alike was, to me, very extraordinary. I made a sketch of the under-surface of this hawk, which is shown in Figure 17A. I had been keeping a list, as was my custom, but had not been keeping the melanistic individuals separate from the regular type, except in one instance. On January 11, 1937, two miles southeast of Kaylor, S. D., I saw my first completely black hawk. This bird was not the glossy black of the crow but was of a dull black or very dark brown. It was entirely without light markings of any kind. It was unsuspicious and allowed me to approach to within a short distance. It was an American Rough-legged Hawk, without question.

I now started keeping a record of this phase and in the short series I was able to make, found that about one bird in five differed in some degree from the normal plumage. I am considering as normal the plumage shown by Walter A. Weber on page 330, Volume I, of "The Birds of Minnesota", by Dr. Thomas S. Roberts. This plumage is shown in Figure 17D.

In the sketches shown here I have copied the outline from Weber and filled in the dark and light areas from the drawings in my notebook made at the time of observation.

The bird shown in Figure 17B was seen on February 4, 1937, two miles north of Alexandria, South Dakota; that of Figure 17C was seen on the same date one quarter mile west of Stanley Corner in McCook County, South Dakota.

Aside from those that are shown here, birds were seen in almost every intermediate degree of light and dark coloring.

The fact that the two hawks seen on January 29 were alike makes me wonder if the dark and light phases might not be inherited. I would be at a loss to know how to explain these identically marked dark hawks unless they were from the same brood.—Bruce F. Stiles, *Sioux City, Iowa.*

The Herring Gull Colony at Bridge Lake, British Columbia.—A description of the most southerly nesting so far located in British Columbia of the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) was published by me in the Condor (XXXVII, July, 1935, pp. 214-215). When this colony was next visited two years later, on June 24, 1935, it was observed that the number of birds had increased from thirty-four adults in 1933 to thirty-eight adults in 1935. This had happened in spite of the fact that less nesting accommodation was available, owing to a rise in the lake levels which had reduced the island's area by one-third.

There were seventeen nests composed chiefly of twigs and moss—one contained a few green poplar leaves, several pieces of green grass, and a twig of Douglas fir with green leaves attached. Ten nests contained eggs (four singles, three of three, and three of two); five contained eggs and downy young (in two cases two eggs and one young; in three cases one egg and one young); two nests were empty.

The stomachs of two downy young contained larvae of a predaceous diving beetle (*Dytiscus* sp.) as the chief item. In one case thirty, in the other eight had been eaten. A few of these larvae, which remained sufficiently whole to be measured, were one and a half to two inches long, and the remainder, represented chiefly by jaws, were thought to be approximately the same size. Unidentified fish remains, beetle fragments, and vegetable debris, including a *Polygonum* seed, were minor items totaling 5 per cent of the contents in each case. The stomach of a third specimen held fragments of several small Salmonidae, 95 per cent,

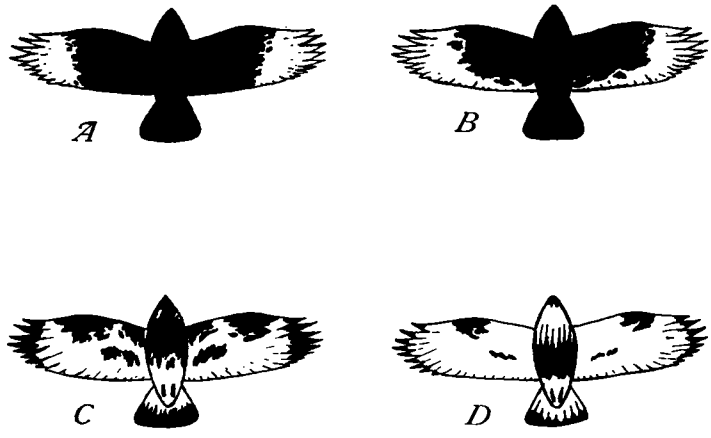

FIG. 17. Diagrams showing the under-surface color patterns of the American Rough-legged Hawks as discussed on the opposite page. A, individual seen on January 29, 1937, in McCook County, S. D. B, individual seen on February 4, 1937, in Hanson County, S. D. C, individual seen on February 4, 1937, in McCook County, S. D. D, normal color pattern as shown by Walter Weber's figure in Robert's "The Birds of Minnesota".

FIG. 18. Photograph showing the Herring Gull colony at Bridge Lake, B. C., mentioned in Mr. Munro's note.

and *Dytiscus* larvae, 5 per cent; a fourth contained parts of a minnow, probably *Richardsonius balteatus*. Two of the four downy young examined had been found dead in the nest. In every case the stomach was well filled.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, B. C.*

Bird Records from the Allegany State Park.—Two papers have been published on the summer birds of the Allegany State Park, in southwestern New York state, by Mr. Aretas A. Saunders.* His notes on the plumage, nesting, feeding habits, and songs are very interesting reading, betray a tireless eye and ear, and add much knowledge applicable to the same species in other regions.

No one, however, has heretofore recorded the bird life found here in the spring, fall, and winter seasons. It has been my pleasure and privilege to spend three full years in this, the largest of the New York State parks, most of this time in the field. During this time a number of species, twenty-six to be exact, have been seen and are recorded in this paper, for the first time.

The spring is a beautiful and interesting season here. It is at this time that water fowl and shore birds are found in their greatest numbers and variety on and around our two artificial lakes. The largest of these lakes is 120 acres. It is evident from a study of my arrival statistics that there are about five times as many water fowl and shore birds here in the spring as there are in the fall. An interesting fact about the park is that there are no natural lakes or ponds within its borders. This is said to be due to the lack of glacial action in this particular area; in fact the park lies in the only area in the entire state which escaped direct glaciation. The margins of our lakes are almost entirely devoid, as yet, of suitable food plants for water and shore birds. In time, no doubt, the marginal flora will assume a more favorable aspect as desirable plants gain a foothold. Members of the Civilian Conservation Corps, stationed in the park, have performed a real piece of conservation work by gathering thousands of food plants outside the park and planting them in and around the larger of the two local lakes.

Water fowl visit the park as early as March 27, because the ice seldom breaks up and leaves the lakes before the first or second week in April. On this date in 1934, six Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) dropped from a wintry sky. These were followed on the 29th by four scaups (*Nyroca* sp.). On the 30th came the Buffle-heads (*Charitonetta albeola*).

Of course, the above three species visited us more than once during the same season, a fact which applies to most of the other species mentioned in this paper. Ten or fifteen days is about the longest period of time that any species of water fowl remained with us, some species staying but a few hours or a day.

April seems to be the best month to see numbers of water fowl on our lakes. Almost every day brings new arrivals. The following species were seen during this month: Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*), American Merganser (*Mergus merganser americanus*), Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*), Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*), Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*), Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), Baldpate (*Mareca americana*), Old-squaw (*Clangula hyemalis*), American Golden-eye

*Saunders, Aretas A., The Summer Birds of the Allegany State Park. Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin, I, No. 3, pp. 235-354, 1923.
Saunders, Aretas A., Additional Notes on the Summer Birds of Allegany State Park. Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin, III, No. 3, pp. 476-497, 1926.