

near Girvan. The keeper on Ailsa Craig has seen three or four at a time frequenting that rock: they were of indolent habits, in the day-time especially; but late in the afternoon they set out seawards, returning to their quarters unseen after dark. This was at a time before all the other sea-fowl had congregated; consequently the keeper was attracted to them as strangers, and as having *no black tips, to their wings*. Frequently, at the gloaming, I have seen what I believed to be a pair of these birds hovering over the water of Girvan, about a mile from the sea, and dipping their bills into the river as if picking up small fry.

“Mr. Elwes informs me that the Iceland Gull is a rare winter visitor to Islay; but I have not heard of its occurrence at any time on the outer islands.”

The White-winged Silvery Gull: I find the following note about this bird in ‘Ornithological Biography,’ Audubon, vol. iii. p. 553:—“I have not met with this species further south than the Bay of New York. During the winter it is not rare about Boston and further eastward. At the approach of summer, before the pairing of the Herring-Gull (*Larus argentatus*), the White-winged Gulls collect in flocks, and set out for the distant north, where they breed.

“The flight of this species so much resembles that of the Herring-Gull, that, were it not for its smaller size and the different colour of its wings, it could not be distinguished from the other. It is less shy, however, proceeds further up the rivers and salt-water creeks, and alights oftener on the water, as well as on the salt meadows, than that species. While at Portland, in Maine, I observed a good number of these Gulls flying over the inner harbour close to the shores, descending towards the water, and picking up garbage in the manner of the Herring-Gulls, with which they associated. Their notes were not so loud, nor so often heard.

“I was surprised to find but very few on the coast of Labrador; and these did not seem to be breeding; for although we carefully watched them, we did not succeed in finding any nests.”

The principal figure in the accompanying Plate is about two thirds of the natural size.