

but masked. From the presence of this subterminal band, I concluded that the bird was an immature in first winter plumage.—FRANCIS M. WESTON, Bldg. 45, U. S. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.¹

Gull Notes from the New Hampshire and Maine Coasts.¹—Having seen the Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) in New Hampshire waters in July, 1932, its presence in July, 1933 is of interest. When we were at Kittery Point wharf, Maine, on July 20, Mr. J. P. Melzer and I had occasion to watch six Ring-billed Gulls in year-old plumage, in company with adults and first and second year Herring Gulls, feeding at low tide near the wharf. Again on the 21st we observed them there, some dozen birds, each in mottled plumage with the black subterminal band on the tail. On the 26th when returning from the Shoals to the Government wharf at Portsmouth, four Ring-bills were noted there, and at Duck Island, Isles of Shoals, on both the 20th and 25th, several Ring-bills joined the Herring Gulls in showing displeasure at our intrusion. These birds were in adult plumage but had a very narrow black subterminal band on the tail that in two instances was faded to a dirty brown.

The increase from three (and possibly seven) pairs of Black-backs (*Larus marinus*) breeding at Duck Island in 1928, to twelve and possibly more pairs in 1933, is gratifying. This larger Gull, I determined, is not nesting on Duck Island itself but prefers, instead, the smaller rocks clustered about the island—Shag, Mingo and Eastern Rocks. Unlike the young Herring Gulls which scatter more or less from the nest and each other, young Black-backs were found to linger in the vicinity of the nest while the broods kept in close company; true even of four fully-grown birds well able to fly.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

Additional 1932 New Hampshire Dovekie Records.—Since the publication "The Dovekie Influx of 1932," by Murphy and Vogt in the July, 1933 'Auk,' some unpublished records have come to my attention.

Mr. James P. Melzer tells me he received a Dovekie (*Alle alle*) for mounting which was picked up in November on a main street in Nashua, N. H. He also, long after the storm, picked up a badly decomposed bird washed up on Hampton Beach.

Mr. Luman Nelson tells me he was at the New Hampshire coast when the storm of November 9 struck and when the Dovekie flight began in the afternoon. Out of the many picked up along the Rye Beach section, the next morning he selected eight which he later preserved; their stomachs were empty. He says that literally hundreds came to grief along the New Hampshire coast.—LEWIS O. SHELLEY, *East Westmoreland, N. H.*

Large Sets of Ground Dove Eggs.—On April 29, 1925 I found a nest of the Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina passerina*) among briars, two feet above the ground. As I approached the Dove flew off

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and went directly to a nearby tree without feigning lameness like they usually do. Turning my attention to the nest I was surprised to see that it contained three eggs. The nest was composed of fine grass and Spanish moss. This made the second set of three eggs of the Ground Dove that I had found, the other being in a similar situation. Both were located inside the city limits of Orlando, Florida. WRAY H. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Florida*.

The Black Swift (*Nephoecetes niger niger*) in St. Croix.—During a few hours spent ashore at Frederiksted, St. Croix, on July 23, 1933 the writer observed at close range a Black Swift (*Nephoecetes niger niger*) hawking for insects in the company of about twenty Caribbean Martins (*Progne dominicensis*). There is no previous record of the occurrence of this or any other Swift in St. Croix, or, in fact, in any of the Virgin Islands.—STUART T. DANFORTH, *University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico*.

Speed of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird's Flight.—On September 2, 1933, I was making a fast trip by auto from Washington to the Allegheny Mountains in Virginia beyond Harrisonburg. Not far out of Warrenton we had settled down to a speed of fifty miles per hour on highway 211, when a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) suddenly paralleled our course along the side of the roadway as if deliberately racing with us. It actually passed us for a short distance keeping straight with our course, then swerved away. Its speed appeared to be somewhere between 55–60 miles per hour. Since the bird did not seem to be frightened, for we were not chasing it, this probably represented a normal flight sally.—H. A. ALLARD, *U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

Food of the Gila Woodpecker (*Centurus uropygialis uropygialis*).—In the Tucson, Arizona, area a gall-insect (*Pachypsylla venusta*) frequently attacks the leaves of the hackberry tree (*Celtis reticulata*). The galls form on the leaf petiole, becoming from a quarter to half an inch in diameter. During the winter the outer shell hardens like a nut.

I have often seen the Gila Woodpeckers tear the galls loose from the twigs and, flying to a fence post, proceed to chisel out the contents. The hard gall is wedged into a crack on the post and then opened by repeated hammering. Around the base of one fence post I counted nearly 300 empty shells. Sometimes cracks in nearby trees are used. At one time five of these Woodpeckers were seen in a single tree, all of them feeding on the galls.

According to Dayton (Important Western Browse Plants, U. S. Dept. Agr. Misc. Publ., no. 101, 1931, p. 25) a related species of hackberry (*C. douglasii*) is also heavily galled by a *Pachypsylla*. This plant, which is found in the northwestern United States, is outside the range of the Gila