

observed by the writer, were noted by other observers in Iowa during the 1934 spring migration.—PHILIP A. DUMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa*.

The Lesser Black-backed Gull in New Jersey.—On September 9, 1934, Mr. C. A. Urner and the writer saw a Gull at Beach Haven, Ocean Co., N. J., which we feel certain was a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus fuscus*). We found a flock of about 25 Gulls standing on the ocean beach at the inlet just south of Beach Haven. The birds were all Herring Gulls with the exception of two.

One of these was an adult Great Black-backed Gull. The other bird on first glance appeared to be the same but as it stood in the midst of the Herring Gulls we noticed that it did not exceed them in size and was considerably smaller than the Great Black-backed Gull which was standing about twenty feet away. Fortunately we recalled that there was a difference in the color of the feet and legs in the Lesser Black-backed Gull and we concentrated our attention on these parts. The legs were seen to be yellow instead of dull pinkish as were the legs of the Herring Gulls and the Great Black-backed Gull. When we first saw the bird it was standing between us and the rising sun. In order to make sure that the light conditions were not responsible for the apparent differences in leg color we circled to get the sun at our backs. We found that the difference in color was striking under any condition of light.

Careful comparison of the size of the bird with the Herring Gulls showed that it might be slightly larger than some of them but it was slightly smaller than others. The color of the back appeared to be the same as that of the Great Black-backed Gull. This would indicate that the bird belonged to the northern race known as *Larus fuscus fuscus* and not to the western race, more frequently found in the British Isles, which has a lighter mantle. We had the bird under observation, using 7 and 8 power binoculars, for about half an hour under excellent light conditions at a distance of about 75 yards.

The circumstances, which made possible direct size and color comparisons with the Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, make this sight record, for a bird which has apparently never before been reported from the United States, worthy of consideration.—JAMES L. EDWARDS, *Montclair, N. J.*

Probable Occurrence of Little Gull in Massachusetts.—On June 7, 1934, the writers made a short afternoon trip to Nahant, Essex County, in search of late shore-birds. While driving down the causeway, we stopped to look over Lynn Harbor with our glasses, and saw a flock of ten Bonaparte's Gulls, alternately resting on the water and restlessly flying up for a short distance. With them was a slightly smaller bird, which in flight was instantly picked out by the dark under surface of the wings. A brief moment's observation was sufficient to check the fact that it was light gray above and white below, obviously a Gull, not a Tern, and we knew we were looking at a Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) of Europe. At first the flock was some distance off, and when the birds settled they almost disappeared. They gradually came nearer shore, however, and after the third restless move, the Little Gull was picked out on the water by its smaller size. On the wing the smaller size was even more obvious, and the dark under surface of the wing was easily visible and, of course, absolutely diagnostic. The bird was still in winter plumage, with dusky about eyes, ears and back of head, and as there was a broad tail band and some black and dusky near the tip of the wing, it was undoubtedly passing from the first winter to the second year non-nuptial plumage.

Unfortunately the bird could not be collected, as Lynn Harbor is sanctuary. In

spite of unremitting efforts on the part of Mr. S. G. Emilio and others, the bird could not be found again later that evening or the following day. There are no Massachusetts records, but there are two from Maine and several recent records from the vicinity of New York City, including the past spring. It is certainly surprising that all these records are between May and late August and in nearly every case the bird was associated with Bonaparte's Gulls. While we do not favor formal additions of birds to state lists without at least one specimen, this observation should at least call the attention of students to the desirability of carefully studying flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls at the proper season of the year, and how to distinguish this accidental visitor, if present.—JOHN H. CONKEY AND LUDLOW GRISCOM.

A Lengthened Egg-laying Interval in the Common Tern.—A series of observations of nests of the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo hirundo*) at a colony on the north shore of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence showed that the eggs in each nest were not laid on successive days, as is commonly true in birds, and has been believed to be true in this species, but that the eggs were laid at two or three day intervals. The observations were made at a colony of 1000 adult birds on Cormorant Island near Matamek Factory, in Moisie Bay, Saguenay County, Quebec, between July 13 and 23, 1934.

The nests were marked and records of the number of eggs were made each day. In no case under observation were any eggs laid on successive days but in several an interval of two or three days was noted. The records of the nests which show this are presented here in tabular form.

No. of nest	120	49	56	6	5	58	85	3	98	11	82
Number of eggs on successive days	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
(Read down)	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3
	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

In July, at the time of our observations, the Terns were laying a second clutch of eggs after the first had been taken by natives for food. It is therefore entirely possible that the first eggs are laid on successive days and that only the later eggs are not developed rapidly enough to be laid in so short a time. On the other hand this increase in length of time required for egg-laying may be characteristic of the Terns at the northern edge of the range of the species.—SEARS CROWELL, *Biological Laboratories of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.*

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) Breeding on the Lake Puckaway Marsh, Wis.—On May 23, 1934, Mr. Clarence Allen, of Milwaukee, reported a breeding colony of Forster's Terns out in the middle of the Lake Puckaway marsh and on the 29th, accompanied by Mr. I. J. Perkins of the Milwaukee Public Museum staff, he again visited the colony. They found it to consist of about 25 nests and are quite sure that there were more in the area not covered.

Some of the nests were in the process of construction while others contained from one to three eggs. Practically all were built within an area where the vegetation was quite thick, although several were placed out upon the exposed mud bogs. Some were composed of dead and some of green cat-tail blades, built up to an elevation of about three inches above the floating mud bog foundation. By comparison to the numerous nests of Black Terns they appeared quite bulky.