

In 1926, Griscom (Amer. Mus. Novitates, no. 235, p. 7) extended the known range of the Herring Gull to Belize, British Honduras. Records in the U. S. Biological Survey extend the range to Panama. Two banded Herring Gulls have been reported from Honduras: one from the Beaver Islands, Lake Michigan, at Puerto Castilla; and one from Kent Island, New Brunswick, at Tela. Three Herring Gulls banded June 27, 1937, on Hat Island, Green Bay, Wisconsin, were found six months later in Guatemala, one at San Marcos in the northwestern part and two at Tiquisate in the southern part. Ten birds banded on islands in Lake Huron were reported about six months later at Puerto Barrios, Guatemala. At Rio Grande Bar, Nicaragua, on February 8, 1938, a Herring Gull was caught that had been banded as a young bird the previous June on Black River Isle, Lake Huron. Herring Gull B 611058, banded as a young bird July 20, 1930, at Isles of Shoals, New Hampshire, was shot December 10, 1933, at Bocas del Toro, Panama, our southernmost record to date. In the West Indies banded Herring Gulls have been taken in winter along the north coast of Cuba as far east as Nipe Bay; also on Cayman Brac, and near Kingston, Jamaica.

From this evidence it seems that the winter range of the Herring Gull in the 'Check-list' should be revised to read "south to the Bahamas, Cuba, Jamaica, and southern Mexico; occasionally south to Panama." This possibly indicates an extension of range in recent years, as well as more exact information on the subject.—MAY THACHER COOKE, U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

**Franklin's Gull in New York State.**—On October 15, 1939, on the beach at Ontario Beach Park on Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Genesee River north of Rochester, New York, I found a dead Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). The bird was almost completely in the first-winter plumage. Identification was definitely established at the Field Museum, Chicago, where the specimen is now preserved. The plumage was almost all present except on the breast and back where the bird had been torn open and completely eviscerated, apparently by Ring-billed and Herring Gulls which were present in large numbers. Because of the evisceration it was impossible to determine the sex. This is apparently the first recorded instance of this species in New York State.—GORDON M. MEADE, M.D., 260 Crittenden Boulevard, Rochester, New York.

**Gull-billed Tern breeding in Florida.**—In his 'Florida Bird Life', Mr. Arthur H. Howell does not list the Gull-billed Tern (*Gelocheilidon nilotica aranea*) as a breeding bird for that State. Indeed, the intimation is that the species is decidedly uncommon. He gives the record which added the bird to the State list, viz., that of a specimen secured by A. F. Mears on December 17, 1886, in Hillsborough County. This specimen is now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology. He then lists sight records of three other observers, which covers the information.

For the past two seasons, the writer has noted numbers of these birds along the highway from Lakeport to Lake Okeechobee, skirting the northern edge of the lake. Not then realizing its rarity, and the apparently complete lack of breeding records, he made no effort to locate a nesting colony. However, during June 1939, while investigating conditions in the lake, just off the mouth of the Kissimmee River, with Audubon Warden Marvin Chandler, I saw numbers of the birds, and Chandler casually mentioned that there was a nesting colony of "about one hundred pair" nearby! Sure enough, there was.

On the June trip, the eggs had all hatched and the young were hiding here and there in the grasses, while the adults hung overhead, uttering the characteristic

*cac-cac-cac*. With the meager photographic outfit possessed by the writer, no pictures were possible unfortunately. Not a hundred pairs were in evidence on June 27, but Chandler stated that the great majority had already dispersed. Breeding peak is late May and early June. In his present surroundings the writer has no access to a file of 'The Auk,' since Howell's book appeared (1932) so cannot state positively that this is the first nesting record for Florida, but that is entirely possible.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., *R. F. D. No. 1, Charleston, South Carolina*.

**Antipathy in the Screech Owl.**—When five juvenal Eastern Screech Owls (*Otus asio naevius*) were taken from the nest and raised by hand in the course of a study at Cornell University, a peculiar antipathy was revealed which I have not noted in young of other birds. The word 'antipathy' is used here to mean an instinctive feeling of aversion or dislike.

Having been taken from the nest at the age of twelve to thirteen days, before their eyes were open, it was certain that they had not seen any other birds, except Robins and English Sparrows at a considerable distance, before they were sixty days old. Previous to this time it was found that both juvenal and adult Screech Owls were unresponsive to stuffed skins of their own and many other species of birds, including such enemies as the Goshawk, Barred and Horned Owls. On about their sixtieth day of life an ordinary cabinet specimen of the American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), having the usual cotton-stuffed eyes and lifeless attitude, was carried into their room. Immediately all five displayed great horror in their owlish way, like Macbeth seeing Banquo's ghost. The skin was shown them many times that day, being simply held toward them in the hand, and evoked the same response, dread, then fear, then flight or fight.

If the skin was slowly thrust into view through the doorway the owls erected their ear-tufts and continuously uttered a loud chattering note which they usually give only when in a state of extreme anxiety. They would glare at the Crow with irises more contracted than was normal in proportion to the intensity of light in the room. When the skin came to within two feet of any one of the owls, the bird would crouch with wings and feathers spread in the defensive attitude characteristic of owls. As the skin came within reach the juvenal would either peck at the head with its bill (Plate 4, lower figure) or leap forward and strike the head of the Crow with both feet, and then fly to the opposite side of the room. Repetition of the experiment nearly every day for three months failed to lessen the intensity of this reaction. After the owls were five months old, however, the antipathy became less pronounced and was limited to the loud chattering. New surroundings or strange people inhibited their demonstration very little. The same aversion was shown to a Raven skin. The smallest owl showed slight fear of a Starling specimen.

The question naturally arose as to which characteristics of the Crow skin aroused the antipathy. Experiments indicated that the black color plus the slight animation imparted by the observer's hand to the object served to arouse the aversion. If the Crow skin were wrapped with thin white cloth so that color was changed while the original shape of the skin was retained, the owls would disregard it. Let only the front half of the Crow's head be exposed and their aversion would be asserted again. They would not show aversion merely to any black object or bird, as was shown by many trials with a variety of specimens. In addition, an element of vigor, the slight animation imparted to the skin when held in the observer's hand, was necessary to evoke their antipathy. When the specimen was laid on a stationary surface, such as a shelf or a bookcase, the owls would relax, and, later, sit near or