

can determine, this is the third record for continental North America. A bird of the nominate race was collected on Long Island, N.Y., in 1853. A second bird was observed at Monomoy, Cape Cod, Mass., in the fall of 1976. It is interesting to speculate whether the present bird is the Monomoy bird of two years past. These accidentals have a way of turning up in the same general area year after year. A Smew reported in Rhode Island in 1978 was possibly a returnee [see p. 322]. A Sandhill Crane turned up on the Vineyard a

year after one spent the winter on the Cape. And finally, two male Brewer's Blackbirds spent the winter of 1975 on the Cape, the winter of 1976 on the Vineyard, the winter of 1977 back on the Cape, and, lo, Allan Keith pointed out a male Brewer's in a flock of Starlings on this last trip at the very same Katama farm where the two had appeared at Christmastime two years earlier.

— 10901 Pleasant Hill Dr., Potomac,
MD 20854.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) breeding in Newfoundland

Davis W. Finch

At Stephenville Crossing on the west coast of Newfoundland an extensive estuary with broad flats, shallows and small islands provides breeding habitat for Great Black-backed, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls as well as Common and Caspian Terns. Since at least 1973, small numbers of summering Black-headed Gulls have also been present, as the following records indicate: In 1973, four adults on August 15 and two on August 20 (DWF); in 1974, three adults on July 17 (AGR); in 1975, ten adults on July 27 (BDMact, SIT); in 1976, eight adults or second-summer birds on July 28 and four on August 24 (DWF). In 1977, I visited the area on August 12 and 26, finding on the first occasion five adults and a just-fledged juvenile, and on the second five adults and three juvenals. This appears to be the first evidence of North American breeding by the species.

That these were indeed locally-hatched juvenals was apparent from the fact that the primaries were not fully developed, the wings being short and rounded at the tips and the wingbeats deep. To an observer accustomed to juvenal Bonaparte's Gulls they looked surprisingly dark brown on the crown, neck, back and upper wing surface, but like that species had a warm brown wash on the

sides of the upper breast. The feet were an indeterminate dark shade, the bill dull pink basally.

My approach across the flats provoked repeated if mild protest behavior on the part of the adults, some of which circled low overhead, making shallow dives and uttering a sharp "kuk-kuk". The only call heard from the young birds was a shrill whining "eeeer" repeated at short intervals both in flight, when in some cases they seemed to pursue adults, and on the flats, when they would walk up to adults in a hunched posture with neck withdrawn and head lowered. Although it could not be established with certainty, it seemed probable that two pairs of adults were present with young and although the record could not be based on nests and eggs, the evidence of breeding was unambiguous. It could be added that the discovery comes as no particular surprise, Black-headed Gulls having slowly increased in eastern North America for more than four decades. The species may well have nested at Stephenville Crossing prior to 1977; the area is only occasionally visited by birdwatchers.

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— South Road, East Kingston, N.H. 03827