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COLOR-BANDED ADULT HERRING GULLS¹

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THIS paper discusses 52 sight records of Herring Gulls (Larus argentatus smithsonianus) marked as adults with colored bands by Dr. A. O. Gross and his associates at Kent Island, New Brunswick (Bay of Fundy, Lat. 44°35'N., Long. 66°45'W.). The banding of these birds was part of a cooperative Herring Gull color-banding project, sponsored by the Linnaean Society of New York, which has been summarized in a previous article (Poor, 1943). At Kent Island 200 adult Herring Gulls were color-banded in 1937, 720 in 1938, and 110 in 1939 (total 1030). Analysis of records of birds found dead or captured alive is reserved for a paper planned by Dr. Gross covering ten years of banding.

All sight records of these 1030 marked gulls, except records from Kent Island and its immediate environs, are plotted in Fig. 1, which shows the dates of observations and the distances of the birds from the banding station. (Some points have been shifted slightly from their true positions to prevent overlapping.) All are along the coast southwest of Kent Island except one 33 miles southeast.

Sight records from Kent Island and vicinity by the Bowdoin Scientific Station personnel were numerous, and repeated duplication in such records was unavoidable. They have therefore been omitted from Fig. 1. These records support Gross's statement (*in litt.*), based on numerous recoveries of aluminum-banded gulls: "Of all the banded birds we have recovered on Kent Island not a one has been a bird banded in another colony other than the nearby islands which are essentially the same population."

The New York region (here considered as the area enclosed within

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Vol. XV 1944

a 53-mile radius circle centered at Ambrose Lightship at the entrance to New York harbor) furnishes sufficient records to justify a seasonal

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FIG. 1. Dates of observation and distances from Kent Island of color-banded Herring Gulls.

analysis, 40 of the 52 records being within this area. Table I presents a summary of these records by months. A comparison with the records of color-banded immature gulls from the same region was inconclusive.

Kent Island adults appear to reach New York in some numbers in October, and attain their greatest abundance in November and December. The decrease in numbers in January may reflect a departure of some reproductively-active individuals toward the breeding

General Notes

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TABLE I

New York Region F	RECOR	ds of Kent Island Adult Gui	\mathbf{LS}								
(Total sight records for all years)											
July	Ō	January	4								
August	0	February	3								
September	0	March	3								
October	4	April	1								

May

June.

14

10

December

November.....

*May 2, 1939.

grounds, since Kent Island is over 500 miles coastally from New York, and ". . . the Herring Gulls appear in the vicinity of the island during the last week in February with great regularity" (Gross, 1940). Unfortunately, records from intermediate points are too few to confirm or refute this hypothesis, and November and December were probably the months of most intensive observation in the New York region. The latest spring record from New York is a late-wintering or non-breeding bird seen May 2nd.

Sight records of color-banded gulls depend so largely upon the activities of band-conscious field observers that it is virtually impossible satisfactorily to compare one region with another. It should not be concluded from the many winter records around New York and the few winter records elsewhere that the population density of Kent Island adults in the New York region is proportionately high.

The farthest-south sight record is from Cape May, New Jersey. However, a compilation by Dr. Gross of recoveries by capture or death of 89 of the 1030 color-banded adults shows three recoveries in Virginia and one in North Carolina.

Helpful suggestions by Dr. Gross and J. J. Hickey are gratefully acknowledged.

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c/o Linnaean Society of New York, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.

GENERAL NOTES

Iceland-banded Purple Sandpiper Recovered on Baffin Island, N. W. T. —Through the kindness of O. M. Demment, manager of the Cape Dorset Post (Baffin Island, N. W. T., Canada) of the Hudson's Bay Company, and Mr. J. W. Anderson, manager of the Ungava District of the Hudson's Bay Company, I was