

In this connection it occurs to me that cases of this kind might be studied satisfactorily by means of colored celluloid bands. I feel confident that proper traps might be devised for these birds and, in order that the observations might not be in any way influenced by subsequent trappings, each bird could be banded with the usual aluminum band and on the opposite leg with a colored band, the colors—or combination of colors—varying with each individual handled. Spiral celluloid bands are readily obtainable and by softening in hot water they can be easily reduced to the desired size and I believe that with the aid of a good pair of field glasses they would be clearly discernible at ordinary distances of observation.

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Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

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## ROOSTING HABITS OF GULLS

WM. I. LYON

The members of the Inland Bird Banding Association that live along the South-west end of Lake Michigan have been interested in the question of "where do the Gulls sleep at night." There seemed to be a possibility that the gulls could be captured at night in some way, with flashlights, especially when there are such quantities of them to be seen during the day.

Some of the members were assembled at Mr. Lyon's house one evening watching the Gulls very carefully, with the idea that they were going to make an attempt to capture some that night. Powerful glasses were used to watch the outer breakwater where the Gulls seemed to be assembled in large quantities, and at the last glimpses of daylight, the breakwater seemed to be entirely covered with Gulls. After dinner, the members of the party went to the Lake Shore where they had engaged a good staunch boat, with both oars and paddles, and started for the breakwaters. When they were about a thousand feet away, the oars were taken in and the paddles were used so as to approach the spot in absolute silence. There was not a sound made, yet when we arrived at the breakwater and circled entirely around it, there was not a sign of a single bird to be found. They seemed to have disappeared in some mysterious manner.

On another occasion Mr. Stoddard, of the Milwaukee Museum, visited me at Waukegan. We watched very carefully, and felt

quite positive as to where to find the Gulls, but a trip starting from the south of the city over all the breakwaters, and along the iceberbs on the shore, failed to reveal a single bird. We were armed with powerful searchlights so we could observe, with comparative ease.

Herbert L. Stoddard, Clarence S. Jung, and some other members of the Milwaukee Museum made another trip covering over twelve miles of the lake shore about Milwaukee, and the total result of their night's work was one Golden-eye Duck and one Gull, both of which had been wounded, apparently, and were sleeping on the shore.

On February 3, there was a very strong wind coming to the shore almost directly from the east, which made the waves very high; when the water strikes the outer breakwater it would send the spray completely over the fifty-foot light tower. All along the shore where the waves came against the drift ice, there was a cold spray, and, as far as the eye could reach, out in the lake, there were large, rolling white-caps. Apparently, no bird would be able to live on the lake that night. This seemed to be an ideal time to find out where the Gulls slept. Taking binoculars, blankets, and a box for a seat, my daughter and I went to the lake front. On arrival we made a careful count along the shore covering more than a mile, including all of the harbor basin and slips. We were quite positive that there were over 1,500 Gulls present at the time. At the outer side of the harbor, at the end of an old switch-track, was a coal car, just in the right position for observation. So we climbed into it, using the box for a seat, and wrapped ourselves in the blankets; we waited for the approach of darkness. There was plenty of time for observation and looking over at the shore, to the east of us, was a small strip of sand. Outside of the outer breakwater, we noticed that there was a large flock of birds resting, many of them apparently asleep. In counting them, we found there were from three to five hundred in the flock. There seemed to be many Gulls arriving and leaving, so the flock stayed close to the same size. On the other side of us, up in the north end of the slips, were two hundred Gulls on the ice at the edge of the water; they, too, were sleeping and resting. About in the middle of the inside lagoon there is a coal dock, and on the end of the coal dock were at least one hundred, also apparently resting. In the main basin of the harbor, the balance of the fifteen hundred were

continually flying and hunting for the small minnows that are to be found there in the spring. As darkness approached, the big flock on the shore apparently increased and the smaller flock on the coal docks decreased to about a dozen. The flocks resting on the ice to the north seemed to stay about the normal size, but the flocks on the outer shore seemed to be gradually increasing all the time until there were at least eight hundred birds; apparently that was the spot where they would sleep that night. We were fully satisfied of the fact and were planning how we could best approach the flock to catch them. We had a number of nets put together on poles in different manners, so that they could be handled by either one or two persons, and we speculated on how big a catch we would be able to make; but just at the very last glimpse of daylight, apparently, every bird in the vicinity quietly rose up in the air. We left our car and blankets and started off to find what direction they would take, but they seemed to simply evaporate from our view. Gradually the entire flock disappeared in the darkness without taking any certain direction. We stayed about the harbor for over an hour and searched all the slips and breakwaters with the searchlights, but not a single bird could we find. We are still wondering, "Where do the Gulls sleep at night?"

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## A HAUNT OF THE GREAT HORNED OWL

F. N. SHANKLAND

The Great Horned Owl is not a very common species in Northern Ohio, nor is it considered a very desirable neighbor. For many years a pair of these birds has lived in the woods just south of Willoughby, but not until six years ago was I able to discover a nest. Since then there have been exceptionally good opportunities for studying their nests, habits, and other life characteristics.

On the morning of April 27th, 1919, two local ornithologists, C. M. Shipman and R. W. Hill, accompanied me to the woods near south Willoughby. We had been informed that there was an owl's nest in this woods and after considerable search we finally located it in a tall beech tree growing at the foot of a steep hillside. The nest was one that had been built many years before by a pair of Red-tailed Hawks. It had been occupied later by Red-shouldered Hawks and Barred Owls so that evi-