

Lepidium perfoliatum L. at once betrays its affinities by the dissected basal leaves, the shape and size of the pods, and the stiff upright habit of growth. The pale-yellow flowers, and the broad clasping upper leaves, are the most striking marks of distinction from our other species. These leaves are not, as the specific name would indicate, truly perfoliate, but surround the stem with clasping rounded lobes. The blades together with these auricles, form broad, ovate, pointed leaves, in sharp contrast with those on the lower part of the plant. So distinctive is the plant in appearance, it is inconceivable that it would be long in the country or at all widespread without attracting notice. It is probably likely to occur outside our dry belts.—H. GROH.

UNUSUAL NESTING SITES.—The interesting article in the September, 1930, issue of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* on Unusual Nesting Sites, prompts me to add the following instances that have come to my notice.

On two occasions I have found Flickers nesting in cutbanks of this, the Frenchman River. This habit, if not of recent origin here, is certainly unusual, and less necessary that would be the case further down this river where trees of any kind are almost non-existent.

For several years in this valley there stood two old box-cars and two flat-cars on a railway "spur" leading into a disused ballast-pit. The box-cars were a favoured resort of several kinds of birds including Flickers which drilled holes in the sides, thereby making nest sites for themselves, and Mountain Bluebirds; a colony of Cliff Swallows took possession of the interior of one car, and a Say's Phoebe attached her nest to a bit of twisted wire hanging from the roof. A pair or two of Rock Wrens nested in the gravel-pit cliff and the flat-cars were a regular playground for the young birds. Fortunately neither House Wrens nor Sparrows ever visited the spot to disturb the harmony. When subsequently the track was torn up and the cars removed I was deprived of an interesting centre for bird-life study.

In the *Condor* (29: 249, 1927) I recorded finding the nest of a Magpie in a railway bridge. This is the only record to my knowledge of a Magpie choosing a site other than in a tree or bush. Crows generally build their own nests, but on one occasion I found where a pair had "remodelled" the top of a disused Magpie habitation. Both the Ferruginous Rough-leg and the Swainson Hawks are, I believe, their own architects also, but I have known a Rough-leg to occupy the nest of a Swainson built in the previous season. While motoring over the open prairie in 1917, I saw a Swainson Hawk's nest on the top of a "hay

loader" standing close by the well-used road, and I am told the same species will nest on the cross-arms of telegraph posts alongside the railway track. I have found the nest of a House Wren in the side of an old Magpie nest, and that of a House Sparrow on a small ledge under the floor of a hay-rack standing idle in my yard. Another unusual place for a sparrow to nest was in a Russian poplar. When I last saw the nest and eggs they were lying wrecked on the ground, the result of a gale of wind.

Some 14 years ago while taking a Sunday afternoon stroll with a friend along the nearby railway track we walked right over a sitting Mallard, which the dog following us discovered and flushed. The eggs were within a foot of the ties, and concealed by weeds which during the war period flourished almost unchecked.—LAWRENCE B. POTTER.

KING EIDER TAKEN IN NOVA SCOTIA.—A juvenile King Eider was taken by the writer on November 15, 1929, in the Cornwallis River, near Wolfville. The bird was alone when taken, and no other Eiders were seen in the vicinity. Major Allan Brooks of Comox, B.C., identified the specimen.

The only other record of the King Eider for Nova Scotia of which I have any knowledge, was taken at St. Paul's Island, Victoria County, Cape Breton, and is now in the Provincial Museum at Halifax.—VICTOR E. GOULD.

ICELAND GULL ON LAKE ERIE.—On March 4, 1931, I had the pleasure of looking over the gulls and ducks at Sunnyside, at the west end of Toronto. There we found, along with many Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, at least six Black-backs, which I have never met west of Toronto, and a single adult Glaucous Gull, of which species I had seen only one in previous years.

With this memory fresh in my head, three of us visited Port Stanley on March 22, and studied the Gulls carefully. There were about 50 on the breakwater which lay about a quarter or a third of a mile offshore, and as we studied them, more kept coming until there were three times as many. Soon after we began, one gull was selected because of his small size and whitish appearance, and while we watched, he changed position and flew a short distance, and twice he was on the rocks just beside a Herring Gull, which made a comparison of size very easy. He was distinctly smaller than the Herring Gull, had no black tips, and was very light coloured on the back, the colour apparently coming down only partway from the shoulders, just as described in Forbush's *Birds of Massachusetts* for the second year plumage of the Iceland

Gull. Moreover, the bill was conspicuously black at the outer end, perhaps for half-way. Nearby we found another light coloured bird which also lacked the black tips, but was larger, and must have been a Glaucous Gull.

