

The first they have ever seen here. Also several appeared at feeding stations in Grayling last winter (could be the same birds)."

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#### GENERAL NOTES

**Notes on a Twenty-Year-Old Glaucous-Winged Gull.**—Few notes have been published on aged Glaucous-winged Gulls (*Larus glaucescens*). Usually only ages are recorded, with notes lacking on such things as plumage, sex, band wear and behavior.

While employed as a park naturalist on Mitlenatch Island Nature Park, in the northern part of the Strait of Georgia, British Columbia (49° 57' N, 125° 00' W) in the summers of 1964 through 1966 the senior author had many opportunities to record information on breeding Glaucous-winged Gulls in a colony of approximately 2,500 pairs.

A method of recording band numbers on Glaucous-winged Gulls is by telescope. This method was used on the following occasions to record band number 41-67697: first read in 1963 (van Tets, 1963), then again on several occasions in 1965 (Campbell and Kennedy, 1965) and finally throughout the summer of 1966 (Campbell and Kennedy, 1966). On each occasion a 20-power telescope was used at distances from 40 to 50 feet. Kennedy (pers. comm.) reports the band was not recorded on Mitlenatch Island in 1967.

This band belonged to an old series and as the junior author banded nestling Glaucous-winged Gulls on Mitlenatch Island, periodically, from 1929 to 1949 (see *Bird-Banding* 34: 30-36, 1963), he was notified. The band was used on a young Glaucous-winged Gull on July 27, 1946 on Mitlenatch Island. In 1966 the senior author compiled the following notes.

The average hatching date for Glaucous-winged Gulls on Mitlenatch Island is July 1. Using this date for birth, to the last sight record on August 26, 1966 plus five extra days for leap years from 1946 to 1966, this gull's total age would be 20 years, 62 days. Vermeer (1963) reports one older record, that of a 21 year-old bird.

The bird returned to its natal colony to breed and occupied the same territory on the north side of the island, in 1964, 1965 and 1966. Van Tets (1963) recorded the bird also from the north side of the island, probably occupying the same territory. It seems likely, though there are no records, the bird returned in Mitlenatch as a breeding bird in the intervening years.

From mating behavior habits the bird was recorded as a male. During the

breeding season it was much more aggressive than other gulls in the immediate neighborhood. Its nest was on the edge of the main colony, and was more often harrassed by Northwestern Crows (*Corvus caurinus*) and disturbed by humans than other nests.

On July 4, 1966 a juvenile Northwestern Crow was killed and later eaten by this gull.

The bird appeared in good health but a few physical and color changes were noticed. The bill was a dull yellow, the normally red spot near the tip of the lower mandible was now a faded orange. The plumage looked good except for the worn greyish mirrors on the tips of the primaries. The bird's feet and legs were very similar in color to those of nearby gulls. The webbing between the first and second digit on the left leg however was missing.

The band was eroded very little, all numbers were quite legible.

Mitlenatch Island is small, only 88 acres, and topographically consists of two rocky hills separated by a small grassy meadow. One hill, West Hill, rises to 175 feet. In fissures containing soil grass and small shrub growth is luxuriant. On the east and west sides of the island the shore slope is gentle; the north and south shores are precipitous.

On the south side of the island Pelagic Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*), about 500 pairs, nest on available cliff ledges and about 250 pairs of Pigeon Guillemots (*Cepphus columba*) nest in rock crevices and under drift-logs around the island. Black Oystercatchers (*Haematopus bachmani*), Northwestern Crows, European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) breed in lesser numbers.

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**Dew Bathing and Related Behavior of the Cardinal.**—Between 9 and 19 June 1966 in Weakley County, Tennessee, I observed four female and two male cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis*) bathing in dew-covered leaves. The usual motions of passerine bathing accompanied the behavior in all instances: rapid shuffling of wings, lowering of head and breast, and ruffling of body feathers. Bathing occurred near the crowns of small trees and shrubs at heights of 2 to 11 meters; species included sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*) ash (*Fraxinus* sp.), and willow (*Salix* sp.). Bathing lasted from two to four minutes and was typically followed by preening and drying movements. Foraging behavior usually preceded dew bathing, thus it is possible that contact with wet leaves during foraging stimulated the bathing. In three cases, bathing females chipped continuously, as they frequently do when away from the nest. In one case, after bathing, the bedraggled male stopped chipping, began to sing, and flew from the tree. In the longest bout, a pair of cardinals was observed dew bathing silently.