GLAUCOUS GULL OR BURGOMASTER.

† *LARUS GLAUCUS*, *Brunn.*

PLATE CCCCXLIX.—ADULT MALE, AND YOUNG.

I found this species on the coast of Labrador in very small numbers, all paired, in the month of July; but our endeavours to discover their nests were unavailing, and their shyness, which surpassed even that of the Great Black-backed Gull, prevented us from seeing much of their habits. I have never met with one on any part of our Atlantic coast, and I am much disposed to believe that those which may retire from the Arctic regions, where they are numerous, follow the north-west shores of America, as is indeed the case with many of the hyperborean birds, they giving an unaccountable preference to that side of the continent. It is true that I have often been told at Boston and New York that the Glaucous Gull had not unfrequently been procured there; but in no instance could I place any reliance upon the report, for when the supposed Glaucous Gull was shown to me, it proved to be merely a large specimen of the Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*. Dr. RICHARDSON, who had good opportunities of observing this bird, speaks of it as follows:—

“This large and powerful Gull inhabits Greenland, the Polar Seas, Baffin’s Bay, and the adjoining straits and coasts, in considerable numbers, during the summer. Its winter resorts in America have not been mentioned by authors; and the Prince of MUSIGNANO informs us, that it is exceedingly rare in the United States. It is notoriously greedy and voracious, preying not only on fish and small birds, but on carrion of every kind. One specimen killed on Captain Ross’ expedition disgorged an auk when it was struck, and proved, on dissection, to have another in its stomach. Unless when impelled to exertion by hunger, it is rather a shy, inactive bird, and has little of the clamorousness of others of the genus. There is a considerable variety in the size of individuals. Captain SABINE found most of his specimens smaller than the *L. marinus*, but the largest individual of either species which he met with, was a male of *L. glaucus*, killed in Barrow’s Strait. Its length was thirty-two inches; extent of wing sixty-five inches; weight four pounds and a quarter. Its tarsus was three inches and a half long, and its bill, which was prodigiously strong and arched, measured upwards of four

W.E.H.

Macrus Gull. Pinguiculus

Drawn from Nature by J. J. Audubon, F.R.S. &c.

1. Adult male. 2. Young first autumn.

1. Adult male. 2. Young first autumn.

inches. The eggs of this Gull are pale purplish-grey, with scattered spots of umber-brown, and subdued lavender-purple."

My figures were taken from specimens kindly presented to me by my friend Captain JAMES CLARKE ROSS, R. N.

LARUS GLAUCUS, Bonap. Syn., p. 361.

LARUS GLAUCUS, *Burgomaster Gull*, Swains. and Rich. F. Bor. Amer., vol. ii. p. 416.

GLAUCOUS GULL OF BURGOMASTER, Nutt. Man., vol. ii. p. 306.

GLAUCOUS GULL OF BURGOMASTER, *Larus glaucus*, Aud. Orn. Biog., vol. v. p. 59.

Adult, 30; wing, $19\frac{1}{2}$.

Met with in Labrador in summer. Baffin's Bay and Arctic Seas generally. Not observed within the limits of the United States.

Adult Male.

Bill shorter than the head, stout, compressed, higher near the end than at the base. Upper mandible with the dorsal line nearly straight for half its length, declinate and arched towards the end, the ridge convex, the sides very rapidly sloping and slightly convex, the edges sharp and somewhat inflected, the tip rather obtuse. Nasal groove rather long and narrow; nostrils in its fore part, lateral, longitudinal, linear-oblong, wider anteriorly, pervious. Lower mandible with the angle long and narrow, the outline of the crura decurved toward their junction, where there is a prominence, beyond which the outline ascends and is slightly concave, the sides erect and nearly flat, the edges sharp and a little inflected.

Head large, ovato-oblong, narrowed anteriorly. Neck of moderate length, strong. Body full. Feet of moderate length, rather slender; tibia bare for three-quarters of an inch; tarsus somewhat compressed, covered anteriorly with numerous much curved scutella, laterally with angular scales, behind with numerous small rectangular scales; hind toe very small and elevated, the fore toes of moderate length, slender, the fourth longer than the second, the third longest, all scutellate above, and connected by reticulated entire membranes, the lateral toes margined externally with a thick narrow membrane. Claws small, slightly arched, depressed, rounded, that of the middle toe with an expanded thin inner margin.

The plumage is very full, close, elastic, soft, and blended, on the back somewhat compact. Wings very long, rather broad, acute; the first quill scarcely two-twelfths of an inch shorter than the second, which is longest, the rest of the primaries rapidly graduated; secondaries broad and rounded. Tail of moderate length, nearly even, being slightly rounded, of twelve broad rounded feathers.

Bill gamboge-yellow, with a carmine patch towards the end of the lower

mandible, and the edges of both mandibles at the base of the same colour. Edges of eyelids red, iris yellow. Feet flesh-coloured, claws yellowish. The head, neck, lower parts, rump, and tail, are pure white; the back and wings light greyish-blue; the edges of the wing, and a large portion toward the end of all the quills, white.

Length to end of tail 30 inches; bill along the ridge $2\frac{9}{12}$, along the edge $3\frac{1}{2}$; wing from flexure $19\frac{1}{2}$; tail $8\frac{3}{4}$; tarsus $2\frac{11}{12}$; hind toe $\frac{2\frac{1}{2}}{12}$, its claw $\frac{3}{12}$; second toe $\frac{10}{12}$, its claw $\frac{5\frac{1}{2}}{12}$; middle toe $2\frac{7}{12}$, its claw $\frac{6\frac{1}{2}}{12}$; outer toe $2\frac{1}{4}$, its claw $\frac{4}{12}$.

The Female, which is somewhat less, resembles the male.

Young in full plumage.

The bill is yellow to a little beyond the nostrils, black at the end; the feet flesh-coloured, the claws dusky. The iris brown. The general colour of the plumage is very pale yellowish-brown; the feathers of the back with a large dusky spot towards the end; the quills and tail-feathers barred with the same.

THE GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.

+*LARUS MARINUS*, Linn.

PLATE CCCCL.—MALE.

High in the thin keen air, far above the rugged crags of the desolate shores of Labrador, proudly sails the tyrant Gull, floating along on almost motionless wing, like an Eagle in his calm and majestic flight. On widely extended pinions, he moves in large circles, constantly eyeing the objects below. Harsh and loud are his cries, and with no pleasant feeling do they come on the winged multitudes below. Now onward he sweeps, passes over each rocky bay, visits the little islands, and shoots off towards the mossy heaths, attracted perhaps by the notes of the Grouse or some other birds. As he flies over each estuary, lake, or pool, the breeding birds prepare to defend their unfledged broods, or ensure their escape from the powerful beak of their remorseless spoiler. Even the shoals of the finny tribes sink deeper into the waters as he approaches; the young birds become silent in their

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Drawn from nature by J. J. Audubon, F.R.S. &c.

1. Adult male. 2. Young first autumn.

1. Adult female. 2. Young first autumn.

Audubon, John James. 1844. "Glaucous Gull or Burgomaster, *Larus glaucus*, Brunn. [Pl. 449]." *The birds of America : from drawings made in the United States and their territories* 7, 170–172. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.319561>.

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