

The eggs, six in number, were a clear white with many spots and blotches of light reddish brown distributed over the surface, confluent at the large end to form a wreath. They were also characterized by a few light lavender marks and a few almost black lines and spots.

Average dimensions .698" \times .50".

The author is aware that the observations here recorded do not appear to harmonize well with the accounts of J. W. Banks and others of the nesting habits of the Cape May Warbler. It seems probable that this pair of birds were not typical in their choice of a nesting site. It is also probable that nest construction varies considerably in different localities as is often the case with other warblers. Notwithstanding these variations it is hoped that the details here given may be of service in the further study of this very interesting warbler.

THE STATUS OF "*LARUS THAYERI*, THAYER'S GULL."

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Plate XV.

ABOUT two years ago a new Arctic Gull was described as "*Larus thayeri*" on the strength of a few birds obtained in Ellesmere Land (see Brooks, Bull. M. C. Z. LIX, No. 5, Sept. 1915, pp. 373-375). Recently, thanks to the courtesy of Mr. P. A. Taverner, of the Victoria Memorial Museum of the Canadian Geological Survey, I have had opportunity of comparing his fine series of Arctic Gulls with the type and others of *thayeri* loaned me by Mr. O. Bangs of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. Other specimens in the American Museum of Natural History and in my own collection bring the series examined up to twenty-five and these compared with a much larger series of the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) demonstrate that the supposed new species is nothing more than a

geographical race of the Herring Gull and should stand as *Larus argentatus thayeri* — Thayer's Herring Gull.

Complete intergradation between the two forms occurs, *argentatus* prevailing south of Hudson Strait and of the northern shores of Hudson Bay, while northward probably throughout the Arctic archipelago of Canada, *thayeri* seems to be the common form.

Breeding birds of Ft. Chimo, Ungava, are *argentatus*, and those of Cape Fullerton, north of Chesterfield Inlet not quite typical *thayeri* but farther north and west all the birds are *thayeri*. The localities from which I have seen breeding specimens are Buchanan Bay, Ellesmere Land, Browne Island (south of Cornwallis Island), Kater Point, Coronation Gulf, Bernard Harbor, Dolphin and Union Strait and Cape Kellett, Banks Island.

Thayer's Herring Gull probably winters chiefly on the Pacific Coast for I have examined a number of specimens from Barkley Sound, Departure Bay and Comox, Vancouver Island, British Columbia. I also have an adult female in my own collection taken on the north shore of the St. Lawrence at Tadousac, Quebec, July 26, but this specimen is doubtless a wanderer from the north for dissection showed it to be a bird past the breeding stage.

The plate (Plate XV) shows so well the chief character by which the two races may be distinguished that little need be said except that *thayeri* is a little smaller and is apt to have the primaries of a slatier black. Fig. 2 represents the wing pattern of the type of *thayeri* (M. C. Z. No. 40336, ♂ June 10, Ellesmere Land). Other specimens show a great diminution of white on the first and second primaries and a subterminal band of black on the first, while specimens of *argentatus* often have the first primary with a completely white tip.

The describer is further to be congratulated for discovering a gull with characters that create a strong suspicion as to the affinities of *Larus kumlieni*. If *thayeri* were crossed with *Larus leucopterus* we would expect just such a series of hybrid specimens as now are placed under the name *kumlieni*, but this is a matter for future consideration.



Dwight, Jonathan. 1917. "The Status of "Larus thayeri, Thayer's Gull"." *The Auk* 34, 413–414. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4072268>.

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