

rumped birds. A parallel example is found in a large series of *O. socorroensis*, the type of which has whitish patches on the sides of the rump (lateral upper coverts). In a series of over 100 skins I only found about 3 per cent. so marked. A few are nearly as white on rump as true *leucorhoa*, but the largest part of the series, fully 95 per cent., have sooty black coverts above and below. Two or more species might easily be made from the series, but unfortunately the light rumped birds are found in the same burrows with the other birds.

FOUR SEA BIRDS NEW TO THE FAUNA OF NORTH AMERICA.

BY A. W. ANTHONY.

DURING the past spring and summer the following species were noted between San Diego and Cape San Lucas. All are new to our fauna and one, at least, *Phaëthon rubricaudus* is a decidedly unexpected addition to our birds.

On March 17, between San Geronimo Island and Guadalupe Island, a small white-bodied Albatross several times circled about the schooner but left us before any one could obtain a shot. Half an hour later it reappeared and was killed proving to be an adult specimen of *Diomedea immutabilis* Rothschild, described from Laysan Island, between Hawaii and China.

In April, 1887, I saw a white Albatross within five miles of the spot where the above specimen was taken, and the following year two were seen off San Quentin, fifty miles further north. As none were taken the identity is in doubt but I am inclined to think they were the present species.

About Cape San Lucas *Puffinus auricularis* Townsend, was fairly common April 23, and again in early June. Associated with them were two species, one of which agreed very well with

the descriptions of *P. bulleri*, but as none were taken it would be unsafe to venture an opinion as to its identity. The second species was seen again about San Benedicte and Socorro Islands where it was nesting. It proved to be *Puffinus cuneatus* Salvin, heretofore known only from the Bonin Islands south of Japan, Krusenstern Island, and the Hawaiian Islands.

On July 23, a Red-tailed Tropic Bird, *Phaëthon rubricaudus*, was shot a short distance north of Guadalupe Island, thus adding the third species of the genus to our fauna. The Red-tailed Tropic Bird has, I think, heretofore been known only from the South Pacific. Whether it is of regular occurrence in our southwestern waters will be ascertained when we have a better knowledge of the pelagic species of this little known region.

SYRNIUM OCCIDENTALE CAURINUM, A NEW
OWL FROM THE PUGET SOUND REGION.

BY C. HART MERRIAM.

IN THE last edition of the Check-List of the American Ornithologists' Union (1895), and the second edition of Ridgway's 'Manual of North American Birds' (1896), California is given as the northern limit of range of the Spotted Owl, *Syrnium occidentale*. But in 'The Auk' for January, 1893 (Vol. X, pp. 17-18), Mr. S. N. Rhoads records two specimens from twelve miles east of Tacoma—a locality, by the way, some miles distant from the alleged "western foothills of the Cascades." The only other Puget Sound specimen of which I have any knowledge was killed in the city of Seattle a year or two ago, and was obtained by Mr. Henry W. Hindshaw, who mounted it for the Museum of the University of Washington, where it was recently examined by Dr. A. K. Fisher and myself.

On June 22 of the present year (1897), one of my assistants, Mr. E. A. Preble, killed an adult female at Mt. Vernon, in Skagit