

tion of the specimen disclosed it to be an immature female. Dr. J. W. Leonard of the Institute for Fisheries Research examined the food in the partly filled stomach. This food consisted of numerous small Diptera of the series Brachycera; many small Hymenoptera of the family Chalcididae; several minute Coleoptera of the suborder Rhynchophora; several fragments, in early instar stages, of Hemiptera of the family Gerridae; a few fragments of Ephemeroptera; and sparse fragments of a terrestrial arachnid. Because of the finely triturated condition of the contents, generic and specific determinations of the remains could not be made. In an examination of thirty-six stomachs of the Red Phalarope that were taken from the vicinity of the Pribilof Islands (Alaska), New York and Maine, Dr. Alexander Wetmore ('Food of American Phalaropes, Avocets, and Stilts,' Bull. U. S. Dept. of Agric., no. 1359, p. 3, 1925) found that Crustacea was the group of animals best represented. No free-swimming Crustacea or other planktonic forms were found in the stomach of the Whitmore Lake bird, although at the time of capture the lake contained a large pulse of these animals, of which some forms were comparatively large in size. The Red Phalarope has been recorded previously only about five times in Michigan.—MILTON B. TRAUTMAN, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan*.

Atlantic Kittiwake in Wisconsin.—On February 1, 1938, John Schaeffer reported a Kittiwake in the Milwaukee Harbor. On February 4, the Milwaukee Museum men took the bird for a specimen. It proved to be an Atlantic Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*) in immature plumage. While we have several sight records of the Kittiwake in Wisconsin (Dr. Hoy, 1853 and 1870, and Walter Mueller, 1930) this is, as far as I know, the first specimen taken in Wisconsin.—MURL DEUSING, *Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin*.

Unusual perching habit of the Black Tern.—While engaged on a sanctuary-inspection trip in Texas during June 1937, what seems to be a unique departure on the part of the Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*) in perching, was noted by the writer, Robert P. Allen and Guy Emerson, of New York, and J. J. Carroll, of Houston, Texas. While passing the several bayous which make up part of the Guadeloupe River Bottoms, Victoria County, several hundred of these birds were seen fishing. Running parallel with the highway was a line of poles carrying wires, and many of the terns were resting on these! At some little distance, they were taken to be swallows, as it is a typical swallow habit; but of course, closer approach showed what the birds were. At the point where most of them were congregated, the line was no more than thirty or forty feet from the road. The terns were massed on the wires thickly, to the extent of several hundred, and many were leaving or alighting on the wires continually.

During Mr. Carroll's long residence in Texas and in spite of his extensive knowledge of ornithology, it was the first time he had ever seen such a thing, and it was utterly new to the rest of us. Subsequent inquiry among friends and acquaintances of the writer have failed to reveal anyone who has seen this done by the Black Tern. Observers in the New York City region have failed to recall the procedure in that area, at least those who have been questioned. Everyone to whom the writer has spoken has been so interested, that it seems advisable to ask whether anyone anywhere has noted this behavior of the species.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *Natl. Assoc. Audubon Socs., Charleston, South Carolina*.

Development of remiges in the Atlantic Murre.—While the general appearance of the juvenal and the first-winter plumage of the Atlantic Murre (*Uria aalge aalge*) has been known for a long time, it has never been recognized that the young

bird at the time of leaving the nest island and going to the water has no remiges. The presence of well-developed greater, median and lesser coverts has led ornithologists to suppose that these were the small juvenal primaries and secondaries. Bent (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 107, 1919) says: "There are no white tips on the secondaries in this plumage." The birds which Verwey (*Ardea*, vols. 11 and 12) examined, had apparently all developed the primaries and secondaries before they came in to the Dutch coast, and so he did not notice their absence in the young birds. But in a young bird which he took September 3, 1921, he noted that "all remiges are growing, they are also growing with distinct hornsheaths." In another young bird of October 15, 1921, he noted: "Primary coverts don't seem to be moulted."

The full significance of what Verwey just missed observing in these young birds came to me through my study of captive birds. In a paper read before the A. O. U. at the Quebec meeting in 1932, I described the development of the first flight feathers (primaries and secondaries) in the young bird as follows: "When the young birds are ready to leave the nest-island or ledge the greater coverts are from one inch to one and a half inches in length. By careful examination the very small neossoptiles on the primaries may be seen. After the bird has been in the water from three to four weeks (judging from captive birds) the first appearance of primaries and secondaries may be seen. All these feathers appear and develop at the same time, and the coverts which have up to this time been the main feathers of the wing apparently serve to protect the incoming soft primaries and secondaries from becoming broken as the wing is used in the dive. These coverts are retained and the primaries and secondaries grow rather fast. In about two weeks they will have become greater in length than the coverts which have been protecting them. They are in every respect like the feathers of adult birds and, I believe, are retained through the first winter. The birds which Bent described (1919) as having no white tips in the secondaries had, of course, only coverts since at that age the remiges had not appeared. Apparently the young birds begin to develop this first set of flight feathers about one month after they leave the nest colony. In my opinion, they do not actually fly much before October."

One can readily see the many advantages such a plan for plumage development has. Since the young birds do not get into the water (on the North Shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence) until late July or August and then as extremely undeveloped small birds, it would be a great hardship to moult a juvenal set of flight feathers and grow another set for the first winter. As it is, the small wing of the bird when it leaves the nest-island has some time to grow before these large flight feathers are produced. In the meantime well-developed coverts aid the bird in propelling itself under the water. The illustration (Plate 18, upper figure) shows the wing of a young captive Murre seven weeks of age with the white-tipped secondaries coming in under the coverts. The primaries have already developed beyond the length of their coverts.—ROBERT A. JOHNSON, 150 East St., Oneonta, New York.

'White-eyed' Murres in the British Isles.—In 'The Auk' (vol. 55, p. 59) Mr. R. A. Johnson makes the somewhat astonishing suggestion that selective collecting of individuals and eggs of the 'White-eyed' Murre may be responsible for the small proportion now occurring in the southern parts of the British Isles. On the Yorkshire Coast the colonies, which extended for several miles, have been encroached upon by Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*) and Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis*) of late years. Nelson, in 1907, estimated the annual take of eggs here at 130,000. This probably represents a little over two eggs from each pair, but even allowing three eggs per pair