

NOTES ON TUBINARES, INCLUDING RECORDS
WHICH AFFECT THE A. O. U. CHECK-LIST.

BY ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY.

1. *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* (Gmelin). YELLOW-NOSED
MOLLYMAWK.

The first North American record of this subantarctic albatross is based upon a skin in the American Museum of Natural History (collection of Dr. L. C. Sanford, No. 9835). The specimen is an adult of unknown sex. It was collected near Seal Island, off Machias Bay, Maine, on August 1, 1913, by Mr. Ernest O. Joye, subsequently coming into the possession of Mr. Allen L. Moses and, finally, that of Dr. Sanford. Seal Island is Canadian territory, and since the locality in which the bird was killed is on the international border, south of Grand Manan, the record constitutes an addition to the local avifauna of both New Brunswick and Maine.

The specimen closely resembles others collected by the writer in the South Atlantic Ocean. The fact that its sex was not determined decreases the value of measurements, which are, however, as follows: Wing 482; tail 186; culmen 116; tarsus 78; middle toe with claw 114 mm.

Thalassarche chlororhynchos is of circumpolar distribution in the southern hemisphere. Its Atlantic breeding grounds are presumably in the "Tristan da Cunha Subarea," as recently defined in Dr. Roberto Dabbene's admirable paper on the petrels and albatrosses of the South Atlantic.¹ Sufficient material is not available for a determination of the subspecific status of the Atlantic bird, or of its relationship with the "*Thalassogeron eximius*" of Verrill.

2. *Calonectris kuhlii kuhlii* (Boie). MEDITERRANEAN SHEAR-
WATER.

While examining series of North American examples of the large shearwater described by Cory as *Puffinus borealis* (Bull. Nuttall Orn. Cl. Vol. 6, p. 84, 1881), the writer has occasionally encountered

¹ El Hornero, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 157-179, 1921.

remarkably small specimens, the difference in size, especially noticeable in the bill, being so great as to appear to represent something more than individual variation. Four such birds in the American Museum of Natural History (collection of Dr. Jonathan Dwight) were taken in Long Island waters by Dr. William C. Braislin. That their aberrant aspect among the series of ordinary Cory's Shearwaters has been previously noted is evident from interrogation marks accompanying the entries in Dr. Dwight's catalogue.

The four specimens referred to are fully adult, molting birds. A comparison of the skins with Mediterranean Shearwaters from the southern coasts of France and Spain indicates that the peculiar Long Island birds belong to the same race. The resemblance extends to the diagnostic white marking on the inner web of the outer primaries, a character first pointed out by Hartert and Ogilvie-Grant (*Novitates Zoologicae*, Vol. 12, p. 97, 1905) who wrote: "in *P. kuhlii kuhlii* a large white mark or some white mottling extends beyond the under wing-coverts, sometimes to beyond the middle of the feathers." The same authors showed that this character is not shared by the larger race of *P. kuhlii* inhabiting the Azores, Canaries, Madeira, etc. It is likewise lacking in North American specimens of Cory's Shearwater.

The records and measurements of the four Long Island birds, together with similar data for typical examples of Cory's shearwater are as follows:

	<i>Calonectris kuhlii kuhlii</i> (Boie)				
	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus	Middle toe with claw
45827 ♂ Dwight Coll., Montauk Point, N. Y., Aug. 15, 1907.	342	129	47	54	68
45828 ♂ Dwight Coll., Montauk Point, N. Y., Aug. 15, 1907.	329	129	48	51	62
45825 ♂ Dwight Coll., Off Amityville, N. Y., Oct. 4, 1902.	314	122	45	49	61
45826 ♀ Dwight Coll., Off Amityville, N. Y., Oct. 4, 1902.	322	117	46	49	65

Calonectris kuhlii borealis (Cory)

	Wing	Tail	Culmen	Tarsus	Middle toe with claw
8975 ♂ Sanford Coll., New York Bay, Sept. 9, 1918.	358	136	57	56	74
24449 ♂ Dwight Coll., Narragansett Bay, R. I., Sept. 29, 1886.	355	133	56	55	72
64709 ♂ Amer. Mus. Coll., Off Amagansett, N. Y., Oct. 20, 1887.	347	133	56	57	70
24450 ♀ Dwight Coll., Narragansett Bay, R. I., Sept. 29, 1886.	349	133	54	56	70

Cory's description and published measurements of the type specimen of "*Puffinus borealis*" make it clear that it was the larger race which he collected and named.

The type locality of the "*Procellaria kuhlii*" of Boie, the form now added to the known avifauna of North America, is the coastal waters of Corsica. Its breeding range, so far as determined, is confined to the Mediterranean, the Adriatic, the Aegean, and the Sea of Marmora, but during its wanderings it passes Gibraltar and enters the pelagic range of *Calonectris kuhlii borealis*, sometimes as is evident, reaching the coast of North America. The Mediterranean Shearwater should therefore be included in the next edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-list.' American collections of Cory's Shearwaters ought, moreover, to be examined for additional specimens of the Mediterranean race.

