

office in a sack. Mrs. Jack Hagar came to see the bird and verified the identification. The bird was adult and measured 153 cm. in wing-spread. It was taken to the beach near Rockport and liberated; on May 2, it was given fish to eat, which it did not touch, and on May 3 it was dead. Apparently it had made no attempt to fly.

According to seamen, Gannets are not uncommon in winter in offshore waters south of Galveston. Possibly they seldom venture inshore and are seldom recorded. On the other hand, Boobies might be confused with Gannets by seamen.—GORDON GUNTER, *Game Fish and Oyster Commission, Rockport, Texas.*

Western Grebe in Michigan.—On July 5, 1943, the writer, while fishing on Wampler's Lake, Jackson and Lenawee counties, Michigan (the county line bisects the lake), observed a Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) lazily swimming in the middle of the lake. The bird was rather wary and attempts to draw nearer than a hundred and fifty or two hundred feet proved futile. It did not dive but merely kept a fixed distance from the writer's boat. The light and observing conditions were extremely good, however, and the bird's large size, coupled with the serpentine neck and definite black and white color pattern, left no doubt as to the identification. The writer had never seen a Western Grebe before but recognized it immediately from the plate in Peterson's 'Field Guide' and later examined skins in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

As far as the writer is able to discover there is but one other record of this bird for the state. Van Tyne records a specimen collected by F. Esbaugh on Feb. 17, 1917, at Fox Creek station, Kent Co. (*see* Van Tyne, Josselyn.—Check list of birds of Michigan, Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool., Univ. of Mich., No. 379, June 16, 1938).—JAMES S. FINDLEY, *Cleveland Heights, Ohio.*

Connecticut records.—The water birds recorded below from the shore of southwestern Connecticut appear to be rare or unusual in that state.

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia imperator*).—Single birds of this species were seen at Fairfield Beach on September 16 and 17, 1944, by both of us and on September 19 by Arnold alone. Perhaps more than one bird was present on September 16, as individuals were found at distinctly separate spots within two hours. Although these records followed the hurricane of September 14, the species cannot be regarded solely as a storm-borne visitant to Connecticut, for a single bird was seen by Arnold at Fairfield Beach about September 25, 1943. Apparently no record of the Caspian Tern in Connecticut has previously been published.

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*).—Three or four Black Terns in full spring plumage were seen by Arnold at the mouth of the Hoosatic River about June 3, 1939. This tern is rare in southwestern Connecticut in spring and uncommon during the fall migration.

BLACK SKIMMER (*Rynchops nigra nigra*).—Not less than sixty-five Black Skimmers appeared at Fairfield Beach on September 16, 1944, after the hurricane mentioned above. We closely observed flocks three times in a period of two hours. Although it was impossible to determine exactly, there were some indications that more than one flock was present, such as the fact that the numbers of birds varied from fifty to sixty-five or more. The following day some twenty birds were found, and on September 18 Mr. Frank J. Novak of Fairfield saw two flocks of about twenty and fourteen, respectively. None was definitely discovered thereafter, despite daily observation.

The appearance of so many Skimmers in Connecticut seems unprecedented. Previous records of any sort are extremely rare; the last of which we know is of a single bird seen in Black Rock Harbor, Bridgeport, on October 9, 1938, by the late Mr. Chas. K. Averill, some of whose notes are now in Saunders's hands.

It seems very likely that the birds which we saw were driven north by the hurricane in its advance along the coast from the Carolinas. Mr. Averill's record was also made after a hurricane, the famous blow of September 21, 1938, but in view of the longer interval and the different track of the storm, the bird may have been an ordinary stray.—ELTING ARNOLD, *Box No. 27, R. F. D. No. 3, Wilson Lane, Bethesda, Maryland*, and ALETAS A. SAUNDERS, *361 Crestwood Road, Fairfield, Connecticut*.

First Ohio record of the Lark Bunting.—On September 6, 1944, the writer picked up a Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) at South Euclid, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The bird was in immature plumage and in good flesh. When dissected, it was found to be a male bird of the year. Identification was made by Mr. W. E. Godfrey and Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, both of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

No previous records for this species in Ohio have been published so it appears that this is the first record for the state. The specimen is now in the Cleveland museum.—MERIT B. SKAGGS, *Julian Road, South Euclid, Ohio*.

***Larus ridibundus sibiricus* from the Aleutian Islands.**—On June 4, 1937, while engaged in field work on the second expedition to the Aleutian Islands by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to study the fauna of that part of Alaska, we were anchored in Kiska Harbor. Douglas Gray, territorial warden and member of our party, saw three strange gulls among a number of Glaucous-winged Gulls and shot one for a specimen. This was casually identified in the field as an immature Bonaparte's Gull, and so it appeared in our field report.

A closer examination now reveals that this is a specimen of the Siberian Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus sibiricus*, a female, No. 366440, Biological Surveys Collection, apparently the first record for North America. According to Hartert (*Die Vögel der Palaäarktischen Fauna*, 8: 1746, 1921), *L. r. sibiricus* has the upper parts darker than in *r. ridibundus*; the base of the fifth primary always gray; size larger, especially the tarsus; head blacker, not so coffee-brown as in European specimens taken at the same time of year.

The present specimen apparently is a bird in its second year, with traces of immaturity showing in the few brown streaks on the wings and the faded terminal band on the tail, but it has acquired the full dark hood and is otherwise comparable with adult specimens. Compared with an adult male from China, the Kiska specimen has a darker mantle, a decidedly darker brown hood that becomes blackish on the throat, and more black on the primaries. In measurements it falls within the range given for female *sibiricus* by Dwight [*The Gulls (Laridae) of the World*].

I am indebted to Dr. John W. Aldrich for calling my attention to the identity of the specimen and forwarding material for comparison.—O. J. MURIE, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service*.

The Golden Plover in Nicaragua.—Padre Bernardo Ponsol in a pamphlet entitled "Memoria del 'Museo de Ciencias Naturales' 1941-1943, Colegio Centro-América," 1943, p. 3, has published a record with a photograph of a Golden Plover taken on the grounds of the college at Granada, Nicaragua on April 17, 1942. The bird was found in an area that was under irrigation. Recently Padre Ponsol has sent to me a copy of the original photograph of this specimen as it is mounted for display in the museum under his charge. There is no question as to the identity and it may be supposed that the bird belongs to the eastern subspecies. For the information of those interested it has seemed desirable to repeat the record in the pages of *The Auk* as it is the only one known to me for Nicaragua and reports from the whole of