

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

COMMON AND ROSEATE TERNS

In 1967 1,342 adult Common (*Sterna Linundo*) and Roseate (*Sterna dougallii*) Terns were banded on Great Gull Island. Great Gull Island is a research sanctuary operated by The American Museum of Natural History and The Linnaean Society of New York. It is in Long Island Sound, some seven miles northeast of Orient Point, Long Island, N. Y.

Each bird, in addition to receiving a U. S. Fish and Wildlife aluminum band, was given three colored bands: red, white, blue, green, yellow or black (so that individuals might be recognized in the field).

This year, May through September, we ask that anyone sighting Common and Roseate Terns check to see if the birds are color banded. As the bands are not readily seen, it is advisable to take a second look. Any terns in this area which are color-banded are from the Great Gull Island colony.

Sightings during the following periods would help answer:

May 1 - 15

Where are the birds congregating before arriving on Great Gull?

May 21 - July 16

How far are the birds going to fish?

Are any of these birds nesting in other colonies?

July 16 - September 30

Where do they go in their post-nesting dispersal? Evidence to date suggests concentrations are found at the mouths of rivers and inlets along the Connecticut shore as well as Long Island. Massachusetts and Cape May should be checked.

If color combinations can be read, they should be recorded. Begin with left leg. The top band is read first. For example, left leg: red over blue; right leg: yellow over aluminum. Please also record the date and locality. It would also be helpful to know the bird's activity (flying by, fishing, just sitting, nesting, etc.)

Please send information to Catherine Pessino, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024.

RING-BILLED GULLS

During May through July, 1968, Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) from three Great Lakes colonies are being wing-marked with 1.5 inch-diameter "Safeflag" tags. Each colony is represented by a specific color. An attempt is being made to determine the dispersal pattern, migration route, and winter range for each population. Anyone observing such wing-marked gulls is asked to notify Dr. William E. Southern, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Ill. 60115. The following information is desired: date, exact location, marker color, and the observer's name. Assistance in this project will be greatly appreciated. Respondents will be provided with information pertaining to colony locations and the date of marking.