

Little Gull at Jamaica Bay Sanctuary, Long Island. — Being one of those bird-watchers who has traversed the New York harbor many times by ferry in search of the Little Gull (*Larus minutis*), I was delighted to find a sub-adult Little Gull sitting on the shore of the West Pond of the Jamaica Bay Wild Life Sanctuary. The date was July 27. I observed it again on the 28th, Aug. 3, and Aug. 10.

When first observed, the winter plumage exhibited a confusing combination of immature and adult characteristics. The mantle showed the remnant of the inverted V pattern of the immature, while the under wing linings were shot through with the white which is characteristic of the immature bird. The tail showed an incomplete black band, with only half the tail feathers being tipped with black, the central portion showing the white of the adult.

The following week, there was no longer any suggestion of the mantle pattern, and the under wings were completely dark. However, the outer tail feathers were still tipped with black. The week after that the black had gone completely from the tail. The bird was now in its new plumage. At all times during the period observed, the tiny bill was black.

Due to the transition which took place in this individual some observers assumed that two birds had been present, an immature and an adult. However, having been fortunate to observe this bird at close range and in excellent light over a period of two weeks, I believe it can be safely stated that only one bird was present.

I did not observe the bird feeding at the West Pond. When flushed, it would simply fly further down the shore and alight again. Evidently the West Pond was merely the resting area for this Little Gull. — Emanuel Levine, 585 Mead Terrace, South Hempstead, Long Island.

Mating Display of the Vesper Sparrow — While I was listening to late evening (9:10 P. M., E. D. T.) singing of Grasshopper Sparrows along Hoyt Road, Skaneateles on June 27, 1957, two Vesper Sparrows (*Poocetes gramineus*) appeared in the dirt road, neither of them singing. Suddenly one bird, in the middle of the road, lowered his head and the wrists of his half spread wings nearly to the ground, and with his tail and wing-tips almost vertically above his head ran mouse-like across the road and hopped for a fraction of a second upon the back of the crouched second bird. Then he ran, in the nearly vertical display position, in a small circle about the second bird and mounted again, repeating this performance four times in quick succession, each time circling in the vertical display position. After this the birds separated and disappeared in the gathering dusk. I have found no account of such behavior display in a limited search of available literature, so feel it worth reporting. — Walter R. Spofford, 766 Irving Ave., Syracuse 10.

REGIONAL REPORTS

THE FALL MIGRATION — August 16 - November 30

Weatherwise the fall was pleasant, too pleasant. In the Rochester area precipitation for the year was almost a half foot below normal. Shorebirding was excellent in many areas due to the low water levels. Food crops as indicated in the summaries are generally poor, but Fritz Scheider reports an excellent crop of weed seeds.

Briefly some points of interest: The flight of buteos appeared heavy, but few Snowy Owls appeared. Egrets showed a marked decline possibly corresponding to their troubles in breeding colonies in the south. The influx