

the width of the iris visible. The eye-ring was a dull reddish brown, close in tone to the brown iris, and very different from the bright yellow eye-ring of the Herring Gulls.

The four birds stood in a line where the breaker-foam stopped, about 3 feet apart; all four faced into the wind, but did so at a slightly different angle so that absolutely exact comparisons were not possible. After careful comparisons, I found that the four were more or less identical in size and mantle-color. Little of the wing-tip pattern can be seen when a gull is resting, but I endeavored to compare that of the dark-eyed bird with the adjacent Herring Gull and found that the amount of black on the primary tips was distinctly more limited than that of the Herring Gull. This would agree closely with example six in Figure 45 of Smith's Monograph (*Evolution of Some Arctic Gulls*, A.O.U. Monograph No. 4, 1966) and therefore is quite acceptable for a Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*). Plate 32 of Godfrey's *Birds of Canada* (1966) also indicates such a wing tip pattern for Thayer's Gull.

I had no way of collecting the bird and, after some 15 minutes of observation, had to watch it fly off with its companions.

I can find no mention in any reference available to me of another species of gull having 1) a brown iris, 2) medium gray mantle, 3) flesh-pink legs, and 4) a black-white wing-tip pattern. Accordingly I submit that some years of inspecting Herring Gulls (a dull business) has finally yielded a Thayer's Gull.

[Dept. Ed. — Your editor is informed by personnel at the National Museum of Natural History that the dark eye color is diagnostic of Thayer's Gull in adult birds. No such separation is possible between immature Thayer's Gulls and Herring Gulls. On the basis of this careful study and with recognition by the American Ornithologists' Union (*Auk*, 90:411-419), Thayer's Gull can be placed on the hypothetical list for North Carolina. This is one of those species, however, which should be collected for final verification before being placed on the official list for North Carolina.]

## **Recovery of a Banded Eastern Bluebird: Confirmation of an Assumption**

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In a previous field note (*Chat*, 32:28-29) I expressed the opinion that Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) breeding in my wooded yard near Zebulon, Wake County, N.C., did not migrate in winter but merely dispersed along the roadsides. I based this assumption on the occasional sighting of a banded bluebird in my yard during December, January, and February, months when the species was rarely present around the nest boxes and more abundant than usual on wires along the road to town. Confirmation of my assumption comes from the recovery of an Eastern Bluebird banded at my station on 6 October 1970 as a hatching year male. The bird returned on 7 May 1971, and it was apparently one of several males using my boxes that spring. On 23 January 1972 a member of the David Pearce family found the bird dead in the yard of their home. The Pearces live in Franklin County 0.9 of a mile from my banding station, and Mr. Pearce reports that he leaves his tobacco burner doors open in winter to prevent loss of birds roosting in his barns.