

and finally, emboldened by the forbearance of his master, ran into the room, and by dancing on the fire, put it out and filled the wigwam with smoke. Then the patience of the Great Spirit could stand it no longer, and giving the Grebe a kick, he exclaimed, "Deformed shalt thou go through this world for the rest of thy days!" The imperial foot struck him just at the base of the tail. It knocked the body forward, but the legs remained behind, and the Grebe has ever since had the legs set so far back on the body that it cannot walk.

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## ON A NEW GULL FROM ALASKA.

BY H. W. HENSHAW.

IN a series of Gulls collected by Mr. E. W. Nelson in Alaska I find a specimen which differs decidedly not only from any other taken by that gentleman but from any in the National Museum collection. Believing it to be new I name and describe it as follows:—

### *Larus nelsoni*, sp. nov.

♂, *adult, breeding plumage* (No. 97253, Coll. Nat. Mus., St. Michael's Alaska, June 20, 1880. E. W. Nelson, collector): Bill robust, relatively, short; upper mandible slightly convex; lower mandible with moderate angle. First primary longest. Tarsus a little shorter than middle toe and claw. Head, neck, tail, and entire under parts snowy white; mantle pale pearl-blue, lighter than in *glaucescens*, about as in *leucopterus* and *kumlieni*. Primaries: on the *first*, the inner web (except along the shaft) and tip (for three inches) is pure white; outer web, dark slate-gray, except at tip, the slate extending slightly farther in an acute angle to shaft on this than on the inner web. Inner web along the shaft, a lighter shade of the same, fading into white on both webs as the base is approached. The *second* has the slate almost wholly confined to the outer web, upon which it begins two inches from the tip, where it intrudes upon the inner web in the shape of a small spot, and extends upwards along the shaft for 2.25 inches, then makes an acute angle with the shaft and extends 1.50 inches farther on outer margin. On the *third* the slate extends from about 4 inches from the tip nearly to the end, slightly washing the inner web at its extremity. On the *fourth* the slate is paler, and begins on the outer web about one inch from the tip and reaches an inch, then makes an acute angle with the shaft and extends rather more than

an inch; there is a slight trace of this color on the inner web near the tip. On the *fifth*, the slate begins .25 of an inch from tip, extends .50 of an inch along the web, then makes an acute angle with the shaft for one inch. The slate on the inner web is limited to the margin, where it forms a small bar-like spot. The *sixth* is white at the tip, fading gradually into bluish gray. The tips of the secondaries and tertiaries are pure white for an inch and a half or more from the tip, making a strongly defined wing-band. Bill yellow, with a vermilion spot at the angle of the lower mandible.

*Dimensions.* Wing, 17.25; tail, 8.90; culmen, 2.20; bill from nostril, 1.00; bill from gape, 3.00; height at anterior end of nostril, .86; tarsus, 3.00; middle toe and claw, 2.90.

*Habitat:* Alaska (St. Michael's).

For the sake of comparison I append measurements of *L. kumlieni*. The first set are as given by Mr. Brewster (Bull. N. O. C., Oct. 1883, p. 217); the second are taken by myself from a specimen ( $\text{♂}$  ad.) collected by Mr. Kumlien in Cumberland Sound; (1) Wing, 16.25; culmen, 1.75; bill from nostril, .85; bill from gape, 2.60; height at anterior end of nostril, .65; tarsus, 2.35; middle toe and claw, 2.27.—(2) Wing, 16.10; tail, 7.20; culmen, 1.80; bill from anterior end of nostril, .83; bill from gape, 2.66; height at anterior end of nostril, .68.

It is evident at a glance that this Gull is a close ally of *L. kumlieni*, which bird indeed it may represent upon the N. W. Pacific coast. The main point of distinction is size, *nelsoni* being considerably larger. The pattern of primaries is essentially the same, though the barred appearance of the primaries, which is conspicuous in the specimen of *kumlieni*, referred to above as collected by Kumlien, is not so marked. The slate-gray of the primaries is also very much darker than in *kumlieni*. *Nelsoni* is at once distinguished from *glaucescens* by its lighter mantle, as well as by its patterned primaries. Its resemblance to *glaucus* is much closer, the two being of about the same size, and the color of the mantle is also about the same. In both *glaucus* and *glaucescens* the primaries are concolor with the mantle, while in both *nelsoni* and *kumlieni* the primaries exhibit a distinct pattern. The relations of the two last seem, in fact, to be very similar to those of *glaucus* and *glaucescens*, and to those said to be borne by *leucopterus* and *glaucopterus*. Though bearing a superficial resemblance to *glaucescens*, *nelsoni* is, perhaps, nearer *L. argentatus*, the larger race of which it resembles in size and in the color of the mantle. From *argentatus*, however, it differs in having the pattern of the primaries brownish gray instead of black. The colored spaces of the primaries are

confined mainly to the outer webs, while in *argentatus* the black involves much of the inner webs.

Mr. Brewster appears to be somewhat in doubt as to the relation of Bruch's *chalcopterus* to his *kumlieni*, and thinks they may possibly be the same bird. My own opinion is that Bruch's *chalcopterus* is practically indeterminable, his diagnosis being insufficient to be applied with certainty to any species of a family like the Gulls, where the range of individual variation is so great, and the resemblances so close, as they are between the large, light primaried species of the Far North. Whatever may be the relation of Brewster's *kumlieni* to the *chalcopterus* of Bruch, the latter name cannot apply to the *L. nelsoni*. Bruch's statement that the *chalcopterus* is "wholly similar to the preceding [*L. leucopterus*] except in the primaries," puts *nelsoni* out of the question because of its large size.

I dedicate the species to Mr. E. W. Nelson, as a slight recognition of his valuable services to Alaskan ornithology.

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#### NOTE ON *ASTUR ATRICAPILLUS STRIATULUS*.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

I AM sorry to have to state that *Astur atricapillus henshawi*, described by Mr. Nelson in the April number of 'The Auk,' is essentially the same as my *A. atricapillus striatulus* (*A. atricapillus* var. *striatulus*, Hist. N. Am. B., III, 1874, pp. 238, 239), and that according to the rules of zoölogical nomenclature the later name becomes a synonym of the earlier. *A. atricapillus striatulus* included both the dark western race, to which the name *henshawi* was very properly restricted by Mr. Nelson, and also a special plumage of true *A. atricapillus*; but reference to the original description (l. c.) shows that three of the four specimens described, and therefore virtually the types, are of the dark western race. It is true that the name *striatulus* was suggested by the very fine pencillings of the under parts which