

respectively. On the flights of 22, 17, and 21 miles, she returned on the first day after release. Concerning homing experiments with wild birds, Donald R. Griffin (1953. *American Scientist*, 41 (2):218) says, "While the percentage of returns falls off with distance, the speed of those birds which do get back tends to rise or at least to remain fairly constant."—MRS. ALICE D. MILLER, 1150 Brewer Road, Leonard, Michigan, August 16, 1953.

Screech Owl observed bathing.—On November 16, 1952, at about 7:15 p.m., E.S.T., my wife and I were driving along an avenue which borders a small park in Ann Arbor, Michigan, when we saw a gray Screech Owl (*Otus asio*) standing in a puddle of water. We stopped the car within a short distance and backed up until the scene was once more fully illuminated by the car lights.

The puddle of water in which the owl was standing was 1 to 2 inches deep and approximately 2 feet in diameter. The owl appeared to be quite unafraid of the lights and of the noise of the running motor. While we watched, from a distance of 12 to 15 feet, the owl bathed in the puddle, much in the manner of a passerine bird, pushing its head and breast into the water, beating its wings, and then shaking the water from its feathers. We watched for perhaps a minute. It was not until I got out of the car and approached to within 4 or 5 feet that the owl flew away. The car lights were still on and the motor was running.

Reexamination of the site the following morning showed the puddle to have been formed in the depression at the junction of a garage driveway and the street. Both driveway and street were paved. For sometime prior to November 16 the weather had been extremely dry, so that the water in which the owl was bathing was of artificial origin, possibly from a hose.—WALTER R. CROWE, *Institute for Fisheries Research, Ann Arbor, Michigan, January 9, 1953.*

Ivory Gulls in western Lake Ontario.—On January 4, 1953, two Ivory Gulls (*Pagophila eburnea*) were observed at Hamilton, on Lake Ontario, Canada, by the writer in company with David Powell and Leslie Gray. The birds, which were seen under good conditions and studied at some length, apparently were immatures, being sparingly flecked with dusky brown at the tips of the primaries and at the bend of the wing. Size appeared similar to that of Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*), and the birds had a small-headed, pigeon-like profile that appeared quite distinctive. The dark eyes, black legs, and dusky bill with yellowish tip were seen clearly.

When first seen the Ivory Gulls were at the edge of the ice sheet with Ring-billed and Herring gulls (*Larus delawarensis*, *L. argentatus*) but a passing locomotive startled the flock into flight minutes later. The two Ivory Gulls circled and settled back on the ice, but all other birds in the flock departed. In flight the long, pointed, white wings and white mantle were noted; the wing-beat was rapid and tern-like. After settling, one bird walked to the open water and apparently drank there.

The gulls were about 50 yards from shore and observations were made from an elevated position on the bank, below Woodland Cemetery. The study was carried out in bright sunlight, with the aid of a 20-power spotting telescope on a tripod and binoculars.

The arrival of these rare stragglers, seldom seen away from their Arctic pack ice, was of great interest to local ornithologists, many of whom reported the presence of one or more Ivory Gulls around the same date.—ERIC WALTER BASTIN, 43 Inglewood Drive, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, January 15, 1953.