

brought to her a rail that he presumably caught down by the shore, one-half mile from the house. Mrs. Bidwell thought that it was a Clapper Rail, but she took the bird to Miss Jessie Keene, also of Waldoboro, for verification. The specimen was then sent to me at the Massachusetts Audubon Society in Boston for further confirmation of identification. A few days later Mr. James L. Peters, Curator of Birds at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, saw the specimen and also agreed that it was a Clapper Rail. It was a male and a bird of the year. The specimen, although in poor condition, has been preserved in part, and is now in the collection of the Department of Biology at Boston University.

I note in Palmer's 'Maine Birds' (1949) that there are only four previous records of the bird occurring in Maine, the bird sent in by Mrs. Bidwell being the first December record since 1875.—RUTH P. EMERY, 155 Newbury St., Boston, Mass.

Bridled Tern, *Sterna a. melanoptera*, taken at Dry Tortugas.—On September 7, 1949, the writer and his son were on the Tortugas, observing the fall migration. About mid-day, my son saw a strange tern flying over the moat at Fort Jefferson, but caught only a glimpse of it, as I did. All we could conclude at the moment was that it was not a Sooty Tern, *Sterna f. fuscata*, of which there were hundreds about. Two hours later, I picked up the bird or a similar one in one of the casements on the second gallery of the Fort. It was still alive, though sick and exhausted, its eyes closed and beak almost touching the brick flooring. It was in immature plumage, a phase I had never seen, but we concluded that it was *Sterna a. melanoptera*. The bird died shortly after, and the skin was sent to Dr. Alexander Wetmore. He confirmed the identification.

This is, apparently, the first specimen recorded from Tortugas, and seems to be the fifth specimen ever secured in Florida. Howell ('Florida Bird-life,' 1932) lists two specimens, one given by Audubon to George Lawrence, the other taken by Hoxie and now in the British Museum. Another was picked up dead at Cape Canaveral in October, 1945, by R. T. Peterson and A. B. Klotz. Another was secured by Charles Page at Daytona Beach, in April, 1949 (Fla. Nat., 23: 68). This bird is the third seen in south Florida waters by the writer. An adult was caught and banded near Tavernier, October 2, 1940; the other was seen near New Ground Shoal, about 25 miles east of Tortugas and between Tortugas and Marquesas keys, on June 21, 1946, the latter bird again being first noted by my son (Auk, 64: 141).—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *The Crescent, Charleston 50, S. C.*

Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicaudus*, from Montana.—While on a field trip at Nine-pipe National Wildlife Refuge, Lake County, Montana, in May, 1947, I picked up part of a bird skeleton which I was unable to identify. The trunk skeleton, except for the cervical vertebrae, was present and in addition the entire right leg with its tarsal covering, a tuft of breast feathers, and a tuft of feathers from the back. The specimen was submitted to Dr. Alexander Wetmore who reports that he is positive it is *Stercorarius longicaudus*. He points out that the small sternum and pelvis, the light colored tarsus and the dark colored toes are characteristic of this species. The bird probably died in 1946 or earlier. Apparently there are no previous records for this species from Montana.—PHILIP L. WRIGHT, *Montana State University, Missoula, Montana.*

Courtship in the Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*.—The several high and unused towers associated with some of the buildings of Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, have housed Barn Owls for many years. It was my good fortune to observe (and to hear of the observations of several students) what I presume to have been a