

regular if not very numerous migrant in open places with a very short vegetation and especially on recently harvested and burned over sugar cane fields where small flocks of up to 40 Golden Plovers occur, often in company with Upland Plovers (*Bartramia longicauda*). Mr. Th. Renssen who lives at the sugar estate Marienburg in the Commewijne District sees Golden Plovers regularly in this type of habitat and has collected a series of specimens for me.

The first date of occurrence in Surinam is 1 September (1 September 1963 1 & 5 birds at Maasstroomb (sight), 1 September 1966 Marienburg (specimen), 1 September 1967 Marienburg (sight)). All birds up to the middle of October were in full or in nearly full breeding plumage so it is apparent that adults arrive first. In recent years I observed about a dozen birds staying for some time on a football field of the Police Training Center at the outskirts of Paramaribo. In 1957 they were rather late: from 11 October until 8 November, in 1966 from 9 until 23 September and in 1967 from 11–14 September. My latest dates in autumn are 7 November 1965 Maasstroomb (specimen) and 8 November 1957 Paramaribo (sight). In contrast to the Upland Plover (Haverschmidt, *Wilson Bull.*, 78:319–320, 1966) Golden Plovers do not remain during the northern winter in Surinam. However, from these records it is clear that the birds are in no hurry to travel southwards and stay in Surinam for at least two months.

In Surinam Golden Plovers occur rarely in spring. Mr. Renssen saw a flock of 4 in breeding plumage on a meadow at Moengo on the Cottica River on 2 February 1962, which seems very early. In this connection I may refer to the capture of a banded bird at Demerara River in Guyana on 30 January 1949 which is in my opinion an early spring migrant and not a wintering bird. Mr. Renssen further saw a bird in breeding plumage at Peperpot plantation on 20 March 1964 and a few in the same locality on 24 March 1964. The latest date in spring is of a bird in nearly full breeding plumage which was shot at Marienburg on 13 May 1967.

The birds which arrive in September appear to be healthy and the weights of my series of 14 specimens are: 1 September 1965, ♀ 122 g; 7 September 1963, 3 ♀♀ 109, 114, and 130 g; 26 September 1963, ♂ 147 g, ♀ 139 g and ? 111 g; 26 September 1964, ♀ 135 g; 1 October 1964, ♂ 155 g; 22 October 1964, ♀ 160 g; 29 October 1964, 2 ♀♀ 132 and 144 g; 7 November 1965, ♀ 122 g; 13 May 1967, ♂ 146 g. The contents of the gizzards of these birds were identified by Dr. D. C. Geyskes and contained insects: Coleoptera (Chrysomelidae, Curculionidae) and larvae of Lepidoptera.—F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Wolfskuilstraat 16, Ommen, Holland, 5 March 1968*.

**Mew Gulls in Ontario.**—On the morning of 24 October 1967, Daniel Salisbury observed a Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) at St. Catharines (Port Weller) in the Welland Canal near its entrance at Lake Ontario. This bird was with a small flock of Ring-billed and a few Herring Gulls. It remained in this vicinity through the afternoon, either flying above the water or alighting on the surface or the concrete wall bordering the canal. In late afternoon, with the assistance of Salisbury and Arthur Clark, we collected this bird south of canal lock no. 1 in the same locality. It is an adult male (BSNS no. 5102) in winter plumage (dark flecking on head, neck and breast), was moderately fat and weighed 422.55 g; its testes measured (mm): left 9 × 3, right 5 × 2. We determined this individual to be of the race *L. c. brachyrhynchus*, a diagnosis verified by Dr. Richard C. Banks at the U. S. National Museum. This is the first record for Mew Gull in the Niagara Frontier Region and the Province of Ontario, and is apparently the first specimen of this subspecies taken in eastern North America.

On 28 November 1967, Salisbury found another Mew Gull in the Welland Canal just

north of lock no. 4 at St. Catharines, about 10 km south of Port Weller. Apparently the same individual was seen by John Black the following day. It fed actively among Ring-billed, Herring and several Bonaparte's Gulls when water was released from the lock, and at times it rested on the water or the canal wall. We secured this bird on 30 November, assisted by Clark, Black, Salisbury and Adrian Dorst. It is a female (BSNS no. 5103) in first-year plumage, possessing heavy fat and with gonad measuring  $9 \times 2.5$  mm. Its weight was 454.6 g and the plumage is slightly worn. We also assigned this individual to the race *brachyrhynchus* as did Dr. Banks. It constitutes the second record for the above mentioned three areas. Both specimens are in the Buffalo Museum of Science. External measurements (mm) are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1

	male (BSNS no. 5102)	female (BSNS no. 5103)
Wing	molting	332.5
Tail	142	121
Tarsus	48	46
Exposed culmen	33.5	31.5
Height of bill at base	11.5	10
Height of bill at gonys	10	9.5

The two Mew Gulls collected in Massachusetts, respectively, at Chatham on 8 February 1908, by N. A. Eldredge (second-year plumage) and at Newburyport on 3 March 1951, by A. H. Morgan (adult plumage), although initially identified as *L. c. brachyrhynchus*, were subsequently referred to the nominate race by Dr. Alexander Wetmore (Griscom and Snyder, *The birds of Massachusetts*, 1955:125). These two specimens plus a third taken on 19 April 1956, at Locks Cove, Newfoundland, and identified as *L. c. canus* (Godfrey, *The birds of Canada*, 1966:182), are, so far as we know, the only examples of Mew Gull other than the present two that have been secured in eastern North America. The specimen reported by Bent (*U. S. Natl. Museum Bull.*, 113:145, 1921) as being taken at Quebec City has apparently been discounted and was omitted from the 5th edition (1957) of the A.O.U. Check-list. According to Godfrey (pers. comm.), the authority given by Bent for the record, Dionne, did not include it in his book on the birds of the Province of Quebec.

