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TWO LABRADOR BANDING-RECORDS

By ALFRED O. GROSS

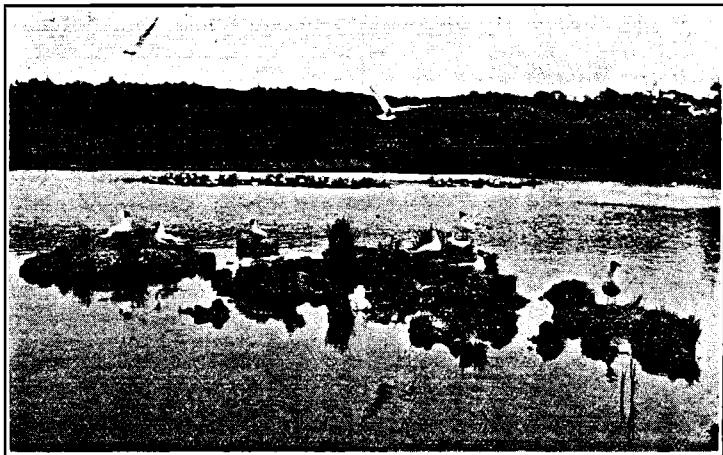
DURING the summer of 1934 the Bowdoin-MacMillan Arctic Expedition was made to the coast of Labrador under the leadership of Commander Donald B. MacMillan. The chief objective of the expedition was a study of the birds and plants of Labrador and a biological survey of the Button Islands.

In connection with the ornithological work we banded a number of birds, chiefly terns, gulls, and alcids, which comprise the great bulk of the individuals found among the many sea-bird colonies along the coast. It is yet too soon to receive any returns from our banding activities, but there are two records of banded birds found which are worthy of reporting at this time.

THE ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisæa*)

We found the Arctic Tern all along the coast of Labrador from the Straits of Belle Isle to Cape Chidley, and a number were seen and specimens collected at Port Burwell (Killineck) on Ungava Bay and the Button Islands of the Northwest Territories. The most important breeding colonies were between 55° and 56° north latitude.

The Arctic Tern, because of its extraordinary migratory flight, yields especially interesting and spectacular banding results. A few records of recoveries available seem to indicate that the great mass of these birds go to South Africa and the Antarctic *via* Europe rather



Breeding Colony of Black-headed Gulls

than by the way of the Americas. For these reasons the Arctic Tern was given special attention by members of the expedition. At West Turnavik we banded about three hundred terns at several colonies, among which were the Red Islands, which were also visited by Dr. Oliver Luther Austin, Jr., during his expeditions to Labrador in 1926-28. On one of the Red Islands we found an Arctic Tern, the remains of which indicated that it had been killed but a relatively short time before our visit on August 16, 1934. On the tarsus was a band, number 548131. The United States Biological Survey has informed me that the band was placed on an immature bird by Dr. Austin on July 23, 1928.

This record adds another link in our information concerning the Arctic Tern. It indicates that this individual returned to the same breeding colony after its long migration to South Africa or possibly the Antarctic, a round trip of approximately twenty thousand miles. Probably the bird has bred on the Red Islands each summer. The band also fixes the age of the individual at six years.

THE BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus r. ridibundus*) OF EUROPE

When our expedition stopped at Makovik, Mr. Anton Anderson, a native fisherman, gave me a specimen of a Black-headed gull which he stated was taken at Stag Bay, Labrador, during September, 1933. The exact date was not recorded, hence only an approximation can be given.

This specimen establishes a new record for the coast of Labrador, and of added interest is an elongated aluminum tag attached to the femur above the tarsal joint, with the notation "Cogels Ossendrecht Holland 851". A letter to the above address has been answered with the interesting information that the gull was banded as an immature bird by Mr. Joseph Cogels, at Groote Meer near Ossendrecht on June 21, 1932. Ossendrecht is situated on the Escant River near the Belgium frontier, about seventy-two kilometers from the village of Bergen op Zoom in the province of North Brabant, southern Holland.

Mr. Cogels bands about six hundred gulls each season. He has received most of his recoveries from France, Spain, and Portugal, but a few have come from Morocco and Algeria in northern Africa. Stag Bay, Labrador, is over four thousand miles from Groote Meer, Holland, and, according to Mr. Cogels, specimen number 851 establishes for him a record of distance and uniqueness in recoveries of the Black-headed Gull.

There is a record of the Black-headed Gull for Newburyport, Massachusetts, indicating that occasionally these birds stray to northeastern North America.¹ How these birds make this erratic journey across the Atlantic is problematical. It is possible that they

¹See *Auk*, xlvii, 1930, p. 243. This Labrador bird makes the second North American record for the species.—EDITORS.

are carried out of their usual range by storms. It must be remembered, however, that prevailing winds and storms are in an easterly direction, a fact which has been forcibly impressed upon transatlantic airplane flyers. These stragglers may have come by easy stages, stopping at the British Isles, Iceland, and Greenland, thence to the mainland of America, or possibly following the course taken by such other birds as the Arctic Tern.

The migration routes of the Black-headed Gull and the Arctic Tern coincide for a considerable distance through southwestern Europe and Africa. Hence it is reasonable to conceive that an occasional Black-headed Gull, if it becomes separated by storms or other causes, from individuals of its own kind, might follow the Arctic Terns on their journey to northeastern North America. This gull, number 851, was taken on the Labrador coast, where the terns are most abundant, and the fact that it was associated with terns when collected is significant and gives strength to the supposition.

Mr. Cogels has sent me a fine photograph of the Black-headed Gulls taken at a breeding colony near Groote Meer, the place where the bird was banded.

Bird-banding is a phase of ornithology which frequently becomes of international interest. It has been a thrill for me to receive an introduction to Mr. Cogels, a bird-bander and an ornithologist in Holland, through one of his banded gulls.

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THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIRD-BANDING STATIONS

By O. A. STEVENS

EVER since I have been connected with the work I have wished that we might have a complete list of station operators and a map which would show their locations. Recently it has seemed worth while to prepare a tabulation and map based upon the work of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1934, as summarized in "Bird Banding Notes" for September, 1934. This is admittedly quite incomplete, since it includes only about three hundred stations. In the main, however, it probably gives a fair idea of the distribution. It is not a full review of the year's work in that many reports probably were received soon after July 1st. In my own region I know of three stations within a one hundred-mile radius which are missing. Since other reports were received shortly after July 1, 1933, this feature should be balanced and may be disregarded.

The number of stations and the total number of birds banded as given in the report are as follows: