

GENERAL NOTES

Longevity record of a Glaucous-winged Gull.—The most widely used method for determining longevity in wild birds is by marking (usually banding) individuals of known ages. Occasionally, however, records have been kept on individuals over a number of years whose aberrant plumage or physical deformations readily identify them. MacKay (1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1898), for example, tells the story of an unbanded Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) named "Gull Dick," which for 24 years was identified by its plumage, calls and behavior by various light station keepers in Narrogansett Bay, Rhode Island. A similar situation was experienced by Mr. and Mrs. B. Hutchings, 1907 Fort Street, Victoria, British Columbia, who for nearly 22 years had a wild, unbanded Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*) visit their yard regularly. A split web between the second and third toes identified the bird. The notes that follow have been summarized from communications with the Hutchings.

In 1950 the Hutchings built a new home on a main street in Victoria, about two miles from the seashore. Birds were never encouraged to come to the yard until their cat died in 1952. In the spring of that year a bowl of water was put out on the ground to attract birds and in March or April a "white" seagull showed up for a drink. In the days that followed the gull returned at regular intervals to the water dish. Scraps of food were set out for "Dickie" and soon the gull became part of the Hutchings family returning daily for food.

Late in 1968 or early in 1969, the gull arrived with an injured left wing. Each time it landed it had great difficulty taking off from the small yard, so the Hutchings built a sloping platform to the top of the woodshed which provided the height necessary for easy flight. In a short time the wing healed and the platform was removed.

One day, in early February 1974, "Dickie" did not return and has not been seen since. The Hutchings wrote: "thus ended a 22 year very enjoyable friendship with one of our local feathered friends."

The gull visited the Hutchings' yard for at least 21 years and through early February 1974. "Dickie" was apparently full grown ("all white with a gray back") when it first arrived and, therefore, would have to be at least three years and eight months old (considering the gull year from July to July). The gull was evidently at least 25 years and 6 months of age when it disappeared. This is the oldest record for this species. Previous longevity records for Glaucous-winged Gulls have been listed at 20 years, 62 days (Campbell and Pearse, 1968), 21 years (Vermeer, 1963), and 22 years (Z. M. Schultz, pers. comm.).

LITERATURE CITED

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- R. WAYNE CAMPBELL, *British Columbia Provincial Museum, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada*. Received 15 September 1974, accepted 28 October 1974.

Easily built portable blind.—The blind in Figure 1 was designed to be made from readily available materials, to be carried in a suitcase, and to be set up quickly and easily in the field.

The frame is tripodal and is made of 1/2-inch EMT (Electrical Metallic Tubing). Each leg is composed of three segments, each 2 1/2 feet long, held together with EMT couplings with set screws. These couplings preclude the need for threading the ends of the EMT, are easy to attach even after exposure to salt air, make the legs sufficiently rigid, and require no tools for assembly. They can be tightened with a coin.