

position of the nostrils this is precisely the case. The wing is but slightly longer than that of the Cliff Swallow. The tail is forked, and of intermediate length. The feet are intermediate, but most resemble those of the Cliff Swallow. The colors of the iris, bill, and feet, were noted at the time of capture as indistinguishable from those of its mate — a Barn Swallow. In coloration, the wings and tail are intermediate between those of the two species, which are brown in the Cliff Swallow and blue in the Barn Swallow. The forehead is ferruginous, as in the Barn Swallow; but the sides of the head and neck, behind the eye, where blue in the Barn Swallow and ferruginous in the Cliff Swallow, are an intimate mixture of the two. On the back, the buffy-white edging of the feathers is apparent, but not so plainly indicated as in the Cliff Swallow (the whole upper surface, except the ferruginous frontal band, is uniform steel-blue in the Barn Swallow). The rump and upper tail-coverts differ from those of either species, although the pattern is that of the Cliff Swallow; the color instead of tawny-ochraceous is cream-buff, lightly and irregularly spotted with blue, the longest coverts being purplish brown. The under parts most closely resemble those of the Barn Swallow; chin and throat hazel, darker than the Barn Swallow and lighter than the Cliff Swallow, from which latter it differs in having the hazel color more extended posteriorly, and in lacking the black pectoral spot. The whole underparts, including the under tail-coverts, are washed with ferruginous, but less strongly so than in the Barn Swallow. The under wing-coverts are intermediate. Two outer rectrices are spotted with grayish white on the inner webs, these being immaculate in the Cliff Swallow, spotted in the Barn Swallow.

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### GENERAL NOTES.

**Franklin's Gull in the Virginia Mountains.**—I desire to place upon record the capture by myself of a stray specimen of Franklin's Rosy Gull (*Larus franklinii*) at Blacksburg, Montgomery Co., Virginia (No. 757, coll. E. A. S.). This is a first record for the State; and I have as yet seen no other record for the Eastern States. On the 24th of October, 1898, I was

returning from a tramp with two students, and as I neared the College ice pond, a gull flew over my head from behind me; for a second I hesitated, thinking it was Bonaparte's Gull, which I have taken here in the mountains on several occasions; I fired, however, and killed the bird, and was surprised on picking it up to find it was not what I had supposed, nor did I recognize it. A momentary suspicion that it was a Kittiwake—the only likely bird I could otherwise think of—was dispelled by noticing the dark carmine bill, which, as the specimen was adult, eliminated the Kittiwake. On reaching home, Ridgway's 'Manual' and Coues's 'Key' readily ran it out to Franklin's Rosy Gull, there being no mistaking the two descriptions, and I have since amply verified the identification. The Gull was an adult ♀ and the under parts were quite rosy and the plumage unworn. A trace of the rosy color still remains. This is not quite as remarkable as my capture here of the Black-capped Petrel in 1893 (see Auk, Vol. X, p. 361), for Franklin's Gulls breed in Iowa: Blacksburg, Va., is only a few miles from New River, a tributary of the Ohio. I suppose the bird may have followed the Mississippi to the Ohio and so up to this remote locality. Sea and shore birds are found here with more or less regularity. Ducks come every spring, and I have shot the Black-head; the Horned Grebe is occasionally found, and Geese occur at intervals in their season. On May 7 last, I had a fine fresh Canada Goose, ♀, brought to me, still warm, one of three that were killed on New River that day. This is very late for geese.—ELLISON A. SMYTH, JR., *Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.*

**Remarkable Flight of Gulls at Cumberland, Md.**—On Sunday, April 26, 1901, the people of Cumberland were astonished to find a flock of about 50 gulls flying over and around the city, especially about the confluence of Will's Creek with the Potomac. There had been excessive rains for three days previous, and high winds, which no doubt account for this large flight. For while occasionally a few stray up here, there had never so many been seen together. Most of them went away after having been here a day; some, however, stayed around till the middle of the week. The greater part were Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*), the rest, three to five, American Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*). A few of the former were shot by hunters and brought to me. They were in perfect nuptial plumage. They all had large black beetles and some bits of offal in their stomach.

At the same time two specimens of *Larus philadelphia* were sent to me from Accident, Garrett Co., Md., where they had been shot by the owner of a small fish pond, near the same. These two, however, had still a few white feathers on their heads. Also in that week I received one American Herring Gull and one Bonaparte's Gull from Confluence, Somerset Co., Pa. This, according to my mind, goes to show that the atmospheric disturbances accompanied by great floods in these parts had the effect of making many gulls temporarily leave their usual homes.—G. EIFRIG, *Cumberland, Md.*