These birds were carefully studied through a 33-power telescope, and the visibility was good.

What with a Franklin Gull last fall, a Kittiwake and a Jaeger about five years ago, Lake Erie is quite putting itself on the map for rare water birds; of course, the automobile and the telescope help a lot.—W. E. SAUNDERS.

ICELAND GULLS (*Larus leucopterus*) AT QUEBEC CITY.—Iceland Gulls have been present in small numbers, frequently, if not continuously, about the St. Lawrence River at Quebec City during the past two winters. Most of my observations of them were made from the window of my office near the water-front, though I have also watched them at very close range from the quay. Examination of my record of observations of this species reveals that in 1930 I observed Iceland Gulls on fifteen days in January, eleven days in February, and four days in March. The first of these observations was made on January 2nd, and the last observation in the spring was on March 28th. The largest number of Iceland Gulls seen in one day was 5, which number was seen on only two dates, January 28th and 29th. It was an ordinary thing to see 2 or 3 of the birds in one day, and solitary individuals were also noted frequently.

In 1931 I observed Iceland Gulls on twenty-one days in January and on seventeen days in February. The first of these observations was made on January 2nd and the last on February 28th. (January 2nd, being the first business day of the year, was the first day, in each of the years in question, when I visited my office, thus making an observation of this kind possible.) The largest number of Iceland Gulls seen in one day in 1931 was 14, which number was seen only on February 1st. On January 3rd and again on January 15th, 8 were seen, but more commonly from 3 to 5 birds were seen in a day.

Temperature and weather seem to make no difference in the occurrence of these birds in this vicinity. I have frequently observed them soaring calmly around in the fog rising from the river when it was about twenty degrees below zero, and during the worst easterly storms imaginable I have often seen them serenely riding out the gale with no apparent bother.

If there is calm weather, no matter how cold it is, they swim around, dipping their beaks in the water and drinking, exactly as if it were a warm day in summer.

There are no wintering Mergansers or other Ducks here, so these Gulls cannot live by robbing such fishers, as I am informed they do elsewhere. I think that their food here consists largely of sewage, as well as of refuse drawn from the ferry boats or dumped into the river with the snow from the streets.—R. MEREDITH.

BOOK REVIEWS

CANADIAN WRITER'S MARKET SURVEY. *Compiled and issued by The Writers Club, Toronto. Ottawa: Graphic Publishers Ltd., 1931. 318 pp. \$2.00.*

Those of our readers who make an occasional dollar by their pens will be interested in the appearance of this volume which is undoubtedly the most complete survey of Canadian markets for the free-lance writer in existence. Lists of other markets in the States, England and the British Empire are also given as well as lists of book publishers, verse markets, syndicates and also hints on the preparation of manuscript, copyright, the radio and moving pictures. Unfortunately, the volume has many faults; most obvious among them, the uneven character of the information given. Thus we are told that *Canadian Magazine* pays about a cent a word on acceptance, the *Western Home Monthly* pays on publication but the rate is not given, and in the case of the *Dalhousie Review* nothing more than

the address is given, not even the editor's name. More careful editing could surely have eliminated a number of such faults, but even as it is the book is well-worth adding to the free-lance writer's library.—D.L.

DICTIONARY OF GREEK AND LATIN COMBINING FORMS USED IN ZOOLOGICAL NAMES. *By Edmund C. Jaeger. Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill. 1931. \$1.50.*

Here are listed some 2000 of the numerous Greek and Latin forms which are used in the naming of zoological species. It is obvious that the list must be incomplete but a careful check-up of a number of generic and specific terms taken at random showed surprisingly few omissions and none of importance. Such a list as this should do much to put both amateurs and students at their ease and to rob these often formidable names of their terrors.—D.L.



Saunders, William Edwin. 1932. "Iceland Gull on Lake Erie." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 46(2), 49–50. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339343>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/89295>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.339343>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/339343>

Holding Institution

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.