

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

annals of the Weather Bureau, I walked several miles along the coast at Rockport, Massachusetts. Tremendous waves were pounding in and, although the day was one of brilliant sunshine, the air was filled with an invisible mist which constantly drenched my field-glasses. Some 25 Black Guillemots, *Cephus grylle grylle*, were scattered along the shore, being in many instances only a few yards from the rocks. To see more than three of this species from the mainland in one day is a rare event. Perhaps 40 American Eiders, *Somateria mollissima dresseri*, were flying aimlessly back and forth or resting near shore. While this species is found commonly inshore in numbers on Cape Cod, but few birds winter off Rockport and the species there stays well offshore. More rare yet was an Atlantic Puffin, *Fratercula arctica arctica*, a bird almost never seen from the mainland in Massachusetts. Apparently deciding the worst was over the bird headed far out to sea.

Folly Cove, so named because it faces practically due north and affords no shelter to any unsuspecting sailor, was a set-piece for the study of waterfowl. In this tiny basin, which could not contain a large schooner, were two White-winged Scoters, *Melanitta fusca deglandi*; a drake American Eider; two Common Loons, *Gavia immer immer*; a Red-throated Loon, *Gavia stellata*; a Horned Grebe, *Colymbus auritus*; three Holboell's Grebes, *Colymbus grisegena holboëllii*; and a Western Grebe.

Mr. Robert Walcott, President of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, saw presumably the same Western Grebe in the general region on December 9, 1945.—WENDELL TABER, *Cambridge, Massachusetts*.

**Cowbird young in western Oregon.**—In late May, 1946, two females and one male Nevada Cowbird (*Molothrus ater artemisiae*) appeared in my back yard here in Eugene, Oregon. Though it is an unusual bird west of the Cascades, here in Oregon, I did not record the date.

Then about June 10, I noticed a Rusty Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia morphna*) feeding a youngster almost its same size only much lighter in color and gray rather than brown. My observations of this bird were rather casual, and it was not until the sparrow began bringing its ungainly youngster to a feeding tray that I really took notice of it. Then its shorter tail, much differently shaped bill, and walking rather than hopping gait became evident.

The last day on which I saw the sparrow feed the young cowbird was June 26. At that time the youngster was one-quarter again larger than its foster parent.

The bird is still about (July 9), feeding itself a good deal of the time on a tray about eight feet from our kitchen window. It seems to prefer the seeds of millet to anything else that I have put out. Although it has very completely taken over the feeding tray and spends much of its time there it does not monopolize the tray. It pretty generally ignores any other birds on the tray and because of its larger size, they seldom bother it.

In correspondence with Dr. Stanley G. Jewett, Pacific Flyway Biologist for the Fish and Wildlife Service, I learn that this is the first definite record of the cowbird 'breeding' west of the Cascades in Oregon.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Eugene, Oregon*.

**Yellow-billed Loon on Long Island, New York.**—One day in June, 1930, the late Gerald H. Thayer brought to me the mandible of a bird that he had recently found on the shore of eastern Long Island. The carcass of the bird was so badly decomposed that he had made no attempt to salvage more than the fragment in question. A careful comparison of this with a variety of other skeletal material showed the bird to have been a Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsi*), and more recent reexamination has confirmed the earlier identification.