

forward portion; wings entirely black above, but the saddle, or back, was of a lighter shade, with a distinct brownish cast. That the bird was a Lesser Black-backed Gull was as obvious as anything could well be. Happily, Dr. Murray was familiar with the bird, having seen hundreds of them on a European trip recently. He concluded at the time that it was the British Black-back (*Larus fuscus fuscus*) but we subsequently found that it was possible to confuse this bird with the Yellow-footed Gull, that form of the Western Gull known as *Larus occidentalis livens*.

Dr. Murray, having to be in New York shortly afterward, went to the American Museum of Natural History and spent some while there going over skins of these gulls, and has reached the following conclusion. *L. o. livens* and *L. f. graellsii* are so similar that identification in the field is hardly possible. However, this does not apply to the Scandinavian form, *L. f. fuscus*, which is darker than either *graellsii* or *livens*, and in addition, has brown on the back which neither of the others has. The Key West bird certainly had brown in the back, and he says that "we are entirely justified in reporting it as *Larus fuscus fuscus*." This is the first record for Florida or any part of the South, and the second for North America, one having been seen September 9, 1934, in New Jersey by Charles A. Urner and James L. Edwards (Auk, 52: 85, 1935). Though aware of the fact that the above is a sight record, it appears so conclusive that no hesitation is felt in giving the record.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, South Carolina.

**Herring Gulls following the plow.**—During the last two years around the New York City region I have been extremely interested in the apparently newly acquired habit of the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) of following the farmer's plow in search for food. In other sections of the United States I have seen the Ring-billed Gulls and, of course, the Franklin's Gulls acting in this manner. On the other hand, I have known the Herring Gull quite intimately for a score of years on both breeding and wintering grounds, but not until the last two years have I seen them fluttering, gliding and diving behind the plow. Until recent years the ever increasing number of wintering gulls around New York City depended on the extensive city rubbish-disposal centers for a great deal of food. Today we find these waste dumps disappearing and the efficient incinerators taking care of all refuse disposal. Perchance this change in one of our major concentration areas of wintering Herring Gulls is causing them to seek new sources of food; and perchance within a few years these birds will be frequent companions of the farmer.—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK, *National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York City.*

**Food of young Laughing Gulls.**—At Stone Harbor, New Jersey, on July 11, 1937, I was banding young Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*). During the process several of the birds disgorged their food. One disgorged twenty-three Japanese beetles, which would indicate that this bird is another potential enemy of the beetle.—HERBERT BUCKALOW, 611 East 2d St., Milford, Delaware.

**Nelson's Downy Woodpecker from Colorado.**—In working over the Downy Woodpeckers in the collection of The Colorado Museum of Natural History, we have found that three races are represented in the State. The resident Batchelder's Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens leucurus*) is the common form; the Northern Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens medianus*) has been recorded from the eastern part of the State (Lincoln, Proc. Colorado Mus. Nat. Hist., 1913) and is represented in our collection by five specimens. This past season two examples of Nelson's Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens nelsoni*) were taken and it may be that the majority of small woodpeckers wintering in the northern portion of the State, which have

been assumed to be *leucurus*, will prove to be *nelsoni*. The first two of the latter, a typical female and male, were taken by Robert L. Landberg, of the Museum staff, at Rockport, Weld County, Colorado, on January 23, 1938 (C.M.N.H. nos. 18337-8). These specimens are of large size and have prominent white wing-markings and almost immaculate, unbarred tails. In addition, there are two other specimens in the collection (C.M.N.H. nos. 13739 and 18563) taken at Swink, Otero County, October 30, 1908, and at Barr Lake, Adams County, Colorado, on February 26, 1938, respectively, that are as large as *nelsoni* with wing-markings the same, but with tails more heavily barred, which are intermediate between *nelsoni* and *leucurus*. The above specimens were submitted to George Willett, of the Los Angeles Museum, and we are indebted to him for his determinations.—ALFRED M. BAILEY AND ROBERT J. NIEDRACH, *The Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado*.

**Data from ninety Eastern Crows.**—At 4 a. m. on March 9, 1938, a crow roost near Sharon, Rock County, Wisconsin, was dynamited, killing well over 5,000 Eastern Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*). On the next day two men assisted the writer in a search for bands but none was found on the entire lot. It was noticed, however, that a number of birds had lost part of their toes or legs. Ninety birds were picked up at random and given to Dr. T. T. Chaddock, Veterinarian of the Wisconsin Conservation Department, for posting. As a result of his examination it was found that the gizzards in all but one specimen were entirely empty of food and that the males and females were almost equal in numbers. Of seventy-seven specimens, an estimate of age showed twenty-three to be old birds and fifty-four young. Old birds ranged in weight from 419 to 567 grams and averaged 492.33 grams; while young birds ranged from 335.5 to 588.41 grams and averaged 498.14 grams. Of the twenty-three old birds, fourteen were females and eight were males. Females (44) averaged heavier than males at 496.48 grams and ranged between 401.7 and 588.4 grams. Males (45) averaged 486.65 grams and ranged between 329.8 and 576.4 grams. The heaviest bird (a female) weighed 588.4 grams or 1 pound 4.75 ounces, while the lightest bird (a male) weighed 329.8 grams or 11.63 ounces. Fatty degeneration of the liver was noted in sixty-nine of the ninety specimens and other diseases were observed. Measurements of the testes and ovaries were secured and furnished to C. T. Black, of the Illinois Natural History Survey, to assist in a cooperative crow investigation now in progress. The need for more banding of crows was clearly evident and should be encouraged. Although the dynamiting of this roost is of small account compared to activities in some more southerly States, the writer sincerely hopes that this first experience will also be the last for Wisconsin.—WALTER E. SCOTT, *Wisconsin Conservation Department, Madison, Wisconsin*.

**Chickadee neurasthenia.**—I have had a number of experiences with Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus atricapillus*) which suggest a type of nervous debility, perhaps due to a corresponding excitement. Two of these experiences I would like to record.

Five Chickadees were feeding at our second-story shelf, carrying sunflower seeds to trees about twenty feet away and there opening them and eating the meats. Suddenly, one bird swung under the twig on which it had been cracking a seed, and hung upside down by both feet. All the rest, except one, flew away, so I suspect something frightened them at the moment this happened. The remaining active Chickadee twice approached the unconscious (?) one, uttering sharp, high notes. It exhibited concern, but in a few moments flew off. The stricken Chickadee hung motionless swaying slightly with the wind like a dead leaf. This lasted for about four minutes and then the bird came to, as suddenly as the spell had descended upon it. Im-