

GENERAL NOTES.

Concerning the Occurrence of the Western and other Gulls in Southeastern Alaska.— In reviewing my recent paper on Alaskan birds in 'The Auk' (July, 1916, p. 335) the editor has found my notes on certain species of gulls to be indefinite. This is unfortunate, and it therefore seems desirable to present the facts in detail that the record may be clearly understood.

When we steamed out of Puget Sound, the ship was followed by a large straggling flock of gulls composed of four species; the Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, and California Gulls. During the time we were in the Inside Passage and until we reached Ketchikan individuals of all these species were present. The birds were very tame and not only followed us but often flew abreast of the ship at about the height of the deck and within 20 or 25 feet of us, and frequently rested on the yards or davits. During these days much time was spent on deck watching and photographing them and their identification was made certain beyond any reasonable doubt, although no specimens were shot.

After the second day some of the Western Gulls began to drop behind and continued to do so until only four were left. These four remained with us until we anchored at Ketchikan. It is probable that some of the other species also left us, but this is not easy to prove as their places were taken by others, so that the total of our attendants did not vary much. As we neared Ketchikan a number of Ring-billed Gulls appeared and joined the others.

During the trip we occasionally passed other vessels, each of which had its following of gulls. It therefore appears probable that these birds pass up and down this coast more frequently than the limited number of records from the region seems to show.— F. SEYMOUR HERSEY, *Taunton, Mass.*

A Note on the Mottled Duck.— I want to correct a statement made by me in 'The Auk' (1912, p. 297) in which I compared a series of *Anas fulvigula maculosa*, from Brownsville, Tex., with a large series of Florida Ducks (*A. f. fulvigula*) and remarked that I could find no distinct difference between the two forms. In January, 1914, while paying a visit to Mr. E. A. McIlhenny, at Avery Island, Louisiana, I was able to collect a series of seven of the Mottled Ducks from the Vermilion Bay region. There are six adult males and one female. Taken as a whole this Louisiana series is even darker than the Texas series; the breasts of the males are very dark, glossy chestnut, and the ground color of the cheeks and chin is distinctly more rufous than in the Texas series or in the Florida series. The cheeks are also quite heavily streaked, and this streaking extends in all cases far below the superciliary stripe; in the Florida ducks the streaking of the cheeks is finer and does not extend so far ventrally on to the chin,