

ON THE GLAUCOUS GULL OF BERING'S SEA AND CONTIGUOUS WATERS.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

THE National Museum having accumulated a considerable series of specimens of *Larus glaucus* from various North Atlantic localities, and also an equal number of what appeared to be the same species from the shores of Alaska and adjacent waters, certain very obvious differences between specimens from the two regions attracted attention, and eventually led to a careful comparison. The result is that the so-called *L. glaucus* from Alaska, etc., proves to be a quite distinct and easily recognized species, which seems to have been hitherto unnamed. I therefore propose to name and characterize it as follows:—

Larus barrovianus, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—In plumage resembling *L. glaucus* and *L. leucopterus*, and in size intermediate between these two species; very different from the former, however, in shape of the bill, which has the depth through the angle never less, and usually decidedly greater, than through the base, instead of exactly the reverse; mantle averaging somewhat darker than in *glaucus*, with an obvious or tolerably abrupt line of demarkation between the white tips to the primaries and the pearl-blue of their basal portion.

Males (four specimens): Wing, 17.00-18.00 (average, 17.44); tail, 7.30-7.50 (7.45); culmen, 2.00-2.30 (2.19); depth of bill through angle, .80-.85 (.82); through base, .75-.80 (.79); tarsus, 2.55-2.78 (2.64); middle toe (with claw), 2.53-2.75 (2.64).

Females (four specimens): Wing, 16.25-17.25 (16.81); tail, 7.00-7.20 (7.11); culmen, 1.88-2.05 (1.98); depth of bill through angle, .72-.80 (.75); through base, .70-.75 (.72); tarsus, 2.40-2.50 (2.45); middle toe (with claw), 2.35-2.50 (2.42).

HABITAT. Bering's Sea and contiguous waters, northeastward to Point Barrow, southwestward to Japan (in winter). (Type, No. 88,913, U. S. Nat. Mus., ♂ ad., Point Barrow, Alaska, August 4, 1882; Middleton Smith, collector.)

The specimens measured above are all adults, and are from the two localities of St. Michaels and Point Barrow. An equal number of adults of *L. glaucus* (only two examples having the sex determined, however), measure as follows:

Males (presumed, or ascertained; six specimens): Wing, 17.60-18.75 (18.20); tail, 7.70-8.50 (8.12); culmen, 2.42-2.70 (2.56); depth of bill at angle, .86-.95 (.91). at base, .90-1.00 (.95); tarsus, 2.60-3.05 (2.91); middle toe (with claw) 2.75-3.00 (2.89).

Females (presumed and ascertained; two specimens): Wing, 16.75-18.00 (17.37); tail, 7.40-8.40 (7.90); culmen, 2.30-2.35 (2.32); depth of bill through angle, .80; at base, .83-.88 (.85); tarsus, 2.60-2.72 (2.66); middle toe (with claw) 2.68-2.75 (2.71).

There is apparently no difference in plumage between the two species in the immature plumages, of which the National Museum collection possesses a good series in all stages; but they may be very readily distinguished by the size and shape of the bill, as pointed out above.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF OYSTER-CATCHER FROM THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

Hæmatopus galapagensis, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR.—Somewhat similar to *H. palliatus* Temm., but differing as follows: Back, scapulars, and wings sooty black (as in *H. leucopus* Garn.), instead of grayish brown; shorter upper tail-coverts entirely black, and the longer ones barred or spotted with black at ends; under primary-coverts chiefly black; white of greater wing-coverts and secondaries much more restricted. Wing, 10.00; tail, 3.80-3.90; culmen, 3.12-3.42; depth of bill at thickest portion anterior to nostril, .50; tarsus, 2.12-2.20; middle toe, 1.65. (Type, No. 101,319. U. S. Nat. Mus.)

HABITAT. Chatham Island, Galapagos. (Three specimens, collected by Dr. Wm. H. Jones, U. S. N., Surgeon U. S. S. 'Wachusett'.)

PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS FROM SOUTHERN MEXICO, IN THE COLLECTION OF THE MEXICAN GEOGRAPHICAL AND EXPLORING COMMISSION.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

PUBLICATION of the annotated catalogue* of the beautiful and unique collection of birds made by the naturalists of the Mexican

*To be published in Vol IX, 'Proceedings' of the U.S. National Museum, with full descriptions and appropriate critical remarks. The author is indebted to the Director of the National Museum, for his kind permission to publish in advance these condensed diagnoses.