

**The European Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) in North America.**<sup>1</sup>—A specimen of the European Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus ridibundus* L.) was taken in the harbor of Newburyport, Massachusetts, on January 27, 1930. Invaluable assistance was rendered in securing the specimen by Messrs. Edward Babson and Charles H. Richardson, Jr.

This bird had been observed on the preceding day by Messrs. F. H. Allen, C. E. Clarke, John Conkey, G. L. Perry, G. B. Redding, and the writers, and happened to be first detected by Emilio, who called the attention of the party to it as utterly strange to this region. It was recognized by Griscom as probably *ridibundus*.

The specimen was critically examined, measured, and compared in the flesh at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, by Mr. James L. Peters and Griscom and, after sexing by Mr. John D. Smith, preparator, was definitely assigned to the European race, *ridibundus*. It has been presented to the Boston Society of Natural History.

The bird, which proved to be a male, was in adult winter plumage, very closely resembling the Bonaparte's Gulls with which it associated, but appearing to be slightly larger, with longer, more flexible wings and showing in flight considerable dusky gray or slaty on the under side of the primaries. The bill was about a third longer than the Bonaparte's and a deep red in color. The tarsi and toes were almost crimson. This little Gull was entirely able-bodied, vigorous, and apparently in perfect physical condition and beautiful plumage.

A ringed, or banded, Gull of this species was taken at Barbados several years ago, and, together with another from Vera Cruz, is mentioned by Mr. F. C. Lincoln in 'The Auk,' July, 1925, p. 374. This Massachusetts visit, however, seems to be the first recorded occurrence of the bird in North America, north of Mexico, and therefore new to the A. O. U. 'Check-List.' It is the third bird new to the North American avifauna to be recorded from this County of Essex, Massachusetts, in the last ten years, the others being the Sheld Duck and the Pink-footed Goose.—S. GILBERT EMILIO, *Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass.*, and LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.*

**That Alberta Bean Goose—A Correction.**—In 'The Auk,' Vol. XLIV, 1927, p. 558, I recorded the capture of a Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*), taken, leading a flock of wild Canada Geese, at Bittern Lake, Alberta. It seemed like a most extraordinary occurrence but all circumstances and conditions pointed towards it being a perfectly feral bird and it agreed as closely as possible with descriptions and plates of that species. I have been more or less uneasy since committing myself as above, and after correspondence with Dr. S. A. Buturlin of Moscow, Russia, who has specialized in Eurasian Geese, was further shaken in my

---

<sup>1</sup> Published by the Dwight Memorial Fund.