

wavelets and I realized that the bird was moving its feet preparatory to the dive. The next instant as my friend approached, the bird slipped quietly from the alders and disappeared head first beneath the surface. The actions of the two birds were so absolutely alike that I think they must constitute a regular practice on the part of these Grebes.—DELOS E. CULVER, *Addingham, Pa.*

Herring Gulls at Sea.—On page 182 of 'The Auk,' Dr. Strong says, "Herring Gulls do not wander far from land relatively, and they are probably usually within a reasonable distance from fresh water."

On February 8–16, I was on a voyage from New York to Madeira. As we left the American coast, a flock of about forty Herring Gulls accompanied us.

They decreased in number, gradually, and, as their numbers decreased, they fell further behind. Herring Gulls were identified for fully half the distance to Madeira, but on the sixteenth when the birds came close to the ship they were found to be yellow-legged gulls which had doubtless come out from the islands.—ROBERT BARBOUR.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) on Fresh Pond, Cambridge, Mass.—Mr. Brewster in his "Birds of the Cambridge Region" records an occurrence of a Glaucous Gull on Fresh Pond in the '*hutchinsii*' plumage on November 29, 1899. I am able to furnish a second record. On March 2, 1914, in the middle of the forenoon one appeared among the Herring Gulls which were coming in from Boston Harbor to rest and bathe. It was an entirely white bird and much larger than the Herring Gulls. Ice covered most of the surface of the pond, but about an open area reaching to the shore, where the water is received by an entrance pipe, was a collection of Black Ducks and Herring Gulls with a pair of Golden-eyes, a Mallard Drake, and three Great Black-backed Gulls. Other Herring Gulls were arriving, and with a squad of these came the Glaucous Gull. It remained to bathe, successively took two or three flights about, but returned after each flight to the open water or to the edge of the ice, where were gathered the Black Ducks. Its position among these at times made the bird very striking in its complete whiteness. It was still present when an hour later I came away. The next day again this Glaucous Gull was present, arriving with Great Black-backed Gulls and Herring Gulls at 11.20 A. M., but the following day it was absent, and it was not seen again.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) at Boston, Mass.—On October 24, 1913, two young male European Widgeon appeared on Jamaica Pond. When first seen, they were very shy and swam restlessly about in close companionship, occasionally giving the characteristic call of the species, consisting of two notes, "*Whée-yōū*." They were still present the following day, and were afterwards viewed from time to time during

the remainder of October and throughout November and December. When in early January ice was forming on the pond, one of the two left on the third or fourth day; the other remained to January 17, when ice had covered all but a few small areas of the pond. These young males showed little or nothing of the creamy buff crown upon their arrival, but they gradually developed this feature. So at first their true identification was difficult, but the two-note call and chestnut color of the head clearly differentiated them from Baldpates. By December the plumage of the adult male European Widgeon was quite fully developed, and at the time they left they lacked little of its completeness. One gained the adult plumage somewhat earlier than the other, so they could readily be distinguished. A female Baldpate joined them about December 1 and left on January 16, one day earlier than the later remaining Widgeon. A cold wave had brought the temperature at the pond down to 13° below zero on the thirteenth.

In early December their companions on the pond were 400 to 500 Black Ducks, the number varying from day to day, several Mallards, a few Scaup Ducks, 90 to 100 Lesser Scaup, a young male Bufflehead, 3 Ruddy Ducks, 25 to 60 Mergansers, 8 Coot, and a few Herring Gulls, a collection of water fowl, the numbers of which had been steadily increasing during November and were decreasing in late December.

This occurrence of European Widgeon on Jamaica Pond was the first in Boston and its immediate vicinity, if I am not in error. Like other wild ducks which visit protected waters, these Widgeons soon become unsuspicious and allowed near approach. They were objects of interest and pleasure to many observers throughout their long visit.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

An Egret on Long Island.—In connection with Mr. R. Heber Howe, Jr.'s note on the American Egret, in the April 'Auk,' and the one by Mr. G. Kingsley Noble to which he refers, I would like to report a single bird of this species which I observed at Mastic, Long Island, where it is very rare, on August 9, 1913. It was identified with certainty.—JOHN TREADWELL NICHOLS, *New York, N. Y.*

The Woodcock Carrying its Young.—It has been the good fortune of the writer to see recently two successive flights of our native Woodcock carrying its young nearly as large as itself, sitting upright, grasped and suspended by the claws of the mother bird. I am told that the sight is an unusual one, and that a brief account of it may interest your readers.

I was on a little botanizing trip near a river bottom, looking especially for Golden seal plants and flowers which were somewhat plenty in that vicinity; the season being late for the flowers, late May or early June. I have no record of the exact date.

Startled by a loud whirring of wings near by, very like, yet perceptibly different from that of the Partridge, I saw the slow flight of the bird with its



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