

"Feb. 13, 1915. Fort Lee Ferry, New York City. An immature plumaged Gull, paler and more uniform than a young Herring, with the primaries largely white, seemed about the size of Herring Gulls which flew up with it from an ice-pan in the river. It could only have been an Iceland Gull or very small Glaucous Gull, in all probability but not positively the former."

"Jan. 19, 1916. Twenty-third Street Ferry. New York City. An adult plumaged Iceland Gull seen nicely among Herring Gulls, though without glasses, at close range, from the front of the boat. The delicate grey of the mantle extended well out on the wing not sharply contrasted with its white tip. It was appreciably smaller than the Herring Gulls, the head and bill less heavy, and had an ethereal look which I accredited to its having a paler mantle, although by then my chance had passed for direct comparison of the tone of same. Its head and neck were clouded with brownish, its feet pink."—LUDLOW GRISCOM AND J. T. NICHOLS, *New York City*.

The Arctic Tern in Central New York.—On May 20, 1915, I was fortunate enough to collect an adult female of this species mixed in with Common and Black Terns and Bonaparte's Gulls at the north end of Cayuga Lake. As Brewster and Townsend have shown, it is distinguishable in life from the Common Tern by its all crimson bill and more deeply forked tail. Early writers on New York State ornithology mention this species without definite data, and Bergtold gives it as an accidental visitor near Buffalo. The only definite record for the state is a male in Mr. Dutcher's possession taken on Ram Island shoals, July 1, 1884.

The record is of particular interest to my mind, however, in furnishing a definite date for the spring migration of this species, about which little or nothing is known. It seems to arrive on the New England breeding grounds about May 15, though I have been unable to locate a definite record. It has been noted near Mt. McKinley, Alaska, May 30, 1908. In localities where it is only a transient, definite data are again lacking. An extremely early specimen was taken at Ann Arbor, Michigan, April 9, 1875. There are two records for Hawaii, May 9, 1891, and April 30, 1902. Considering the breeding range, one would think that there must be at least three migration routes through the United States, one along each coast and one through the interior, as it breeds in Wisconsin and abundantly in North Central Canada. The scarcity of records is correspondingly remarkable.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

American Merganser, wintering at Boston, Mass.—I have noted this species (*Mergus americanus*) on Charles River, Boston, Mass., this winter as follows:

Dec. 24, 1915. I saw a single bird in the female plumage.

Dec. 25, 1915. Saw a single bird in female plumage in the morning, in the afternoon saw three.

Dec. 31, 1915. Saw seven in plumage of the female, the river was skimmed over with ice, they were in an open space.

Jan. 4, 1916. I saw the seven again today, also saw a new one, a drake, in full plumage.

Jan. 13, 1916. Saw four, one drake, three in female plumage; another full plumaged drake joined them in the P. M.

Jan. 22, 1916. I saw thirteen, four drakes in full plumage, the others in the female plumage.

Jan. 30, 1916. I saw eleven, four of which were drakes in full plumage. They were widely separated.

Feb. 6, 1916. Saw twenty at 8 o'clock A. M., five of them drakes, later there were nine drakes.

Feb. 7, 1916. Saw them all again this morning.

Feb. 10, 1916. River closed with ice, birds all gone.

I have noticed a number of times this winter a feature in the courtship of the drakes, while resting on the water. They would send out a stream of water with their feet, or foot, between three and four feet directly behind them. I would also mention that they are astonishingly swift swimmers under water, and that coming up under the ice apparently caused them little inconvenience.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

The European Widgeon in Central New York.—On April 11, 1915, Prof. A. A. Allen and I were in the Montezuma marshes at the outlet of Lake Cayuga, attempting to photograph the wild fowl. Leaving Prof. Allen in the blind I wandered over the marsh to "Black Lake" where a handsome drake of this species was discovered in a flock of Baldpate. An hour or so later we both returned, and the European Widgeon was observed at fairly close range through prism glasses for a quarter of an hour, every detail of plumage being satisfactorily made out. The species has not been recorded from the Cayuga Lake Basin in many years, and through Prof. Allen's courtesy I am able to record our observation.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

Limicolæ at Porto Rico in July.—While studying the fishes of Porto Rico in behalf of the N. Y. Academy of Sciences and Insular Government; Guanica Lake, July 27, 1914: the writer observed a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*), about a dozen Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*), as many Least Sandpipers (*Pisobia minutilla*), a couple of Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*), and a single Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*). The Tern is a more recent occurrence than noted by Wetmore, Birds of Porto Rico, 1916 (U. S. Dept. Ag., Bull. No. 326), and the date for the Shore Birds is earlier than any he gives for them on their southward migration, earlier than, at first thought, one would expect them to reach the West Indies. But many early south-bound Limicolæ probably move very rapidly, reaching localities in widely separated latitudes on approximately the same dates. This was first called to the writer's attention by