

The European Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) in North America.¹—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

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determination. Lately I have received report of a banded hybrid Goose, Domestic \times Canada, that escaped at Dimmitt, Texas, and was shot "while heading a large flock of Canada Geese" at Lake Manitou, Saskatchewan. Under all these circumstances I feel that it would be well to withdraw the record and apologize for my hasty action.—P. A. TAVERNER, *National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Canada.*

The Brant (*Branta bernicla glaucogastra*) on the South Carolina Coast.—The new year was not three days old before it brought ornithological history to South Carolina in the second authentic record for the Brant (*B. bernicla glaucogastra*).

On the afternoon of January 3, Messrs. Dick Grant and Allan Heyward were hunting back of Morris Island, not far from historic Fort Sumter, at the entrance to Charleston Harbor. Two birds which they took for Ducks were seen swimming ahead of the boat, and upon approach, turned toward the marsh and scrambled ashore upon a mud bank. They remained there for a few moments and then, taking wing, one fell to the gun and the other escaped.

Not recognizing the bird, Messrs. Grant and Heyward took it to the home of Mr. E. Milby Burton who at once pronounced it a Brant. He then called the writer on the telephone and the identification was quickly verified. Upon learning the value of the specimen Messrs. Grant and Heyward kindly presented it to the Charleston Museum. The bird was in good condition, fairly fat, the stomach contained about an ounce and a half of sand together with a small piece of sea-lettuce (*Ulva lactuca*).

The capture of this specimen occurred at almost the identical spot where the first bird was taken and a space of five years and six days separate the two. It is rather remarkable that the locality and time of year are so much the same. The first bird was taken between Fort Sumter and Morris Island on December 28, 1924, by Messrs. Alex Mikell and Edward Manigault.

The Brant has been listed for South Carolina by both Dr. Elliott Coues and Prof. Wells W. Cooke as occurring in winter, but the bird has never been seen by local ornithologists and the two records accounted for above are the sole instances of capture as far as is known. Mr. Arthur T. Wayne, who has observed birds on this coast for more than forty-five years, has never seen it, and the writer's experience of fifteen years or more, has been the same. Both Brant shot locally were taken within plain sight of the city of Charleston.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

Nuptial Performance of the Hooded Merganser.—In the spring of 1929, in the latter part of March or early April, one female and three or four male Hooded Mergansers were in the open water of the inner part of the marsh in Abbey Dawn Sanctuary. I was very close and had my binoculars. The female was progressing very slowly and seemingly