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### GENERAL NOTES

**Diving Herring Gulls.**—We have heard it said, though we do not think it is commonly so reported, that Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus* Coues) do not completely submerge themselves when they dive into the water in quest of food. The following experience tends to discount that belief.

At about high tide during the night of July 31, 1948 a large school of herring was driven by silver hake into Monhonon's Cove at Millbridge, Maine. As the water ebbed thousands of the herring died or were killed.

Next morning we were awakened by the clamorous shrieking of many gulls. A conservative estimate indicates that more than two thousand Herring Gulls were assembled at the head of the little cove. The spiraling and diving, the fighting over the fish which successful divers brought to the surface, the shrieking of the attackers and the attacked, the typically shrill appeals of the smattering of young birds among them, the swish and flutter of the mass of beating wings, all mingled with the cackling and the laughing calls of the hundreds of birds which rested momentarily on the ledges lining the shores into a picture of sound and action which defies description.

It was not until we paddled toward the head of the cove to investigate the cause of the gulls' congregating that we discovered the dead fish. Our long-handled net retrieved a few of them from the muddy bottom where they lay more than four feet below the surface of the water. Our approach drove the gulls briefly away. With the tide ebbing the depth of the water at this point had decreased, perhaps, four or five inches before the gulls began diving there again. Then, as we watched, bird after bird plunged from heights varying from approximately ten feet to, occasionally, as high as forty feet, disappearing completely into the water to reappear with, more often than not, a fish in its bill.

I dare not estimate the number of thousands of individual instances which we observed of these Herring Gulls diving into the water which was at least three and one-half to four feet deep and retrieving successfully dead fish which were lying on the bottom. From this experience it is certain that, on occasion, Herring Gulls do dive in such a manner as to submerge themselves completely, nor do they hesitate to do so again and again if the situation favors such behavior.—G. Hapgood Parks, 99 Warrenton Ave., Hartford, Connecticut.

**Pintail Migrates to Europe.**—On September 15, 1948, Martin P. Adams, Mill, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, South Devon, England, shot a duck on the River Dart between Dartmouth and Totnes. The duck wore United States Fish & Wildlife Service band number 48-620729; the band has since been returned to the Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland. This duck was banded by the writer as an immature male American Pintail, *Anas acuta tzitzihoa* (Vieillot), on August 19, 1948, at Tinker Harbor, Hamilton Inlet, Labrador, for the North-eastern Wildlife Station, Fredericton, New Brunswick, operated by the Wildlife Management Institute. After the initial banding the duck was last recaptured