

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*

Dickey and van Rossem, of western North America, but sides of head and neck grayish brown, more or less tinged with buffy; under parts washed with buffy gray and ochraceous buff; center of abdomen buffy rather than white. The grayish hue of the under parts is quite striking in the three adult specimens examined.

Measurements of type.—Wing (pressed flat against ruler) 127, tail (from bases of middle rectrices) 44, bill (exposed culmen) 52.5, tarsus 44 mm.

A second adult male from Végueta has the following measurements: wing 126.5, tail 43, bill 52.5, tarsus 42.5 mm. A female in the British Museum from Trujillo has a wing of 122, bill 47.5 mm.

Range.—Coastal Peru, from the Department of Libertad (Trujillo, Pacasmayo) south to the Department of Lima ("Lima," Végueta).

Specimens examined.—*I. e. exilis*, long series from eastern North America; *I. e. hesperis*, 5 males and a female from Lower California; *I. e. bogotensis*, male (type) and female from Colombia; *I. e. erythromelas*, short series from the Guianas and Trinidad south to Bolivia; *I. e. peruvianus*, two adult males and a juvenile male from Végueta and a female from Trujillo.

Remarks.—The two adult males from Végueta were collected on February 2 and February 6, 1932; they had enlarged testes. The male in juvenal plumage, collected February 2, had evidently not been long out of the nest, for there is still a considerable amount of down adhering to the feathers, particularly on the pileum, scapulars, rump, upper tail coverts, and at the tips of the rectrices. Under these circumstances, I fail to understand why Mr. Carriker considered his specimens winter residents of *I. e. hesperis* of western North America (Auk, 1926, 53: 323). In addition to those collected, Carriker observed "several others, mostly immature birds," at Végueta, and the species has been recorded from Lima, October 10 and October 16, 1889 (Berlepsch and Stolzmann, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1892, p. 389) and from Trujillo, November 23, 1912, Chubb, Ibis, 1919, p. 272). Two adults from "Lima," mentioned by Hellmayr and Conover (Cat. Birds Amer., pt. 1, no. 2, 1948, p. 231, footnote 1) were referred to *I. e. hesperis*, but are presumably *peruvianus*.

Taczanowski's record of "*Ardetta involucris*" from Pacasmayo (Ornith., Pér., vol. 3, 1886, p. 399) probably also refers to *peruvianus*. *I. involucris* (Vieillot) is known to inhabit only the southern half of South America and the extreme northern portion of that continent, including Trinidad. Hellmayr and Conover (*op. cit.*, p. 230) suggest that northern individuals may be merely winter residents. However, Belcher and Smooker (Ibis, 1934, p. 582) have described eggs of *I. involucris* taken in Trinidad in July, August, and September. Mr. Smooker has shown me these, which are among the most remarkable and unmistakable of birds' eggs, for they are startlingly bright yellowish green, very different from those of *I. exilis*, a race of which, namely *I. e. erythromelas*, has also been found nesting in Trinidad (*loc. cit.*). Eggs of *I. involucris* had previously been collected in Argentina (Cat. Birds' Eggs Brit. Mus., vol. 2, 1902, p. 132; pl. 5, fig. 4). Apart from oölogical evidence that this species breeds in northern South America, I am able to record a female *I. involucris* in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia that had enlarged ovaries when collected in the Caroni Swamp, Trinidad, on July 17, 1931.

It is noteworthy that, as a result of the description of *I. e. peruvianus*, there is no evidence of the occurrence of any North American race of the Least Bittern in South America, except from northern Colombia.

In pursuance of this study, I wish to express my appreciation to the curators at the American Museum of Natural History, U. S. National Museum, British Museum, and Paris Museum for permission to examine series of *I. exilis* in their charge.—JAMES BOND, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*