There have been several published sight records of the species for Massachusetts and New Jersey (see Griscom and Snyder, *op. cit.*; *Bull. Birds of the New York area*, 1964: 479; and *Audubon Field Notes*, 11:248, 1957 and 19:8, 360, 1965). An immature Mew Gull was reported by Salisbury and others as being observed at intervals from late January 1968 into early March on the lower Niagara River.

It is only possible to speculate on the routes that these three Mew Gulls followed in traveling to Ontario, and how long they were in transit and in the region before discovery. Mew Gulls' nearest breeding areas are about 2500 km to the northwest of the Niagara Frontier Region, and from midsummer on, individuals from these populations probably wander in various directions for comparatively short distances before eventually moving westward and southward toward their Pacific coastal wintering grounds.

Weather maps for about a week prior to the sighting of each of the first two Mew Gulls show that low pressure systems moving rapidly eastward in southern Canada were followed

eventually by strong westerly and northwesterly winds as polar air masses passed across Canada and the Great Lakes into eastern United States. These Mew Gulls may have been influenced by this sequence of pronounced meteorological events in their passage to Ontario. However, since similar weather patterns with systems of varying intensity occur over Canada and northern United States more or less frequently in autumn, it is conceivable that, if affected by them, these gulls wandered toward Ontario in shorter stages over more lengthy periods of time. We thank J. L. Baillie, Jr., R. C. Banks, J. C. Barlow, W. E. Godfrey, A. H. Morgan and R. A. Paynter, Jr. for their information and assistance.—ROBERT F. ANDRLE AND HAROLD H. AXTELL, *Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York, 22 March 1968.*

**Color aberrations in some alcids on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.**—While engaged in a study of the comparative breeding biology of plankton-feeding alcids on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, in 1966 and 1967, I had opportunity to make observations on albinism and melanism in several alcid species.

Gross (Bird-Banding, 36:67-71, 1965) compiled a list including 54 bird families in which albinism has been reported; the family Alcidae is represented by seven species and 27 individuals. A. O. Gross (pers. comm., 1968) listed the alcids in which albinism has been recorded (number of individuals in parentheses): *Alca torda* (1), *Uria aalge* (2), *U. lomvia* (4), *Plautus alle* (2), *Cepphus grylle* (7), *C. columba* (1), and *Fratercula arctica* (10). Storer (Univ. California Publ. Zool., 52:121-222, 1952) and Tuck (The murre, 1961) mentioned additional records of *Uria* spp.; Storer also mentioned one albinistic *Plautus*. The present note records albinism in four individuals of three additional alcid species. The degree of albinism is categorized following Gross (op. cit.) and the terminology for color follows Palmer and Reilly (A concise color standard, 1956).

On 17 August 1967 an imperfect albino Parakeet Auklet (*Cyclorhynchus psittacula*) was collected near its nest-site on Sevuokuk Mountain. The specimen (U.B.C. Mus. Zool. no. 13361), an adult female, weighed 289.5 g, was moderately fat and showed extensive abrasion of the remiges and rectrices. Postnuptial molt had not commenced. The plumage on the dorsal surface, wings, tail, and chin showed albinistic characteristics; this plumage was a "washed-out" buffy brown rather than the normal black. This bird's mate was normally pigmented and their single chick, estimated to be about 24 days old on the basis of its 38.2 mm outer primary (Sealy, A comparative study of breeding ecology and timing in plankton-feeding alcids (*Cyclorhynchus* and *Aethia* spp.) on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, unpubl. M.Sc. Thesis, Univ. of British Columbia, 1968), was normally pigmented. The chick fledged at 35 days of age.

On 27 June 1967 a partial albino, adult Crested Auklet (*Aethia cristatella*) was observed flying and walking on boulders on Sevuokuk Mountain. Its wings and breast were white; the remainder of its plumage was apparently normally pigmented.

A Least Auklet (*A. pusilla*) with white rectrices was collected on Sevuokuk Mountain on 30 June 1967. This specimen (U.B.C. Mus. Zool. No. 13389), a subadult male, weighed 81.7 g and was moderately fat.

On 20 August 1967 a young, total albino, Least Auklet was found in a nest on Sevuokuk Mountain. It retained the normal plumage pattern, but the dark color of the upperparts was replaced by buffy tan (Fig. 1); a similar condition has been described for *U. lomvia* and *P. alle* (Storer, op. cit.). The auklet (U.B.C. Mus. Zool. No. 13359) had pink irises, legs and feet, and was about 24 days old on the basis of the 41.2 mm outer primary (Sealy, op. cit.). Its parents were not observed.