

entire continent—is a more formidable barrier to birds than water or even oceans. The Little Gull, for instance, has turned up quite a few times around New York in recent years.

We, therefore, feel justified in calling this Gull *Larus fuscus graellsii*. We give it the name *graellsii*, for our bird had a deep slate-gray back rather than the slaty back of the northern or Scandinavian race of the European Lesser Black-back (*Larus fuscus fuscus*).—JOHN AND RICHARD KUERZI, *New York City*.

**Iceland Gull (*Larus leucopterus*) in Rhode Island.**—The writer first saw a bird of this species, in what appeared to be the second year plumage, on the Blackstone River above Lonsdale on January 9, 1934, seven miles from the headwaters of Narragansett Bay. The bird was with a small flock of Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*). Although the locality was visited often by myself and occasionally by others, the bird was not seen again until nearly three months later, when on April 4, I again found it with Herring Gulls. On this occasion, a very fine view of the bird was obtained as he walked back and forth on a log forcing the Herring Gulls off into the water. Just after sunrise on April 15, I again saw him on the river with Herring and the newly arrived Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*). This was his last known visit to the locality.—ALFRED E. EYNON, *Lonsdale, R. I.*

**"Kumlien's Gull" at Brigantine—A Correction.**—After sending the note on the supposed occurrence of Kumlien's Gull on the New Jersey coast (Auk, 1934, p. 375) I sent the skull of the bird to Dr. Alexander Wetmore who declares it to be the Iceland Gull (*Larus leucopterus*) so I desire to cancel the record of *L. kumlieni* to which species from its larger measurements I supposed the specimen to belong.—W. STUART CRAMER, *216 Woodbine St., Harrisburg, Pa.*

**The Type Specimen of Newton's Owl.**—Newton's Owl, *Gymnasio nudipes newtoni* of St. Croix, Virgin Islands, was named by Lawrence<sup>1</sup> from a plate published by the Newtons in 'The Ibis' for 1859.<sup>2</sup> The figure, by J. Wolf, shows an adult bird resting on a large limb with the head and forepart of the body of another individual, obviously immature, showing beyond. While Lawrence in his discussion of the St. Croix bird refers to "figures" it is obvious from his remarks that his considerations are based on the characters of the adult individual since the immature bird is so young as to be in juvenile plumage without the definite markings of the adult.

In June, 1934, during a visit to the Norwich Castle Museum in Norwich, England, to examine the famous Gurney collection I was able to study the specimens of this Owl collected by the Newtons, these being the first of this race taken on St. Croix that I have seen.

The material included four specimens, two being adults, one a male labelled as follows "No. 4488, *Strix nudipes*, Gt. Fountain. St. X, W. I. G. S. Ewing, 11. 5. 58. ♂" and the other marked "No. 4489 ♀ (?) Great Fountain, St. Croix, W. I. 1-2 June 1857, Jos. Robson." The other two are immature.

On study of the adult birds it was evident that the plate in question was based on the male (No. 4488) since the other adult specimen is distinctly paler and less distinctly marked below with less crossbarring on the sides. Further the feathers beneath the eyes are missing, evidently from decomposition before preparation as a skin. The differences in color and marking are such that they would inevitably have influenced the artist in his composition of the plate. It appears therefore that the male

<sup>1</sup> *Gymnoglaux Newtoni* Lawrence, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, vol. 7, May, 1860, p. 258.

<sup>2</sup> *Gymnoglaux nudipes* Ibis, 1859, pp. 64-66, plate.

is to be considered the type specimen of this race, though it has not been recognized as such previously.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**An Early Nesting Date for the Great Horned Owl.**—The Great Horned Owl, (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*) has a questionable economic status, but in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas more evidence of its destructiveness must be presented to offset its value as a destroyer of the innumerable rodents such as the rabbits, rats, mice, gophers, moles and ground squirrels.

On January 10, 1935, a Quail hunter brought to the writer a freshly killed female from several miles north of Edinburg, Texas. With it he brought two eggs (55 mm. x 45 mm. and 53 mm. x 46 mm.) on which the bird was sitting when shot. The skin was preserved. When the eggs were blown, the embryos were judged to be five or six days old, making the date of laying about January 4 to 5. This is probably one of the earliest nesting dates for the Valley.

A pellet about to be disgorged contained bones and hair of a rodent apparently *Microtus*. Numerous other Hawk and Owl pellets secured from various other sources indicate a predominant preference for rodents in this area.—STANLEY MULAİK, *Edinburg, Texas.*

**Arkansas Kingbird in Massachusetts.**—On Friday, November 16, 1934, Mr. J. D. Smith, preparator for the Boston Society of Natural History, shot an adult female Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) at Westport, Massachusetts.

Apparently this is the first or possibly the second adult bird actually taken in Massachusetts, all the others being immature, but there have been numerous sight records of late. It was fat and in good condition and is now in the mounted collection of the Boston Society of Natural History.—CHANDLER ROBBINS, JR., *Boston Post Road, Weston, Mass.*

**The Vermilion Flycatcher in Louisiana.**—On December 22, 1934, I secured a specimen of the Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) at Avery Island, Louisiana. This is, I believe, the first actual capture of the species in the state, although I have seen it on one or two previous occasions when no means of capture were at hand.—E. A. McILHENNY, *Avery Island, La.*

**Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) in Florida.**—On November 29, 1934, I picked up in my yard a dead Hummingbird, which is now in the U. S. Biological Survey collection identified as the Rufous Hummingbird.

The bird was first seen by my mother on November 26, and I saw two on November 27. I realized that they were not the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but as I had no collecting permit, no specimen was secured at the time. Although I saw only one bird after picking up the specimen, C. R. Mason of Sanford, Fla., reported that he saw two at my home on December 10. This bird was seen almost daily through December 13, feeding mainly on one Chinese Hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*). Its departure was evidently due to the killing of its food plant by freezing temperatures.

The only other record for the eastern United States is a specimen in the Charleston Museum, taken in Charleston, South Carolina, on December 18, 1909 (Auk, vol. XLVI, p. 237).—ROBERT C. McCLANAHAN, *Pensacola, Florida.*

**The Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird—Commensals?**—In a previous note (Auk, L, p. 437) the writers reported the nesting of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus v. varius*) in the Virginia Blue Ridge.