

impossible because I supposed it would be rather the size of the Greater than the Lesser Yellow-legs, with a thick-based, dagger-shaped, probably yellow bill and (on May 14) ruffs. So I wrote pages 240-241 in 'Birds of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts' on the supposition that I must have seen an erythristic Stilt Sand-piper! I am now perfectly certain that it was a Ruff. We live and learn.—SAMUEL A. ELIOT, JR., *Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts.*

Glaucous Gull in Florida.—On April 2, 1941, while examining a large group of gulls at North Miami Beach, Florida, the writers noticed among the others, a large white gull, which proved to be a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) in second-year plumage. The bird was a particularly white individual, being nearly snow white all over. The legs were pink, and the bill was basally light, the terminal one-third dark. The eye was completely dark. The darkness of the eye and of the tip of the bill would seem to eliminate the possibility of confusion with an albino of another species. An unexcelled size comparison was afforded by six immature and one adult Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) which were standing with the Glaucous Gull in the mixed flock of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). The Glaucous Gull was markedly larger than the Herring Gulls, and had a decidedly larger bill than a Herring Gull which conveniently walked over and stood immediately next to the Glaucous Gull.

The flock was sufficiently tame to permit us to approach to within about one hundred feet to determine these points. Both writers are familiar with the Glaucous Gull as a regular winter visitor to the Northeast.

We are aware of two previous records of the occurrence of this species in Florida: Howell's 'Florida Bird Life' records a second-year bird seen by Eaton and Savage at Coronado Beach, February 23, 1930; Weston (*Auk*, 53: 445, 1936) records a second-year bird at Pensacola Bay, March 14 to May 10, 1936.—HUSTACE H. POOR, *112 Park Ave., Yonkers, New York*, AND OLIVER K. SCOTT, *767 Central St., Framingham, Massachusetts.*

Gulls eat fruit of the cabbage palmetto.—In the early forenoon of February 5, 1941, while 'birding' along the Indian River, Vero Beach, Florida, I saw several Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) hovering above the crown of a cabbage palmetto. One by one, with supreme grace, the birds fluttered down to the pendant fruit stalk, snatched a berry, then sailed off. This was repeated several times, while in a nearby palm an immature Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) was clumsily perched on a fruit stalk and eating the berries. Two days later I observed forty or fifty gulls of both species devouring the fruit.

Two boatmen (natives) to whom I remarked about this behavior, said that the gulls had been observed feeding on the palmetto drupes for four or five days previously, and that never before had the gulls been seen to do this.

Raw northerly winds and chill temperatures prevailed in Florida during early February, and the gulls evidently had a difficult time securing their normal food. The drupes of this tree are exceedingly hard, and as palatable, from the human standpoint, as cherry-stones.—MAURICE BROWN, *Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Route 1, Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania.*

Common Terns nesting on muskrat houses.—The following notes concern an unusual marsh colony of Common Terns, *Sterna hirundo*, of which all the nests were located on the tops of muskrat houses.

The marsh where the observations were made had been formed in 1929 when