

as a skeleton in the American Museum of Natural History. It thus appears that our sighting is the first record of a live individual for upstate New York.

It is interesting to speculate on the reasons for this being the first occurrence of the species at Derby Hill, in view of the regular occurrence of the other two species of jaeger. Paul DeBenedictis (pers. comm.) indicates that Long-tails leave the breeding grounds much earlier than the other two species. The strong frontal systems that probably play a part in the appearance of jaegers in our area do not usually occur early in the season, and thus Long-tails are less likely to be drifted into our area. The rarity of the species in eastern North America suggests that the birds breeding on the west coasts of Hudson Bay and James Bay migrate westward along the coast of the Arctic Ocean. Since it appears that a portion of the Parasitic Jaegers nesting in the same area move south regularly through Lake Ontario, and then overland to the coast, it may be that the Long-tail seen on 10 September 1977 had simply migrated with Parasitic Jaegers. It may also be that the strong low pressure area was instrumental in displacing the Long-tailed Jaeger eastward. Whatever the reasons, the occurrence of this striking bird was ample reward for the large number of days spent in early July, August and September by the writer at Derby Hill, during which nothing more exciting than Herring and Ring-billed Gulls was seen. In closing it must be emphasized that the day's total of 29 Parasitic Jaegers and one Long-tailed Jaeger is extraordinary for so early in the season. Such a count of Parasitics would be excellent even during the peak of the season between 5 and 25 October. If this trend continues, 1977 may prove to be a banner year for jaegers on eastern Lake Ontario.

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"Kumlien's" Gull in Essex County: On 3 July 1977 the author, Esther Ann MacCready, Gerald Rosenband, and Carole Slatkin, traveled by boat to the Four Brothers Islands in Lake Champlain, located in the Town of Willsboro, Essex County. Acquired in January, 1977, by the University of Vermont, the Four Brothers are "Resource Management" land within the boundaries of the Adirondack Park. Approximately six acres in area, the four islands lie about two miles east of Willsboro Point, at lat. $44^{\circ}25'$ W., long. $73^{\circ}20'$ N. Surrounded by rocky and shingle beaches, the islands are low plateaus with open areas of stinging nettle, wild mustard, grasses, raspberries, stands of conifers and hardwoods, and tangles of dead cedars. The individual islands have been unofficially designated "A," "B," "C," and "D" by the Vermont Fish and Game Department.

Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) have nested on the islands at least since late in the last century, Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) since 1949, and Great Black-backed Gulls (*L. marinus*) since 1975. During 1977 the islands supported

approximately 7500 pairs of Ring-billed Gulls, 250 pairs of Herring Gulls, and one pair of Great Black-backed Gulls.

We were banding young Herring Gulls on "Island B," the southeast island, while the adults circled overhead when Rosenband called our attention to an unusual gull, similar in size to the Herring Gulls, but lacking the black wing tips. As the bird passed over repeatedly, often harassing a Herring Gull or immature Black-crowned Night Heron in flight, it was easily recognized by the lighter color of the underwing. As it wheeled above, the mantle was lighter than the other gulls. Seen in good light with 10 x 40 and 8.5 x 44 binoculars for over 15 minutes of study, the bird showed touches of dark gray on the ends of the outer primaries and white tip on the tenth primary. The iris appeared light to two observers. Several 35 mm. color slides, taken with a 135 mm. lens and 2x extender, verify the light mantle and lack of intensity to the gray wing spots, eliminating Thayer's Gull.

The bird is identified as an adult Iceland Gull of the subspecies known as "Kumlien's" Gull (*Larus glaucoides kumlienii*), breeding in low-arctic eastern Canada. An immature Iceland Gull at the Lake Placid dump, Essex County, May 28-31, 1975, probably represented the same subspecies, but the present report is apparently the first record verified with photographs for inland New York State between 22 May and 16 August; even in coastal regions of the state it is very rare in summer (Bull, 1974, *Birds of New York State*, p. 269). For additional information see: Godfrey, W. E. 1966. *The Birds of Canada*. Nat. Mus. Canada Bull. 203, p. 176; and Gosselin, M. and David, N. 1975. Field identification of Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) in eastern North America (*American Birds*, vol. 29, no. 6 (Dec.), pp. 1059-1066).

The slides were examined by Geoffrey Carleton, who concurs in the identification.

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Common Loon breeding in the St. Lawrence River Valley: The breeding status of the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) in the St. Lawrence River area is poorly documented. Eaton (1910, *N.Y. State Museum Memoirs*, no. 12, Pt. 1, p. 100), stated that this species had previously nested near Lake Ontario but was by then restricted to the Adirondacks. Hyde's report (1939, *Roosevelt Wildlife Bull.*, vol. 7, no. 2, p. 99) indicated that the St. Lawrence region was "unsafe as breeding grounds for the loon." He went on to relate a local resident's account of a pair nesting on an island in the river near Chippewa Bay. In his thorough review of the literature of New York bird distribution Bull (1974, *Birds of New York State*, Doubleday, N.Y., pp. 49-51) did not present any evidence of the species' breeding in the St. Lawrence region. Since this area is used a great deal