3. *Oceanodroma hornbyi* (GRAY). HORNBY'S PETREL.

Oberholser (Auk, Vol. 34, pp. 465, 466, 1917) has shown that this petrel must remain in the genus *Oceanodroma*. He also states his reasons for the opinion that the species should be reinstated in the regular list of North American birds.

For many years after G. R. Gray had described Hornby's Petrel, in 1853, the original skin in the British Museum remained unique. The type bore no label, but was believed to have come from the northwest coast of America.

In 1887 (*vide* Godman, 'Monogr. Petrels,' p. 36, 1907) E. W. Nelson reported that he had seen numbers of Hornby's Petrels "both in May and October, while crossing a part of the Pacific,

some 500 miles broad, bordering the Aleutian chain." Doubts were subsequently cast upon the identification, however, by Henshaw.

In 1895 the National Museum of Chile, at Santiago, obtained two immature specimens, including a nearly full-grown bird with only a few traces of grayish-white down still clinging to its belly. These came from an inland region, east of Taltal. They were not recognized as *Oceanodroma hornbyi*, and were described anew by R. A. Philippi as "*Procellaria (Oceanites) collaris*" (Verhandlungen des deutschen wissenschaftlichen Vereins zu Santiago de Chile, Vol. 3, Pt. 1, pp. 11-13, plate). Philippi's account states:

"Das Exemplar von Sturmschwalbe, dessen Beschreibung ich hiermit gebe, is dadurch besonders merkwürdig, dass es inmitten des Landes, östlich von Taltal, in Gesellschaft eines ganz jungen Vögelchens, welches noch mit dem vollen Flaum bekleidet ist, todt gefunden wurde. Unser Museum verdankt es H. Dr. Darapsky.

"Der vogel hat ganz die Grösse und Gestalt der übrigen Sturmschwalben, von denen er sehr leicht durch folgende Diagnose unterschieden werden kann."

The Latin diagnosis which follows, the recorded measurements, and the full page, monochrome plate, made from a crayon drawing, leave no room for doubt that the specimen described was *Oceanodroma hornbyi* notwithstanding minor discrepancies in the amount of white pictured on the face and throat. The figure was drawn from a poorly mounted bird, which doubtless accounts for slight distortions of the color areas. Both of the specimens have been seen by Dr. Frank M. Chapman during visits to Santiago.

The description of *Procellaria collaris*, and a subsequent, slightly more detailed account by Philippi (*vide infra*), were apparently overlooked by Godman, for the specific name *collaris* appears neither in the index nor the synonymy of the 'Monograph of the Petrels'.¹

During the Brewster-Sanford South American expedition of the American Museum of Natural History, Mr. Rollo H. Beck collected 56 specimens of *Oceanodroma hornbyi* in the offshore waters of the

¹The Chilean specimens are referred to again by Quijada in the *Catalogo ilustrado i descriptivo de las Aves Chilenas*, Bol. Mus. Nac. Chile, Vol. 1, No. 8 (pp. 82, 83 of the repaged extract), 1911.

Peruvian coast, and proved that the species is a common bird in this region. Mr. Beck's specimens were all taken during June 1913, between the approximate latitudes of Ancon ($11^{\circ} 47' S.$) and Cerro Azul ($13^{\circ} 4' S.$), in waters from 15 to about 200 miles from the shore. He first noted the species in the vicinity of Hormigas de Afuera Islets, 38 sea miles west of Callao, on June 4. On June 6, when about 200 miles off shore, he obtained the first specimens, along with numerous examples of *Oceanodroma markhami* and other petrels. Thereafter he saw *O. hornbyi* frequently, chiefly beyond 25 miles from shore, often feeding and coming to his bait in groups of a score or so. His notes of June 25, on which date he collected 30 miles off Cerro Azul, contain the observation that in early morning, while the sun was still low, the white breasts of Hornby's Petrels shone like silver as the birds darted back and forth among other species. After June 27 he changed his field of operations to the islands and inshore waters of the Pisco Bay region, and thenceforth saw the species no more.

All of Beck's specimens, the majority of which still remain in the Brewster-Sanford Collection, are birds which had resting sex organs. Most of the individuals were completing, or had recently completed, the molt and renewal of the flight feathers.

