

brown; the primaries were black, with the ends of the feathers faintly edged with ash. The head was white, with dark streaks especially conspicuous on the hind neck. The tail was white, merging into a broad brown band.

I had never seen a gull with these characteristics before, and wrote to Mr. Ludlow Griscom about it. He replied that it was doubtless a California Gull (*Larus californicus*) in intermediate plumage, but under the circumstances I agreed with him that the sight record was not publishable.

On March 17, 1946, however, I saw this bird again and was able to check its characters carefully. The bill and legs appeared to be slightly paler than in October and there was less streaking on the hind neck; otherwise, it appeared to be as it had been before. Probably it had been wintering on the flats near the Naval Technical Training Center, Ward Island, a mile from the Naval Air Station. Opportunity for collecting in this locality are limited, so the sight record is published now. The only other record of the California Gull on the Texas coast is of a specimen taken over seventy years ago near Galveston.—FRED MALLERY PACKARD, *Lieutenant Commander, Corpus Christi, Texas.*

The American Pintail breeding in New York.—On July 9, 1945, the junior author encountered a female American Pintail (*Anas acuta taitzihoa*) with a brood of nine young about a week old on the Perch River flat seven miles north-northwest of Watertown in Jefferson County, New York. One of the ducklings became entangled in vegetation and was taken by hand. It was prepared as a study skin and deposited in the bird collection of Cornell University. This apparently constitutes the first known record of the Pintail breeding in New York.

Perch River flat consists of dense to open swamp as well as extensive marsh land and low-lying pasture. The river itself, with a stream bed hardly more than ten yards wide at any point, is confined to its channel in dry years, and in normal summers much of the emergent aquatic vegetation of the flat is found growing in habitat containing too little water to prove attractive to ducks. In the summer of 1945, because of continued heavy rains, the water level on the flat was maintained at a point much higher than normal. As a consequence, conditions for brood production by the principal nesting species, Black Ducks (*Anas rubripes*) and Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*), as well as for the Pintail, were unusually favorable.

Substantial numbers of Pintails appear upon the Perch River flat each spring. In 1945, this movement occurred in two waves; the first and somewhat lesser one reached a peak during the last week in March; the second attained maximum proportions in mid-April when approximately one thousand birds were estimated to be present. By the end of the first week in May the migrants had moved on.

Even after the migratory wave had passed, Pintails continued to be seen. For example, on May 21 two pairs plus two extra drakes were noted, and on June 15 one pair and an extra drake were observed. This led to the suspicion that nesting birds were present. As a consequence, discovery of the female and brood on July 9 was not unanticipated. Also on this same day the junior author discovered a second female, several hundred yards down stream from the point where the breeding record was established, feigning injury and manifesting deep concern over his presence. Her behavior clearly suggested a second brood, but diligent search failed to reveal its presence.—H. L. KURTZ, *Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Project 20-R, New York State Conservation Department, Chaumont,* and DAVID G. ALLEN, *208 Kline Road, Ithaca, New York.*