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GENERAL NOTES

Laughing Gulls tread out their food.—The mudflats of Long Beach Island 3 miles south of Beach Haven, N. J., have long been a favorite of ornithologists to study birdlife. While the tide is low countless, but rapidly decreasing numbers of many species of shore birds are seen by observers from far and near. There in August 1946 we found Robert W. Storer from California, with his binoculars, while enroute to the A. O. U. meeting in Urbana. The birds seem to appreciate those who come to observe as numerous species permit approach within a few feet. On another day, Mrs. Wood and I watched many birds feeding together in the shallow inch-deep receding waters among which were Dowitchers and Laughing Gulls, quite oblivious of our near presence. The Dowitchers with their long bills easily reached their food in the mud, but the gulls could not reach far enough without immersing their heads. To obviate this each gull rapidly and alternately stamped with his feet until the water became muddy and the little crustaceans or other foods were forced up and easily picked out of the muddy water.-Harold B. Wood, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Recovery of 19-year old Herring Gull.—On June 19, 1948, on a banding trip to Cavalier Island to band gulls and Great Blue Herons, I picked up a dead Herring Gull carrying band No. A-637556. Recently I received word that this band was placed on a Herring Gull, presumably young, by the late Mr. William I. Lyon on July 15, 1929, at Red Bay, Bruce County, Ontario. Red Bay is a small summer resort on the Lake Huron side of the lower part of Bruce Peninsula and Cavalier Island is about three miles out from this shore. This island is one of a group of six small islands, within a radius of one-half mile, on each of which Herring Gulls have been nesting for years. It would seem logical to conclude that Mr. Lyon banded it at one of these islands.

The bird was in good condition when I found it and there were no visible signs of the cause of its death; we estimated that it had been dead for not more than two days. This will make it within a month of being nineteen years old and would appear to be conclusive evidence of an old Herring Gull dying at its birth-

place.—Howard H. Krug, Chesley, Ontario.