

ern limit of ferry traffic they fly up-stream again. If there is no ice in the river no eagles are likely to be seen. Ebb tide is also necessary to bring them down. Occasionally they perch upon the cliffs of the Palisades on the New Jersey shore of the river. They have also been reported as flying over the city.

It is interesting to notice the actions of the Herring Gulls, abundant in the river all winter, in the presence of Eagles. They do not mind young Eagles at all, but if an adult bird comes close they scatter to all points of the compass. Probably only old birds attack and rob them, the young not being courageous enough for that. Immature birds predominated this past winter. Of the six or seven seen by the writer on two trips along the Palisades, only one was an adult. February is the month in which they occur in the largest numbers.

GEORGE E. HIT.

NOTES FROM BERWYN, PA.

Seiurus motacilla.—Louisiana Water Thrush. On May 6, 1906, I observed a pair one mile from Berwyn in a rather extensive and well-watered tract of woods, and they gave evidence of a present or future nest. With metallic "chucks," wagging tails and quick dashes back and forth over the creek, they kept me busy catching a focus.

Chatura pelagica.—Chimney Swift. On the evening of the 1st of June I took one of these birds out of my office stove, where it had been for several hours, arriving via the short brick chimney and stove-pipe, which has two elbows. I had heard it fluttering in some part of the pipe during the morning and rescued it about 7:30 p. m. After it had been liberated, it returned within ten minutes and was down to the grate by the next morning. It was again heard fluttering in the chimney on the evening of the 3d, but I was so busy that the matter did not reoccur to me until the next evening, when I found it in the grate, exhausted and one eye glued tight shut with soot. I washed it open with lukewarm water and once more tossed it up in the open air; it flew a few yards, but I am afraid it came to the ground beyond the hedge; at any rate I saw it no more. It doubtless had been seeking a place to nest.

Helodromas solitarius.—Solitary Sandpiper. A boy showed me a female of this species which he had shot August 8th. He had aimed his rifle at the body of the bird, while it was feeding in the shallow creek, and it had raised its head in time to catch the over-shot bullet in the neck, almost beheading it. The date is very early for this locality.

FRANK L. BURNS.

RING-BILLED GULL.

The Ring-billed Gull has recently been the subject of remark by several observers in Ohio and Michigan. These remarks have taken

the form of the establishing of records of the occurrences of the species along the Detroit River and Lake Erie shore. This bird is one of my puzzles. Unless near enough to see the bill I have never been able to identify it, but the purpose of this note is to call attention to the fact that in June of 1905 I was on an island about fifty miles south of Manitoulin and near the head of the Bruce Peninsula, where this bird breeds in quite large numbers. The nests were not counted, but there must have been at least one hundred. We collected eight or ten sets of eggs and their absence was scarcely noticeable among the occupied nests. In 1906 I visited other islands in Lake Huron about fifty miles southwest of the above location, forming part of a chain, extending from the upper end of the peninsula to its base. One island was occupied entirely by the Common Tern, another by the Ring-billed Gull, and the third by the Herring Gull. In view of these two known localities in Lake Huron where the birds nest in considerable numbers and the strong probability that it is equally abundant on other islands, one is forced to the conclusion that the reason why this bird is not more frequently recorded is the great difficulty in identification by sight. On both of the occurrences referred to I made the attempt to separate the birds as they sailed around, but failed absolutely. I did succeed in learning that the note of the Ring-billed is pitched in a higher key than that of the Herring Gull and was able to separate them in that manner.

From my experiences in the nesting of this bird on Lake Huron I would judge that it is equally as common as the Herring Gull and that the only reason why records are not made a bit more frequently is that it is so difficult to identify.

W. E. SAUNDERS.