

Instead of silvery white, the iris is yellowish white; the feet are greyish flesh colour; the patch of white on the first primary is only an inch in length on each web, and there is no circular patch on the inner web of the second; but, as Audubon says, "the terminal markings vary;" perhaps these differences are of little importance.

The technical names of this species are Latin, *Larus*, a gull; *argentatus*, silvery.

Audubon thus describes the species:—

Bill robust, compressed, gamboge-yellow, with an orange-red patch toward the end of the lower mandible; iris silvery-white; feet flesh-coloured; head, neck, lower parts, rump, and tail, pure white; back and wings, light greyish blue; edges of wing and extremities of quills, white; the first six quills brownish black towards the end, that colour including the outer webs and the greater part of the inner of the first two, and on the rest gradually diminishing, so as on the sixth merely to form a bar; the first quill with a patch of white about an inch and a half long on both webs near the end, the second with a circular patch on the inner web; the tips of all white. The terminal markings of the outer quills vary. Young with the bill brownish black, paler at the base of the lower mandible, feet purplish flesh colour; general colour of plumage, light purplish grey, the upper part of the head darker, the lower parts mottled with pale yellowish grey; feathers of upper parts and upper-tail coverts, irregularly edged and barred with greyish white; primary quills greyish black, terminally margined with whitish; tail of the same colour, its base and the outer webs of the lateral feathers irregularly mottled with whitish, the tips brownish white.

Male, 23, 53. *Young*, in winter, 18½, 51.

Abundant in autumn, winter, and early spring, from Texas along the whole Atlantic coast of Newfoundland. Breeds from the Bay of Fundy to Melville Island. Common in autumn on the Great Lakes, the Ohio, and Mississippi.

Larus argentatus, BONAP. Syn. p. 360.

Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*, NUTT. Man. v. ii. p. 304.

Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*, AUD. Orn. Biog. v. iii. p. 588; v. v. p. 638.

THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, &c.—The Journal of the Canadian Institute is now conducted by an able editorial corps, composed principally of the Professors of the University and Colleges at Toronto, while it is, at the same time, open to communications from the numerous members of the Society, upon any of the sciences to which its pages are devoted. The March number contains many articles, reviews, scientific and literary notes, all of them of great value.

The Canadian Institute is doing a vast deal of good in calling into activity throughout the country, energies which we have no hesitation in stating would have long slumbered but for that Institution. The same may be said of the Geological Survey. The development of the resources of Canada, the working out of its physical structure, and the exploration of its mineral treasures are not its only services. It has excited curiosity and a desire to acquire information which must lead to important educational results. Reputation abroad,—good name to nations is of as much value as it is to individuals. To be known as a country where the arts and sciences are vigorously cultivated, is to have a good repute. In the department of which we are now speaking, there is much remaining to be done, both by labour and science, and it will be productive of the greatest injury to Canada not to carry out the Survey to its completion.

ERRATA.—On page 134, 30th line from the top, for "Frias," read "Trias."
On page 142, for "migratorious," read "migratorius."