

tenderly remembered, and the hope is expressed that his health will soon be restored.

Mr. Witmer Stone was elected to succeed Dr. Allen as Editor of 'The Auk.'

The next meeting of the Union will be held in Cambridge, Mass., the date to be determined later.

JNO. H. SAGE,  
Secretary.

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### GENERAL NOTES.

**The Laughing Gull at Marshfield, Massachusetts.**— On May 30, 1911, while making a trip along the "South Shore," I observed at Marshfield a single Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) sitting on the water a little distance out. The black head and the solid black outer primaries showed up very conspicuously, making identification sure. Also it was noticeably smaller than the Herring Gulls which were near it. This is, I believe, a new record, not only for Marshfield, but also for Plymouth County, of the Laughing Gull, as I have not been able to find any previous date.

Again, on July 29, 1911, while Mr. J. Archibald Hagar, Mr. H. D. Mitchell, and I were sitting on the cliff at the mouth of the North River, we saw four black-headed gulls fly up into the mouth of the river. We watched them for some time and identified them plainly as Laughing Gulls.

The next day (the 30th), we three, accompanied by Mr. J. C. Hagar, in a boat on the South River, near the mouth, saw a pair of these same gulls on the flats, so near that we could see the white eye-ring and the reddish bill. They were very handsome birds and seemed to be much smaller than the Herring Gulls which were around them.

It is to be hoped, and these records may possibly indicate that the Laughing Gull is extending its range a little farther northward in Massachusetts.— HAROLD L. BARRETT, *Jamaica Plain, Mass.*

**Franklin's Gull (*Larus franklini*) at Philadelphia.**— Mr. Philip Laurent recently submitted to me for identification a gull recently presented to him by Mr. Charles Liebeck who had shot it October 22, 1911, on the Philadelphia "neck," the open swampy ground lying below the built up portion of the city, above the juncture of the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. The bird was in immature (juvenile) plumage, largely ashy gray, with a gray tail and black terminal band, almost a counterpart of the Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*) in similar plumage except for the smaller

size and noticeably different bill. In these respects it exactly matched adult specimens of Franklin's Gull in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Subsequently I compared it with young Franklin's Gulls in the collection of Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., which showed at once that it belonged to that species. This is the first record of the bird for Pennsylvania and I believe the second for the Atlantic coast.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pa.*

**The Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) on Long Island, N. Y., in August.**—Near Jones Inlet, on August 14, 1910, I collected an adult female of this species. As this bird does not make its appearance on Long Island until the cold weather sets in, late in the fall, this early date appears to be a rare exception. The bird was moulting heavily, especially the primaries, so that it was unable to fly more than about 15 yards at a time. The fact that the specimen was moulting after having migrated instead of moulting before the migration period is quite unusual.—J. A. WEBER, *Palisades Park, N. J.*

***Phætusa magnirostris* Licht. in Cuba.**—On May 28, 1909, I secured an immature specimen of *Phætusa magnirostris* Licht. in the Laguna del Centeno, Nipe Bay, Oriente Province, Cuba. This is the first record for the species in Cuba, there being no doubt as to its identity, for it has been compared by Messrs. Frank M. Chapman and W. DeW. Miller at the American Museum of Natural History. This tern was the only one seen in the lagoon at the time.—CHARLES T. RAMSDEN, *Guantanamo, Cuba.*

***Ixobrychus exilis* in Texas.**—On March 24, 1911, I received a Least Bittern (coll. H. K. C. No. 15026 ad. ♂) in the flesh from Capt. S. W. F. Hase, U. S. A., Fort Crockett, Texas, with the interesting information: "This morning while on a hike I ran across a flock of birds. One of them, apparently a young one, froze himself to the ground, stretching his long bill upward, and I had difficulty in seeing him among the yellow flowers. I placed my sabre across his feet, and picking him up, stuck him through the head."—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

**Egret in Northern New Jersey.**—On August 7, 1911, as I was motoring past a meadow at Coleville, N. J., which is a small village situated five miles from Sussex, N. J., I saw an Egret. The altitude of Coleville is 800 feet. Three and a half miles distant is the highest point in the State, the height of which is 1809 feet. Coleville is four and a half miles from the New York and New Jersey state line, and six miles from the Delaware River.—JOHN DRYDEN KUSER, *Bernardville, N. J.*

**Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*).**—I recently examined a specimen of this somewhat obscurely known rail that was secured April 22, 1911, in Ecorse Township, Wayne County, Michigan. Mr. Arthur