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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

on August 25, 1948, thus giving a period of 21 days between the last record in Labrador and the recovery of the band in England. As far as can be ascertained this is the first record of a Pintail migrating from North America to Europe. Unfortunately the specimen was not recovered therefore making it impossible to decide whether this Pintail belonged to the American or European race. Other Pintails banded at Tinker Harbor during 1948 have been recovered in New Brunswick, Quebec Province, New York, and Wisconsin, but to date there have been no further records from Europe. The banding of more Pintail in Labrador may make it possible to decide whether or not this East-West migration is a common occurrence.—Alex. J. Reeve, Northeastern Wildlife Station, Fredericton, New Brunswick.

**Banding recoveries of *Tyto alba*.**—Nearly one-third of all the Barn Owls banded in North America have been banded in and around Escondido, California. These have resulted in 31 recoveries.

Date Banded	Date Recovered	How Recovered	Age	Distance Traveled
April 13, 1928	June 24 1928	Found dead	2 mo.	12 mi.
April 13, 1928	January 27, 1928	Found dead	9 mo.	3 mi.
April 13, 1928	April 6, 1929	Found dead	1 yr.	20 mi.
April 13, 1928	April 1, 1933	Trapped	5 yrs.	20 mi.
April 21, 1929	August 31, 1930	Found dead	1 yr. 4 mo.	30 mi.
April 20, 1929	August 31, 1936	Found dead	7 yrs. 4 mo.	35 mi.
May 15, 1930	November 20, 1931	Caught in trap	1 yr. 6 mo.	5 mi.
April 10, 1931	December 21, 1931	Found dead	8 mo.	8 mi.
April 19, 1931	June 30, 1931	Found dead	2 mo.	40 mi.
April 10, 1931	July 5, 1935	Shot	4 yrs. 3 mo.	75 mi.
April 21, 1932	May 9, 1933	Found dead	1 yr. 18 days	12 mi.
April 21, 1932	September 10, 1932	Shot	5 mo.	3 mi.
April 21, 1932	January 13, 1933	Drowned	8 mo.	10 mi.
April 23, 1932	September 5, 1936	Killed	4 yrs. 5 mo.	35 mi.
April 23, 1932	July . . ., 1939	Killed	7 yrs. 3 mo.	2 mi.
April 16, 1933	September 1941	Found dead	8 yrs. 5 mo.	85 mi.
April 29, 1934	September 29, 1935	Killed—auto	1 yr. 5 mo.	3 mi.
April 29, 1934	December 2, 1937	Leg and band recovered	3 yrs. 8 mo.	22 mi.
April 13, 1934	November 15, 1934	Flew into wire —killed	7 mo.	50 mi.
April 24, 1935	December 29, 1935	Shot	8 mo.	75 mi.
April 24, 1935	July 4, 1936	Trapped	1 yr. 2 mo.	65 mi.
April 24, 1935	May 20, 1938	Found dead	3 yrs. 1 mo.	3 mi.
April 24, 1935	October 28, 1946	Sick—died	11 yrs. 6 mo.	20 mi.
April 2, 1936	October 6, 1936	Shot	6 mo.	3 mi.
March 30, 1936	February 22, 1946	Killed	9 yrs. 11 mo.	3 mi.
May 10, 1937	February 12, 1939	Found dead	1 yr. 9 mo.	19 mi.
April 23, 1938	September 9, 1939	Found injured —Died	1 yr. 5 mo.	12 mi.
April 20, 1938	May 20, 1938	Captured	1 mo.	110 mi.
April 23, 1938	May 22, 1938	Found dead	1 mo.	2 mi.
May 7, 1938	February . . ., 1946	Found dead	7 yrs. 9 mo.	40 mi.
April 22, 1941	January 18, 1946	Killed	4 yrs. 9 mo.	35 mi.

Total: 31 Returns.

Barn Owls are common birds in this region. I have seen as many as 30 on the beach at night feeding on grunion when these were running.—Fred N. Gallup, P.O. Box 614, Escondido, California.

**Northern Crested Flycatcher.**—Each year since the summer of 1929 we have had a pair of Northern Crested Flycatchers, (*Myiarchus crinitus boreus* Bangs), nesting in our boxes. Others of this species were found in nearby woodlands yet never did we have more than one pair. Five different boxes were used by the various pairs through the years, these were located in a five acre area. By the use of trap doors on all the boxes it has been an easy matter to keep a complete