

An impeded Herring Gull.—On the morning of January 26, 1947, Mr. Irwin Alperin, Mr. Walter Sedwitz, and myself were looking over a flock of mixed Herring, Ring-billed and Black-backed Gulls, numbering about one hundred and fifty birds, at Breezy Point, Long Island. We observed an adult Herring Gull flying toward us, with a string about fifteen feet long trailing behind it. This was apparently caught on its foot and strung out in a plane parallel with its body. A piece of wood, unpainted, irregularly rectangular in shape, and approximately eight by five inches in size hung from the string about four feet from the end of the bird's tail. There was nothing about the bird's flight or behavior denoting particular alarm as would be analagous to a frightened dog with a can tied to its tail, but when this bird flew over the flock of gulls we had been observing, they immediately flushed up, and then returned as the gull disappeared. The fact that a member of their own genus, so disposed, released a fear response in the resting birds seems curious enough to record as a note and perhaps be of significance to some investigator.—DR. M. A. JACOBSON, *New York, N. Y.*

A concentration of Bald Eagles in Virginia.—On the morning of September 10, 1940, Dr. Edward Fleisher, Mr. Irwin Alperin and myself witnessed an unusual Bald Eagle concentration from the Cape Charles ferry as we were docking at Little Creek, Virginia. On previous occasions Dr. Fleisher and I observed one or two birds at this locale. This time we had a minimum count of twenty-three. They were sitting on the beaches, flying, and perched in trees, much like a flock of vultures. Never having seen such a large number of eagles previously, we were indeed strongly impressed, but what was still most curious, every bird we saw was immature! What prompted this grouping of young birds, at this particular time and locale, in such numbers, is just another unanswerable question we submitted to our very long list concerning the avifauna.—DR. M. A. JACOBSON, *New York, N. Y.*

Wing-flapping rates of birds.—It is surprising, in view of the important part played by wing flapping in the flight of birds, that there should be so few reports of rates of flapping. In the past few months I have accumulated a certain amount of data by counting flaps over a period measured with a fifth-second stop watch. The method in my hands seems satisfactory up to seven or eight flaps per second and is not feasible for small birds.

In the observations which follow, it is to be understood that the bird was in established flight, unhurried, and at apparently constant speed unless otherwise stated. When given, the variation is the standard deviation, not the probable error.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.— 2.6 ± 0.35 complete strokes per second; 7 observations.

BLACK DUCK.—2.0 per second; 3 observations. This seems a very slow wing rate. More data are needed.

SPARROW HAWK.—2.4 per second; 1 observation.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT.—3.2 per second; 1 observation. Taken near the middle of a flight.

KILLDEER.—2.4 per second; 3 observations.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.—2.0 per second; 1 observation.

HERRING-GULL.— 2.3 ± 0.3 per second; 37 observations.

That a bird may stroke very uniformly under constant conditions is shown by five successive observations on a single bird which yielded 2.2, 2.3, 2.3, 2.3, 2.3 strokes per second, which give an average of 2.3 ± 0.05 . The error inherent in the stop watch averages 0.09 strokes per second, and the rate of the bird may be regarded as uniform.