

Eight unidentified sparrows occurred between 9 March (1972) and 3 July (1972). A bird on 3 June 1971 was thought to be a Song Sparrow, one on 13 June 1971 was possibly a Cassin's Sparrow, and the remaining were recorded as sparrow (spp.). Also, an unidentified passerine was recorded 11 March 1971.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR—*Calcarius lapponicus*. *Fall*: uncommon visitant. The 62 individuals (one banded; specimen: CAS 68480) occurred from 3–5 September (1973) to 6–7 December (1975) with peaks during late September and late October. Only two occurred before 24 September, only two in November, and only one in December. The high count of eight was recorded 27 September 1974. Two were also recorded by PRBO on 23–24 September 1967.

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR—*Calcarius ornatus*. *Fall*: rare visitant. The 14 individuals (two banded) occurred from 26 September (1974) to 22 October (1973); this latter bird was captured in a weakened condition, banded, and held in captivity until 27 October when it was released healthy. The peak (seven birds) occurred in mid-October. The high count of four was recorded 29 September 1974. *Spring*: extremely rare visitant. A single bird was present 26–27 June 1975.

SNOW BUNTING—*Plectrophenax nivalis*. *Fall*: very rare visitant. The six individuals occurred as follows: 26 October 1972; 29, 29–30 October, and 29 October–10 November 1974; and 11 and 17 November 1975.

### HYPOTHETICAL LIST

We have withheld the following eight<sup>1</sup> species from the main text of the annotated list because details of their actual presence on the island are at present obscure. Some or all records may be valid but we feel it best to designate them as hypothetical.

WHITE PELICAN—*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. Recorded once by Gruber (1884). The lack of printed or tangible evidence and possible confusion with the Brown Pelican warrant its removal from the main list. Grinnell and Miller (1944) do not include any Farallon reference.

SNOW GOOSE—*Chen caerulescens*. See Addenda. A single flock of four birds was reported to us by a U.S. Coast Guardsman on 12 October 1970; they had supposedly flown by the island. In view of the fact that there was only a single observer, that no specimen, photograph, or written description exists, and that the possibility of Ross' Goose (*Chen rossii*) was not totally eliminated, we feel that this record, although probably accurate, should be relegated to hypothetical status. Interestingly, the period 12–14 October 1970 included visits by a number of unusual waterbirds, for instance, Blue-winged Teal and American Bittern.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK—*Buteo regalis*. Bryant (1888) reported "one specimen shot"; that is all. Bryant reported for several people at the island. It is not known who shot this bird, how it was identified, or if the specimen was preserved. Grinnell and Miller (1944) do mention this record.

BALD EAGLE—*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. See Addenda. Gruber (1884) reported that the lighthouse keeper collected one for him. It is not known who shot this bird, who examined it, or if a specimen exists. Grinnell and Miller (1944) do not include the record.

MARbled MURRELET—*Brachyramphus marmoratus*. Peterson (1957) reported five birds within 2 km of the island 7 April 1957. We know of no record of this species anywhere farther than a few kilometers from the mainland shore (see, for instance, Wahl 1975). No written description of these birds is available. In the absence of substantiating evidence, we consider this occurrence as hypothetical.

SCRUB JAY—*Aphelocoma coerulescens*. Gruber (1884) included this species on his list of island birds but there has been no substantiation. Grinnell and Miller (1944) do refer to this sight record. Pitelka (1951) discussed the record and considered it the result of accidental transportation to the island, perhaps by ship. If the record is correct, this is a likely explanation, or possibly it was the escaped pet of human residents.

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<sup>1</sup> Verified occurrences of two of the eight species, Snow Goose and Bald Eagle, were obtained subsequent to 2 April 1976 and are included in the Addenda.

COMMON CROW—*Corvus brachyrhynchos*. Bryant (1888) listed the only records: two pairs seen in June 1885 and one pair seen in May 1887. We do not know exactly whose records these were. We suspect them to be incorrect in view of the fact that ravens were present on the island in most of those early years, but, interestingly, were not recorded for 1885 or 1887. Grinnell and Miller (1944) refer to these records and note "but from no other island."

WESTERN BLUEBIRD—*Sialia mexicana*. Bryant (1888) reported that "a few were seen occasionally" but there is no further evidence. Grinnell and Miller (1944) in reference to this record say "probably in winter."

## DISCUSSION

The Farallon occurrences of 331 species of birds are documented to 2 April 1976 in the Species Accounts. Fifteen additional species occurred in the subsequent 42-month period, to 2 October 1979, and are documented in the Addenda. Of the 331 species, only 20 (12 seabirds and eight landbirds) are known to have bred. At least two of the breeding seabirds, Common Murre and Rhinoceros Auklet, and seven of the breeding landbirds also occur as visitants. These nine species, along with the 311 that have occurred only as visitants or nonbreeding residents, are the subject of the sections on visitants, and are discussed according to their ecological and seasonal distribution on mainland northern California, the nearest continental landmass. Species known to have occurred in northern California (see McCaskie et al. 1979) but not on the Farallones are also briefly mentioned.

### BREEDING SEABIRDS

Few islands can compare with the Farallones in the variety and number of birds per unit area. To be sure, few other areas have received the concentrated, sustained attention given these islands. As the preceding pages amply document, such attention has been deserved; the Farallon bird life is truly remarkable.

The Farallon populations of breeding seabirds are among the largest in western North America south of the Aleutians. The world's largest breeding populations of Ashy Storm-Petrel, Brandt's Cormorant, and Western Gull occur on the Farallones. In fact, Farallon nesting populations account for about two-thirds of the marine birds breeding in California, and a substantial proportion of the individuals breeding on the US West Coast (Ainley and Whitt 1973). During fall and winter these Farallon birds disperse along the coast from British Columbia to Baja California. Olson (1977) recently remarked that a vast area of the Atlantic Ocean had been voided of birds by the rendering of Ascension Island into a site unsuitable for nesting seabirds. Considering that the Farallon populations contribute so heavily to the West Coast marine bird fauna, and perhaps not too long ago contributed even more heavily (see Ainley and Lewis 1974), one cannot help wondering how the West Coast marine bird populations would fare without them.

In addition, few sites along the West Coast exceed the Farallones in the number of breeding species. Of the 17 seabird species that breed on the Pacific Coast of California, 12 have populations on these islands. Besides the three species mentioned above, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Pelagic Cormorant, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, and Cassin's Auklet are abundant breeders; Double-crested Cormorant, Black Oystercatcher, and Tufted Puffin are common breeders; and Rhinoceros Auklet is an uncommon breeder. Most of these species have subarctic affinities. Three of the five California breeding species not represented by nesting populations, Black