

Near the state highway crossing the Reservoir west of Grove we observed two Glaucous Gulls along with some Ring-billed and a few Herring Gulls. The two northern gulls circled over our boat and came within 40 feet of us. Their very large size and completely white color made identification a simple matter. Because of their extreme white color and dark-tipped beak, it appeared that they were sub-adult, probably two-year-old birds. We watched them for about a half hour during the early forenoon and later the same day we saw one bird of the same species some 10 miles up stream from where the first pair were noted. Still later in the day we found another about 5 miles below the highway bridge. We suspect that the latter two birds were the same individuals seen earlier in the morning.—SETH H. LOW, RICHARD E. GRIFFITH, and CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service*.

Works of North American Ornithologists.—An abstract of a paper presented at the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club states, "there has been no simple published account of the works of the men who have influenced North American Ornithology" (*Wilson Bulletin*, 54, March, 1942: 69).

What the word "simple" implies in this connection is problematical. If it were omitted, the statement would be recognized as unfounded. At the risk, in this period of youth movement, of seeming too devoted to records of the past, I would point out that aside from being treated in biographies by the hundreds, the works of men who have influenced North American ornithology have been by no means neglected by competent reviewers.

The author of the paper mentioned appears to be acquainted with the resume by Coues, but that is only one of several recapitulations. Witness:

ALLEN, J. A.

1876 Progress of ornithology in the United States during the last century. *Amer. Nat.*, 10: 536-550.

CHAPMAN, F. M., and T. S. PALMER, Editors

1933 Fifty years' progress of American Ornithology 1883-1933. American Ornithologists' Union, Lancaster, Pa. (249 pp., frontispiece).

Chapters on 14 divisions of the subject by as many authors, together with introductory and concluding matter relative to the A.O.U. by the Editors.

COUES, ELLIOTT

1927 Key to North American birds, etc. 5th edition, 2 vols. Boston. Historical preface. Vol. 1, pp. xi-xxvi.

FOWLER, S. P.

1862 Ornithology of the United States, its past and present history. *Proc. Essex Institute*, 2: 327-334.

PALMER, T. S.

1900 A review of economic ornithology in the United States. *Yearbook U. S. Dept. of Agriculture*, 1899: 259-292, pls. 6-8, 3 figs., tables.

STONE, WITMER

1899 Some Philadelphia ornithological collections and collectors, 1784-1850. *Auk*, 16: 166-177.

"During the first half of the present century Philadelphia stood pre-eminent in the American ornithological world. The large majority of our early ornithologists were Philadelphians, either by birth or residence."

The importance of bibliographical research can scarcely be over-estimated. A scientist should be wedded to the literature of his subject and as said of the ordinary marital relation, it will doubtless often prove that the partner is the better half.—W. L. McATEE, *Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.*