

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.

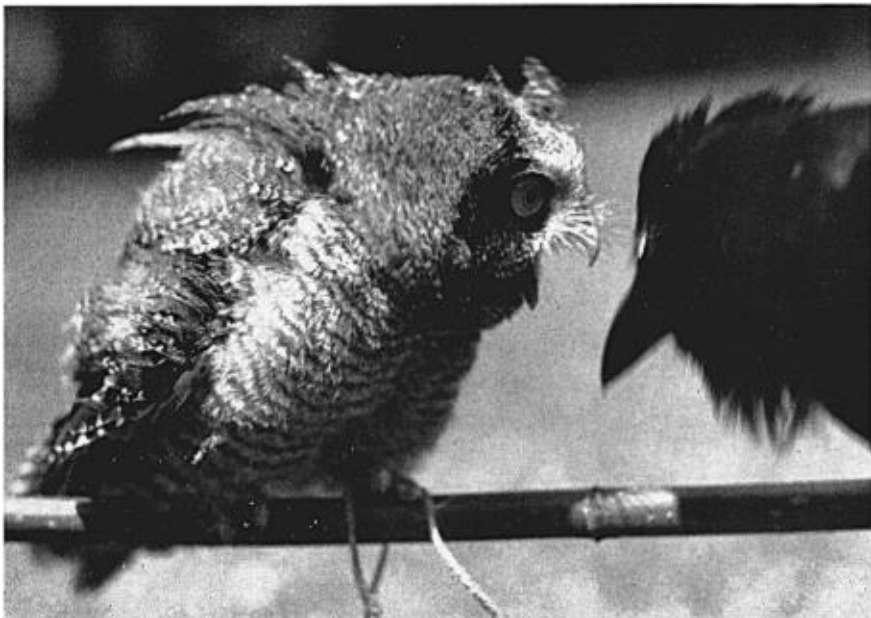
On June 1, there were four eggs and a photograph was taken. On the morning of June 9 it was discovered that one egg was missing, probably due to a human predator. The wire netting had been displaced. At this time there was extreme heat with the thermometer up to 95° F. in the shade. The bird was observed 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.



MCCORMICK-GOODHART: AN UNUSUAL KILLDEER'S NEST



KELSO: JUVENAL SCREECH OWL SHOWS AVERSION TO A CROW SKIN

In 1926, Griscom (Amer. Mus. Novitates, no. 235, p. 7) extended the known range of the Herring Gull to Belize, British Honduras. Records in the U. S. Biological Survey extend the range to Panama. Two banded Herring Gulls have been reported from Honduras: one from the Beaver Islands, Lake Michigan, at Puerto Castilla; and one from Kent Island, New Brunswick, at Tela. Three Herring Gulls banded June 27, 1937, on Hat Island, Green Bay, Wisconsin, were found six months later in Guatemala, one at San Marcos in the northwestern part and two at Tiquisate in the southern part. Ten birds banded on islands in Lake Huron were reported about six months later at Puerto Barrios, Guatemala. At Rio Grande Bar, Nicaragua, on February 8, 1938, a Herring Gull was caught that had been banded as a young bird the previous June on Black River Isle, Lake Huron. Herring Gull B 611058, banded as a young bird July 20, 1930, at Isles of Shoals, New Hampshire, was shot December 10, 1933, at Bocas del Toro, Panama, our southernmost record to date. In the West Indies banded Herring Gulls have been taken in winter along the north coast of Cuba as far east as Nipe Bay; also on Cayman Brac, and near Kingston, Jamaica.

From this evidence it seems that the winter range of the Herring Gull in the 'Check-list' should be revised to read "south to the Bahamas, Cuba, Jamaica, and southern Mexico; occasionally south to Panama." This possibly indicates an extension of range in recent years, as well as more exact information on the subject.—MAY THACHER COOKE, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Franklin's Gull in New York State.—On October 15, 1939, on the beach at Ontario Beach Park on Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Genesee River north of Rochester, New York, I found a dead Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). The bird was almost completely in the first-winter plumage. Identification was definitely established at the Field Museum, Chicago, where the specimen is now preserved. The plumage was almost all present except on the breast and back where the bird had been torn open and completely eviscerated, apparently by Ring-billed and Herring Gulls which were present in large numbers. Because of the evisceration it was impossible to determine the sex. This is apparently the first recorded instance of this species in New York State.—GORDON M. MEADE, M.D., 260 Crittenden Boulevard, Rochester, New York.

Gull-billed Tern breeding in Florida.—In his 'Florida Bird Life', Mr. Arthur H. Howell does not list the Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*) as a breeding bird for that State. Indeed, the intimation is that the species is decidedly uncommon. He gives the record which added the bird to the State list, viz., that of a specimen secured by A. F. Mears on December 17, 1886, in Hillsborough County. This specimen is now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. He then lists sight records of three other observers, which covers the information.

For the past two seasons, the writer has noted numbers of these birds along the highway from Lakeport to Lake Okeechobee, skirting the northern edge of the lake. Not then realizing its rarity, and the apparently complete lack of breeding records, he made no effort to locate a nesting colony. However, during June 1939, while investigating conditions in the lake, just off the mouth of the Kissimmee River, with Audubon Warden Marvin Chandler, I saw numbers of the birds, and Chandler casually mentioned that there was a nesting colony of "about one hundred pair" nearby! Sure enough, there was.

On the June trip, the eggs had all hatched and the young were hiding here and there in the grasses, while the adults hung overhead, uttering the characteristic