

**Great Black-backed Gulls nesting on Little Haystack Island, Lake Huron.**

On July 1, 1954, during a trip to band Herring Gulls and Great Blue Herons at Little Haystack Island, one of the Fishing Islands along the west side of Bruce County, Ontario, in Lake Huron, I found two exceptionally large juvenile gulls. The feathers on these birds were well developed but not enough for them to fly. The plumage was much lighter than that of a similar-aged Herring Gull, and there was a distinct black band near the end of the tail, which terminated in a narrow white band. In these two features they resembled young Ring-billed Gulls rather than Herring Gulls. As number 6 bands were too small for their legs, I banded them with number 7 bands (numbers 517-30601 and 30602). As this area is so far from the recorded nesting range of any of the larger gulls, I first thought that they could be nothing more than abnormally large Herring Gulls.

During the next few days, I found it difficult to believe that I had properly identified these birds as Herring Gulls and felt that they might be Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*), especially after checking with Plate 15 in Volume 62 of 'The Auk.' Bad weather prevented me from returning to the island before July 10 when, on my arrival, I was quite elated to see three adult Great Black-backed Gulls resting about 100 yards away on the lake.

A search in the area, where I had previously found and banded the birds, soon produced one of them; and, on looking for a young Herring Gull of approximately the same development for comparison, I found a third young Black-back which I banded with band number 517-30603. While we were handling and photographing these two young ones, one of the adult Great Black-backed Gulls kept flying overhead and scolding at us. By this time I was certain that our birds were Great Black-backed Gulls, and the rest of our party, who came along to see them, were all in agreement.

As there were quite a number of Herring Gulls' nests on this island (we banded 201 young Herring Gulls on July 1 and 9 more on July 10) we could not differentiate any nest as specifically belonging to the Great Black-backed. However these birds must have been from one of the nests as they were too young to have flown there.

I took a tail feather from one of these Great Black-backed Gulls as well as one from a young Herring Gull for comparison. These feathers were given to the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology.

In checking with Mr. J. L. Baillie of that Museum, I found that there is no previous breeding record of this bird for Ontario, and I believe it is the first one for the Great Lakes. It will be interesting to see if this is the beginning of the extension of its nesting range to the whole Great Lakes area.

It might also be interesting to note that, about five months later on November 28, I noticed an immature Great Black-backed Gull with a flock of Herring Gulls at the Wiaraton Fishery Dock, which is on the Georgian Bay side of Bruce Peninsula and is about fifteen miles in a direct line from Little Haystack Island. This gull was banded on the right leg, as I had banded the ones in July and was possibly one of them.—HOWARD H. KRUG, *Chesley, Ontario*.

***Bubulcus ibis* in the Cauca Valley, Colombia.**—On May 11, 1954, while on a short visit to the Cauca Valley in western Colombia, I had the opportunity to observe from a relatively short distance—30 meters at the most—a flock of ten Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) in a pasture along the main highway about 3½ kilometers south of Guacarí, near the railroad crossing of Estación Ginebra, between Palmira and Buga, 980 meters above sea level. The locality, lying at 3° 43' North

latitude, is the southernmost one presently known in the Colombian range of *Bubulcus ibis*. Other Colombian records and notes on the increasing numbers of the Cattle Egret in South America have been recently published by the writer (Lozania [Acta Zoologica Colombiana] No. 8, pp. 1-7, January 23, 1954 and *Caldasia* 7, 31, pp. 83-87, 1955).

The birds seen in the Cauca Valley were, as is usual with this species, in the company of cattle and busily feeding on the insects stirred up by their passage in the low grass. They were in non-breeding plumage (entirely white) and the bills of most of them were conspicuously reddish-orange at the base. PROF. ARMANDO DUGAND, *Research Associate, Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional, Bogotá, Colombia, South America.*

**The Growth of a Chickadee's Tail Feathers.**—On a number of occasions I have seen birds that have lost their tail feathers. Probably this is not an uncommon experience with other field observers. How such things happen is difficult to say.

In the winter of 1946-1947 a flock of Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) fed at a shelf outside the kitchen window of my former home in Fairfield, Connecticut, where they could be observed from a distance of only two or three feet.

On December 14, 1946, I noted that one bird had lost its tail feathers. On December 23, I saw a new set of tail feathers growing out. They were far enough out so that the ends of the feathers reached the tips of the folded wings. On December 31, the new tail projected an inch beyond the wing tips. On January 4, 1947, I could no longer distinguish the bird from its companions, for the tail was practically full length.—ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *Canaan, Connecticut.*

**The Bean Goose and Other Birds from St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.**—In the past several years, the Eskimos living on St. Lawrence Island have secured a representative collection of birds for the Denver Museum of Natural History. In addition to the common species to be expected, there are several taken near Savoonga which should be recorded. These are

*Gavia viridigularis*, Green-throated Loon, male, June 8, 1953

*Colymbus griseigena*, Red-necked Grebe, immature male, October 3, 1953

*Puffinus tenuirostris*, Slender-billed Shearwater, unsexed, June 12, 1951

*Falco peregrinus anatum*, Duck Hawk, immature male, September 15, 1950

*Pagophila eburnea*, Ivory Gull, unsexed, May 25, 1951

*Aegolius funereus richardsoni*, Richardson's Owl, male, March 1, 1953

In addition to the above, there is an adult male (No. 26811) *Anser fabalis serrirostris*, shot May 8, 1952, near Savoonga. It represents an addition to the A.O.U. list and was forwarded to the Museum by Dr. Everett L. Schiller. The body had been removed from the skin, but the head and wings were mummified. Fortunately, the museum preparators were able to save the specimen. The goose and the owl were identified by Drs. Herbert Friedmann and Alexander Wetmore.—ALFRED M. BAILEY, *Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado.*