

Banded Herring Gull Recovered From Honduras

From 1968 to 1996, one of us (WCS) banded about 10,000 Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) chicks and adults during the nesting season on Bellow Island. Bellow Island is located three miles southeast of Northport, MI (45°5' 59.99" N, 85°34' 1.93" W). The island is owned and managed by the Leelanau Conservancy as a Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*) and Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) nesting colony. The Herring Gulls of Bellow Island have been subjects of other studies of their nesting biology, including research involving the concentrations of chlorinated hydrocarbons (Ludwig and Tomoff 1966), polygyny (Shugart 1980), populations and habitat (Scharf et al. 1979), and recent environmental contaminants (Bowerman et al. 2011).

The recovery of one Bellow Island Herring Gull, banded as a chick on 29 May 1977, was reported by one of us (MDFU) who had found that the gull had been killed and eaten by Indians in Honduras in the winter of 1978. The exact location of the band recovery was near the mouth of the Rio Platano half way between Laguna de Ibans and Laguna de Brus on the Caribbean coast of Honduras (15°46' 54.89" N, 84°35' 50.86" W). MDFU and an American friend bartered for the band from the Indians. MDFU's friend saw another banded bird that was in the same cooking pot and in his words, "they were pot-mates." This second banded bird turned out to be a Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*) from North Carolina.

This recovery appears to be the third record of a Michigan Herring Gull from Honduras. The first record is by Smith (1959) of a bird banded in 1935. The second record is from Russell (1964) of a bird banded as a chick in 1953 at Rogers City, MI, by Walter Nickell. However, Pierotti and Good (1994)

provide only a question mark on their distribution map for Herring Gulls in Honduras.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to the following: generations of students who helped in banding, the Leelanau Conservancy, owners of the island and provider of some boat transportation; the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa, who have provided boat transportation recently; and to Scharf's sons, Erik and Karl, for many trips to the island with him. The William R. Angell Foundation provided funding in the early stages of this work.

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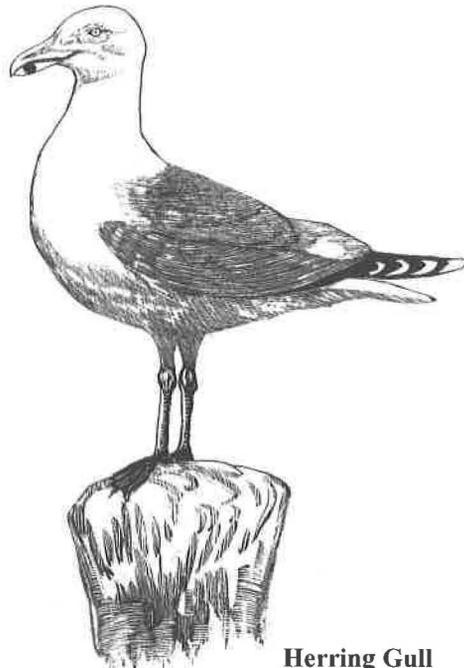
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Herring Gull
by George West

Lyme Disease Study

Borrelia burgdorferi Sensu Lato Spirochetes in Wild Birds in Northwestern California: Associations with Ecological Factors, Bird Behavior and Tick Infestation. E.A. Newman, L. Eisen, R.J. Eisen, N. Fedorova, J.M. Hastay, C. Vaughn, and R.S. Lane. 2015. *PLoS ONE* 10(2): e0118146. Doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0118146. (This study found that birds are a more important host and reservoir for the Lyme Disease-causing bacteria in California than previously thought. From 623 birds in 53 species captured, mostly passerines, 100 (16.1%) carried the Lyme disease tick *Ixodes pacificus*, the Western Black-legged Tick. Of those 100 birds, 57 carried the bacteria, representing 23

species. A number of infected birds are common suburban birds, such as American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Oak Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*), Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*), Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), and Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*). The Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) had the highest infection rate. Tick-infested birds were found in all habitats studied, ranging from chaparral, savannah, and oak woodland. Besides being an under appreciated reservoir of Lyme Disease, birds can more readily disperse the spirochaete to other habitats.

Walter Sakai