

end where there was a short stretch of alders and scrub oak killed by a rise of the water at one time and it was at the edge of this slight protection that the nest was built. It was the usual mass of decaying vegetation, reeds, grasses, etc., and was attached to several of the alders as the water under it was two feet deep. When found, the eggs were entirely covered from sight and no birds were seen, although one bird was heard calling nearby. I had always regarded this species here as a migrant only and would never have searched for a nest had I not been attracted by the suspicious fact that this pair of birds could always be found at this particular part of the pond. They were first seen the 17th of April and when the first week in May passed and they were still daily in evidence, their presence could no longer be casually overlooked. This is, I believe, the first definite breeding record for this species in the State.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, *State College, Pa.*

A Red-throated Loon on Chestnut Hill Reservoir, Boston, Mass.—

In the early afternoon of February 7, 1918, while I was observing the ducks on Chestnut Hill reservoir, a bird came on the wing from the westward which upon alighting on the water was seen to be a Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). After taking its bearings for a few minutes, it began to swim and dive in the ample area of open water about the intake, which even during the very severe weather of the present winter has been of considerable extent, affording a wintering place for Mergansers, Black Ducks, a few Golden-eyes, and recently a Ruddy Duck. At the time the sky was clouded, wind northeast, and the temperature about 24°. Two days later Mr. Barron Brainerd with Mr. Talbot found this loon still present. But when I visited the reservoir on the 11th, it was not there. The area of open water had been diminished almost half by a formation of thin ice around its borders and had become, perhaps, inadequate to the loon's sense of sufficiency. I am informed that Mr. Talbot noted the absence of this loon on the 10th.

This was my first record of a Red-throated Loon on a pond, lake, or reservoir. I find that Mr. William Brewster reports but one occurrence in his 'Birds of the Cambridge Region' [1906], that of a young male shot in Fresh Pond by Mr. Ruthven Deane on October 21, 1871. The species is not uncommon in winter along the seacoast of New England, and in its fall migration is rather common. Dr. C. H. Townsend in his 'Birds of Essex County' [1905] states, "The Red-throated Diver is a lover of salt water, very rarely, in Essex County, entering the fresh-water ponds and rivers." Dr. J. C. Philips in an article on 'Ten Years of Observation on the Migration of Anatidæ at Wenham Lake, Massachusetts,' (*Auk*, vol. XXVIII, April, 1911, p. 197) says concerning the Red-throated Loon, "Rare in the pond. The only specimen in my collection is a female marked Wenham Lake, October, 1906." Dr. Glover M. Allen in 'Birds of New Hampshire' [1903] gives two records of individuals taken in the interior of the State in the autumns of 1876 and 1886 respectively, and

states that "Mr. G. H. Thayer has noted it as a rare autumn visitant to Dublin Pond." Mr. Thayer (Auk, Vol. XXI, October, 1904, p. 493), gives a record of two seen in Dublin Pond "during a long and heavy north-easterly storm which ended on October 12 or 13, 1903." Mr. Ora W. Knight in his 'Birds of Maine [1908] says, "Occasional specimens are reported about the ponds and lakes in fall, or more rarely in spring." Messrs. Sage, Bishop and Bliss in 'Birds of Connecticut' [1913] state concerning the species, "very rare inland," and then give two autumn records.

So it would appear that in New England the Red-throated Loon's appearances inland on bodies of fresh water have been rare, and that these appearances have all been in the autumn, with the exception of Mr. Knight's testimony of occurrences in Maine under the expression "more rarely in spring." The Chestnut Hill reservoir occurrence in February, therefore, seems to stand by itself as an incident not duplicated in New England, so far as an examination of records show.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

The Ivory Gull (*Pagophila alba*) at Portland, Maine.—On January 4, 1918, Mr. Walter H. Rich of this city informed me that he had on this day observed an Ivory Gull off Commercial wharf well up Portland Harbor; the following day, January 5, with Mr. Rich I visited the water front, and we soon had the bird under observation, watching it for an hour. Once it came within twenty yards of the end of the wharf, and lighted on a large ice cake, affording a perfect opportunity for full identification.

The deeply incised webs of the black feet were distinctly visible and were very noticeable. It was an immature bird and at this close range the brownish tips of the feathers of the wings and an imperfect tail band were distinct, though they were not visible when the bird was in the distance where we mostly saw it. The loreal region was so thickly spotted that in the distance the gull appeared to be wearing a dark mask, combined with an otherwise snowy white plumage. The snowy whiteness of its plumage, was always noticeably different from any other gull in the harbor, which contained at the time an abundance of *Larus argentatus* in all plumages, *Larus kumleni* and *Larus leucopterus*. Its habits and flight also differed distinctly: it was much more restless, now alighting on the ice, either to remain at rest for a few minutes, or to feed at the water's edge, and then away to search the edge of the ice field or to feed near some of the docks. It seemed to pay little or no attention to the other gulls, or their feeding. On the ice it ran rapidly, suggesting the action of a large plover. Its restlessness and independent action suggested to me the action of *Larus atricilla* as it appears in the company of *Larus argentatus*. Its dashing flight seemed more like that of a Jaeger than that of a gull. The wing was used at full extent with very little flexure at humero-radial and carpal joints and was broad and wedge shaped in comparison with the narrower wing of *Larus*