

GENERAL NOTES.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) in Wisconsin.¹—On May 10, 1930, while walking along the Lake Michigan beach near Cedar Grove, Wis., a completely white Gull was observed in a flock of about fifty Ring-billed and Herring Gulls that rested on the sand. The bird was decidedly larger than the Herring Gulls and easily identifiable as a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) in second year plumage, even by one not familiar with the species. At the time the writer was not prepared to collect the specimen.

A search was made on May 17 in the same neighborhood because commercial fishermen had reported seeing the bird in the vicinity during the week. After examining every Gull that came into vision, the Glaucous Gull was again located on the afternoon of the 18th and collected. It was only winged and was taken to the Milwaukee Public Museum alive, where Mr. O. J. Gromme made color notes and sketches of it.

The bird was quite vicious and had a much more powerful beak than the Herring Gull, to which several scars will attest!

It was a male. The viscera were badly infected and the specimen in poor flesh in spite of the fact that food was abundant in the vicinity where it was collected. The plumage was completely white with a few faint traces of buff on some of the neck and breast feathers.

This species is a rare visitor on Lake Michigan. Kumlein and Hollister mention a series of Glaucous Gulls collected in Milwaukee Harbor, January 8, 12, and 14, 1895 and Frank Woodruff reported one from Millers, Ind., August 8, 1897, but there is no published report for Lake Michigan since that date.

It is interesting to note that all the birds collected on Lake Michigan have been immature.—CLARENCE S. JUNG, 518 Stratford Ct., Milwaukee, Wis.

Play Instinct in Gulls¹.—The question frequently arises whether birds possess the faculty of play, wherefore the following observation for the affirmative is contributed:

The Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company has erected a dam a short distance above the natural falls on the Exploits River, at Grand Falls, Newfoundland. The Herring Gull was observed nesting here, on the rock islands formed in the river by the natural falls. Our attention was attracted to a number of individuals flying about over the dam and settling into the water a distance of twenty to fifty feet above it. They allowed the swiftly moving water to carry them just beyond the edge of the dam, when they would rise quickly, fly back and ride over the fall again. As many as five or six Gulls were observed doing this at the same

¹ Published with the Jonathan Dwight memorial fund.

time, some dropping out of the game and others taking their places. One individual repeated the action twenty-one times while under observation.—**PHOEBE KNAPPEN**, *Biol. Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Sooty Shearwater at Daytona Beach, Florida.—On June 5, 1930, I picked up on the ocean beach a dead specimen of the Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*). I believe that this constitutes the second record for Florida, based on specimens. There have been a few sight records in addition, according to Arthur H. Howell of the Biological Survey.—**R. J. LONGSTREET**, *Daytona Beach, Fla.*

Notes on Geese at Painesville, Ohio.—*Anser albifrons albifrons*. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.**—On March 30, 1930, I came upon a bunch of Geese feeding in a wet meadow and found them upon closer examination to be White-fronted Geese, forty-two in number. The yellow legs and feet made identification easy. There were five male Mallards with them.

Branta bernicla hrota. **BRANT.**—On March 23, I found twenty Brant feeding in a wet part of the same meadow. They were much more active than the Canada Geese which we see here and less wild. I could plainly see the white spot on the side of the neck and white upper tail coverts which with the small size left no doubt as to their identity. They left without calling, flying north in two detachments. I first saw Brant here on March 9, 1924, when four alighted in one field and thirty-two in another. They gave several calls before alighting.

On March 26 I found five Canada Geese in the field where I saw the Brant this year. It had rained for two days and a great deal of water had collected. There were thirty or more Ducks there also but the weather was so bad that I could not identify them.—**E. W. HADELER**, *Painesville, Lake Co., Ohio.*

European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) on Wolf Lake, Chicago.—On April 15, 1930, Dr. C. H. Swift saw one of these birds at the above locality and on April 17, it was seen by both of us. Woodruff reports it as occurring occasionally in the Mississippi Valley, as does Forbush. This individual may have been an escape from the Wallace Evans game farm at St. Charles, Ill., about fifty miles from Wolf Lake. The bird was with a large flock of Baldpates, and nearby were a number of Redheads and other species for comparison. The red head on a duck otherwise like the Baldpates was quite conspicuous, and the light and distance were so favorable that the lighter central streak on the head could easily be discerned.

In many years birding around Chicago and other places, this is the first time I have recognized the European Widgeon.—**ALFRED LEWY**, *25 E. Washington St., Chicago.*

Baldpates and Turnstones at Jackson, Mich.—The Baldpate or American Widgeon has been a rather uncommon migrant in southern