

grubs and a large amount of green grass and alfalfa leaves. The bill of this specimen measured  $7\frac{1}{8}$  inches in length.—ERNEST J. GREENWALT, *Wichita Mts. Wildlife Refuge, Cache, Oklahoma.*

**Cattle Egret in Surinam, Dutch Guiana.**—While watching birds on March 10, 1946, near Nieuw Nickerie, Surinam, I found a number of herons assembled in a swamp behind the small fringe of wood which borders the coast between the rivers Corantijn and Nickerie. Beside Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), always very common in the rice fields bordering this swamp on the land side, there were several Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*), Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*) and Louisiana Herons (*Hydranassa tricolor*). Among a group of Snowy Egrets, a small white heron of just the same size drew my attention at a distance by having an orange yellow bill instead of a black one. Happily I could approach this group of birds until I was quite near, as herons in this region are, as a rule, very tame. To my great astonishment I saw that it was a Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). It was of just the same size as the Snowy Egrets, its bill was orange-yellow, its legs and feet dark yellow, it had a small buffish tuft on its crown and buff feathers on the mantle. After I flushed the bird, these buff feathers on crown and mantle were very conspicuous when it settled again in a shrub. As several herons of different species were feeding in its company, I could easily compare these field marks. Nevertheless I very much regretted in having no gun with me at that time so that I was not able to collect the bird and that I now have to content myself by giving this interesting observation as a sight record. This seems to be the first record for Surinam and the third one for South America; it was recorded before from British Guiana (Auk, 56: 470, 1939) and Venezuela (Auk, 61: 656, 1944). Now that three birds have been recorded in different years and at widely separated localities, it seems unlikely that they were escaped captive birds.—FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, 14 *Waterkant, Paramaribo, Surinam.*

**Pintail in Surinam, Dutch Guiana.**—Among a few bird skins from Surinam assembled by Dr. D. C. Geyskes of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Paramaribo, I found a young male Pintail (*Anas acuta tzitzihoa*). It was shot by a local hunter early in January, 1946, near Nieuw Nickerie, District Nickerie, Surinam. Never having seen this kind of duck in that region, he took it to the District Commissioner who forwarded the bird, which was only wing-tipped, to Dr. Geyskes who made a skin of it. I believe this to be the first record for Surinam and to be the southernmost record for South America.—FR. HAVERSCHMIDT, 14 *Waterkant, Paramaribo, Surinam.*

**Notes on the Arctic Tern in Alexander Archipelago, Southeastern Alaska** (Plate 6).—On June 23, 1945, Edward L. Kiethahn and I visited a small colony of *Sterna paradisaea* on a tiny island in the fresh-water lake in front of the 'dead' Mendenhall Glacier which is located about 12 miles northwest of Juneau, Alaska.

The half-acre island is composed of gravel left by the glacier or pushed up by the action of the lake. The surface was carpeted with several species of mosses and lichens. A few small willows and alders were found along the high north side of the island which rose to an elevation of near five feet above the lake surface.

The terns were noted in flight over Mendenhall Lake, making detours, quartering and diving in their search for food. At this season of the year, salmon two to three inches in length could be found in the lake and the streams which feed this body of water. The adults flushed when we were about a quarter of a mile from the island and immediately filled the air above the island in wild, yet graceful, dignified and

easy flight. Upon our landing, the adults darted with arrow-like onslaughts at our heads.

Twenty-three nests were found containing half-grown young to two and three eggs well darkened by incubation. The cup was a simple pit in the sand surrounded by a ring of mosses. These cups could be found here and there about the island as evidence that some of the young had left the nests. Only nests containing young or eggs were counted.

There were no signs of predation upon these terns and the only other nesting birds were a pair of Short-billed Gulls (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*) with two half-grown young which were banded along with several of the larger young terns. The bodies of three long-dead adult terns were found, and near a number of the cups could be found the bodies of downy young. There were no indications as to the cause of the mortalities, whether it was disease or weather.

On July 15, 1945, with an excursion party of 24, I visited a small ten-acre island at the end of the Tracy Arm, 65 miles south of Juneau, Alaska, where the Sawyer Glaciers enter the sea. The Sawyer Glaciers are known as active or 'alive' glaciers and are divided into the North and South Sawyer. The small island lies in the sea between these two huge masses of ice. The elevation of the island is well over a hundred feet and composed almost entirely of solid masses of igneous rocks. Mosses and lichens had gained a foothold in the cracks, scratches and crevices of the rocks and the higher portions were thickly covered with small cottonwoods, willows, spruce and alders intermixed with salmonberry and blueberry bushes.

A few Arctic Terns and Short-billed Gulls were flying above the island and fishing over the surrounding sea. On a finger or arm extending out from the main island towards the South Sawyer Glacier, I found the nesting area of the terns. This finger had an elevation of some twenty-odd feet and was carpeted with mosses and lichens. The 45 nests found on the crest of the ice-worn rock and surrounded by rings of mosses, contained two eggs; not a single nest containing more or fewer eggs was found, and to all appearances the eggs were fresh or early in the stage of incubation. A complete count of the colony was not made as a quarter of a mile of the glacier fell into the sea, forcing ice out towards our waiting craft. We had to leave the island to prevent being marooned by the ice.

Several pairs of Short-billed Gulls were observed on the island. Their young could take to the wing or, if unable to fly, were protected from sight by the foliage. No nest sites were found.

About a mile from the island on the sheer south wall of Tracy Arm was a huge colony of Glaucous-winged Gulls (*Larus glaucescens*) numbering in the neighborhood of 250 pairs. These large gulls had their nests among the scrub alders and brush on the almost perpendicular rock wall of the mainland. No attempts were made to land because of the sheer nature of the wall with no place to beach a skiff.

Bailey (Auk, 44: 1-23, 1927) reported a large colony of Arctic Terns nesting on the moraine in front of the 'dead' Norris Glacier, near the Taku Glacier south of Juneau, Alaska. He stated that at least a thousand pairs were using the debris-covered flats and that the season was well advanced by June 26-28. Arctic Terns are late arrivals along the Gastineau Channel; the first were recorded May 2, 1945, near Douglas Island.—RALPH B. WILLIAMS, Juneau, Alaska.

**Western Grebe in Massachusetts.**—In the 'Auk' for April, 1939, the writer reported observation of a Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis*, at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. On December 2, 1945, following a storm notable in the