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GENERAL NOTES.

Habits of the Herring Gull. — In Mr. G. H. Mackay's very interesting article on the Herring Gull, in the July number of 'The Auk', he states that it is with some hesitation that he regards them as gregarious, for they apparently only come together when there is some particular reason for so doing, and not because they *like* to. My own impression was just the reverse of this, but I must admit that my observations have been made but casually, and that I have not observed the Gulls with the care that Mr. Mackay has devoted to the subject. I should have said that Gulls scattered in search of food at high water, but came together sociably at other times.

At Plymouth, Mass., it used to be no uncommon sight to see the greater part of the Gulls in the neighborhood gathered in one vast flock on the outer side of the long sand spit, known as the 'Beach.' This, if my memory serves me aright, usually took place some little time after low water. The Gulls were not feeding, but resting and preening their feathers, and, unless disturbed by man, they would remain until driven away by the advancing tide.

At high water the Gulls were widely scattered, searching for floating food, and as the flats in the harbor were left bare by the receding tide the Gulls would gather here and there in small flocks looking for food. At

nightfall the Gulls seemed to fly in one direction.—northward,—as if they roosted together, and when low water came at night, they might be heard at intervals calling from the flats. At Mingan and Percé the Herring Gull breeds in colonies, and here, too, their querulous cries might be heard at all times throughout the night.

The term “wary and observing bird” is applicable to most Gulls, even where they are not especially sought after. In Valparaiso harbor, where the rules of the port prohibit the firing of guns, *Larus dominicanus* was extremely tame, feeding about the vessels and frequently alighting on their jib-booms. Just without the harbor they were shy and vigilant. Here, too, the greater part of the Gulls departed toward nightfall in one direction, apparently for the purpose of roosting together, sometimes leaving in flocks of fifty or more.—F. A. LUCAS, *Washington, D. C.*

Another Specimen of the Labrador Duck.—As an addition to Mr. Dutcher’s list of specimens of *Camptolaimus labradorius* present in other collections (see ‘The Auk, 1891, p. 201), I beg to state that the Dresden Museum possesses a female example, as to the history of which, however, I am only able to say that it was in Dresden before the year 1850 when Reichenbach published a figure of it in his ‘Handbuch der speciellen Ornithologie: Natatores.’ It has all the appearance of an antique specimen, and, that it is so, is further shown by the handwriting on the old label, according to which it came from Labrador.—A. B. MEYER, M. D., *Dresden, Saxony.*

Ereunetes occidentalis in Connecticut.—Mr. C. C. Hamner, while collecting shore birds with me at Lyme, Conn., Sept. 4, 1889, shot three birds of this species. There were six of them in all, and they were quite noticeable among the *Ereunetes pusillus* with which they were associated, on account of their longer bill. These birds were kindly identified by Dr. J. A. Allen, and are now in the collection of Mr. John H. Sage, Portland, Conn.—WILLARD E. TREAT, *East Hartford, Conn.*

Totanus flavipes and Charadrius dominicus.—Mr. William S. Kimball of Rochester, N. Y., informs me that while shooting at Martin’s Point, near Swan Island, North Carolina, he noted a large migration of the Smaller Yellowleg passing south on August 29, 1892. On the same date he shot two American Golden Plover, and later in the day another, all that he saw. The wind was southeast with drizzling rain.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Tryngites subruficollis—I have met with and taken but few Buff-breasted Sandpipers in my shooting experience on the Massachusetts coast; my record shows but eleven during the last seventeen years, all of them having been shot on the island of Nantucket. Six of these were taken on