

A Gull New to North America.—On November 26, 1954, my attention was attracted to a strange gull among a large group of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), California Gulls (*L. californicus*), and Western Gulls (*L. occidentalis*) at the U. S. Naval Training Center on San Diego Bay, San Diego, California. This bird appeared slightly larger than a California Gull, possessed a dark mantle similar to that of a Western, and had the bright yellow legs and pale yellow iris of a Ring-billed. The bill was yellow basally, was crossed by a complete black band, and was tipped with red. Most striking was the well-marked complete black band on the white tail.

I first thought that the bird was an escape from the San Diego Zoo, but a check with Kenton C. Lint, Curator of Birds at the zoo, indicated that no gull of this description had been in captivity there in more than ten years. The only gulls fitting this description were the Belcher's Gull (*L. belcheri*) of South America and the Japanese Gull (*L. crassirostris*). The San Diego Zoo had a few of the former over a decade ago. A further check indicated that no other zoo on the West Coast had ever had either species in captivity.

I collected the bird on November 28, in the same locality, and it proved to be an adult female in excellent condition and rather fat. It disgorged several small fish upon being collected.

The specimen has been deposited in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology collection (catalogue No. 136,176) and was determined to be *Larus crassirostris* by Dr. Robert W. Storer. It marks the first occurrence of the Japanese Gull on the North American continent. LTJG. BURT L. MONROE, JR., *U. S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, California.*

Eastern Willet in Ohio.—On May 17, 1952, we collected a Willet at the State Fish Hatchery, Lake St. Marys, Ohio. In the field, the bird appeared very dark and small. Examination of this specimen in the hand convinced us that it belonged to the eastern race, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*. The specimen is a female in spring plumage, wing, 185 mm.; tail, 71 mm.; culmen, 51 mm.

The specimen was sent to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, who informed us that this was the only substantiated inland occurrence of this race for the United States since Rinker's record from Hamilton, Kansas (Auk, 31: 105, 1914), which was the only one included in the Fourth Edition of the A.O.U. Check-List (1931). The present location of the Rinker specimen could not be ascertained by the writers. Although there have been many published reports of the occurrence of this race from various inland localities, all specimens examined have been referable to the western subspecies, *C. s. inornatus*.

The Ohio specimen is now in the collection of the University of Cincinnati.—WORTH RANDLE and EMERSON KEMSIES, *University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

A new race of Least Bittern from Peru.—The population of *Ixobrychus exilis* in western Peru evidently pertains to an undescribed race for which I propose the name

Ixobrychus exilis peruvianus, new subspecies.

Type: A.N.S.P. no. 115899, adult male, collected February 6, 1932, by M. A. Carriker, Jr., at "Végeta" (= Végúeta), Department of Lima, Peru.

Diagnosis.—Readily distinguishable from the two other South American races, *I. e. erythromelas* (Vieillot) and *I. e. bogotensis* Chapman, by longer bill and much duller sides of head and neck and under parts. Most closely resembles *I. e. hesperis*