

northeastern North America. Yet accept it I, at least, must. I would be happy to hear from anyone interested in this problem and from anyone who has made observations that would throw some light by agreement or disagreement on the significance of these notes.

I am grateful to Maurice Broun of Hawk Mountain for permission to study his records.—EDWARD SNIVELY FREY, 517 Hummel Avenue, Lemoyne, Pennsylvania.

Unusual nest of Killdeer.—On May 29, 1939, a nest with two eggs of the Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*) was found in an unusual position at Langley Park, Silver Spring, Maryland, about two miles north of the District of Columbia line. A patterned brick walk, ten feet wide, leads from the house down to a small lake in a series of terraces and steps. On the lowest terrace at the edge of the steps and about twenty-five yards from the lake, the birds had taken possession of the top surface of a brick bruised by the frost, and had chipped the surface into small pellets and added small pebbles to make a 'nest' (see Plate 4, upper figure). The walk is constantly used by the family and the gardeners but the sitting bird displayed but little fear of mowing and watering going on within a few yards of it. Steps were immediately taken to protect the nest from marauders, and chicken-wire about eighteen inches high was placed around it supported by four wooden stakes. This precaution unsettled the bird so the stakes were removed and a small opening was left by which the bird could approach on foot. This method was successful and the bird sat on the eggs for several days.

On June 1, there were four eggs and a photograph was taken. On the morning of June 9 it was discovered that one egg was missing, probably due to a human predator. The wire netting had been displaced. At this time there was extreme heat with the thermometer up to 95° F. in the shade. The bird was observed on several occasions endeavoring to shelter the eggs by standing between them and the sun. The bird seems even to have realized that heat was too great for young to hatch, and on about June 11 the nest was abandoned.

During the time that the female (presumably) was brooding the other bird was constantly close by. Unfortunately pressure of other work did not permit of a close watch in order to see whether the male at any time took the female's place.—L. McCORMICK-GOODHART, *Silver Spring, Maryland.*

Winter range of the Herring Gull.—The winter range of the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) is given in the fourth edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list' as "south to the Bahamas, Cuba, Yucatan, and the coast of Alabama and Texas." The inclusion of any territory outside the United States was based on very few records. Returns from banded birds indicate that the Herring Gull winters commonly throughout the Gulf region of Mexico, and occurs casually as far south as Panama. To date nearly a hundred recoveries have been received from Mexico, about half of them from the coast of Vera Cruz, mainly from the vicinity of the city of Vera Cruz, the Bay of Alvarado, and Puerto Mexico. Birds have also been captured near Alvaro Obregon, Tabasco, and on the coasts of Campeche, Yucatan, and Quintana Roo. The dates of capture range from August to April, but the majority were taken in January or February. Inland birds have been reported from Don Martin Dam, Coahuila; Coscomatapec, Vera Cruz; the district of Tulancingo, Hidalgo; Los Reyes Lagoon, eighty miles northeast of Mexico City; Chapala, Jalisco; and Lake Patzcuaro, Michoacan. The southernmost previous record for western Mexico is the Tres Marias Islands.