of the beetle.—HERBERT BUCKALOW, 611 East 2d St., Milford, Delaware.

Nelson's Downy Woodpecker from Colorado.—In working over the Downy Woodpeckers in the collection of The Colorado Museum of Natural History, we have found that three races are represented in the State. The resident Batchelder's Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens leucurus*) is the common form; the Northern Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens medianus*) has been recorded from the eastern part of the State (Lincoln, Proc. Colorado Mus. Nat. Hist., 1913) and is represented in our collection by five specimens. This past season two examples of Nelson's Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens nelsoni*) were taken and it may be that the majority of small woodpeckers wintering in the northern portion of the State, which have