In the same month of a later year, June 1916, Dr. Frank M. Chapman also observed Hornby's Petrel along the Peruvian coast. He has kindly supplied me with the following extract from his notes of June 23, 1916:

"Leave Pisco at 7:15, make the Boqueron in the face of a stiff breeze. At 8 A. M., we were about ten miles off shore, and the ocean swarmed with Petrels; a large, black *Puffinus*, and a smaller one, in countless numbers were active, except one flock of several hundred resting on the water. Many Gannets were diving from a height of from fifty to sixty feet. A few Yellow-nosed Albatrosses were seen . . . splendid, sweeping creatures. There were several white-rumped Petrels and dozens of *O. hornbyi*; the latter the most erratic flier I have ever seen . . . like a bat, swift, and nighthawk in one. They were skimming here, flitting there, then suddenly swung off with the wind a hundred yards or more so quickly one nearly lost sight of them."

To these field notes Dr. Chapman has added the following

comment, relating to the apparent absence of the species during the period of the year which doubtless includes its breeding season:

"December 4-7, 1918, while *en route* from Callao to Mollendo, I sailed over this same area, but although on the lookout for them I did not see a single Hornby's Petrel."

In Captain R. Paefslers's several records of the capture or identification of sea birds (*Journel für Ornithologie, Jahrg. 61, pp. 41-51, 1913; idem, Jahrg. 62, pp. 272-278, 1914; and Ornithologische Monatsberichte, Jahrg. 23, pp. 59-61, 71, 72, 1915*), there are numerous references to *Oceanodroma hornbyi*, which he observed along the west coast of South America at various points between the latitudes of Chimbote, Peru, and a little north of Valparaiso, Chile. Paefslers evidently recognized the identity of the petrel with Philippi's species, for he employs the name *collaris* as well as *hornbyi*, and he states (*J. f. O., 1913, p. 49*) that on the night of Feb. 16, 1912, off Nasca, Peru, an example of "*Oceanites collaris* oder *Oceanites hornbyi* an Bord geflogen." Paefslers's records are as follows, most of them being based apparently upon sight identifications:

July 14, 1910.	32° S. 72° W.	(Off Quilimari, N. of Valparaiso).
June 17, 1911.	16° 30' S. 73° 18' W.	(Off Islay). One flew on board.
June 18, 1911.	14° S. 76° 18' W.	(Off Pisco).
July 30, 1911.	17° S. 72° 30' W.	(Off Ilo).
Feb. 16, 1912.	15° 12' S. 75° 36' W.	(Off Nasca). One flew on board.
Feb. 18, 1912.	9° S. 86° W.	(Off Santa Head, N. of Chimbote).
May 30, 1913.	20° 42' S. 70° 18' W.	(Off Iquique).
June 6, 1913.	15° S. 75° 48' W.	(Off Nasca).
June 15, 1913.	23° S. 70° 42' W.	(Off Mejillones).
Oct. 14, 1913.	29° 30' S. 71° 30' W.	(Off Coquimbo).
Oct. 17, 1913.	20° 36' S. 70° 24' W.	(Off Iquique).
Nov. 13, 1913.	30° S. 71° 36' W.	(Off Coquimbo).

With regard to the breeding locality of *O. hornbyi*, we have only the information published by Philippi. This author's second paper relating to the species (*Anales del Museo Nacional de Chile, Vol. 15, Sect. 1, pp. 90-92, pl. 42, 1902*) is in part a reprint in Spanish of the German description cited above, with the addition of a

colored plate. He states somewhat more fully that the mounted specimen in the Santiago Museum was obtained on the tableland east of Taltal, at a considerable altitude, in company with a dead chick of the same species, and that he therefore believes this region to be the petrel's breeding ground. The supposition surely seems to be supported by circumstantial evidence, and it would be altogether plausible were it not that mainland breeding sites are almost unknown among the Tubinares. If the petrels do actually nest in the Chilean mountains, their individual burrows are probably scattered over wide areas, for thickly populated colonies would soon be discovered and decimated by predaceous mammals.

It is rather curious that the aged Dr. Philippi never recognized his bird as *Oceanodroma hornbyi*, for he was at no time confident of the validity of "*Procellaria collaris*." He wrote, for instance:

"Coues has described in the 'Proceedings of the Academy of Philadelphia' for the year 1864, which I have not been able to consult, two species under the names *O. gracilis* and *O. lineata*. Perhaps our species is one of these, or one of the other described forms of the genera *Thalassidroma* or *Procellaria*. Ornithologists who have at their disposal the pertinent literature may decide" (Translated from the Spanish, *loc. cit.* p. 91.)

From all of the above it is evident that *Oceanodroma hornbyi*, like *O. markhami*, *Thalassidroma tethys*, *Diomedea irrorata*, and several species of *Pterodroma*, is a bird of the warmer, offshore areas of the tropical and subtropical eastern South Pacific. In common with all the forms named, it is truly pelagic during the non-breeding season, ranging hundreds of miles from land, and avoiding the inshore zone of the Humboldt Current where, as the writer learned during investigations in 1919-1920, an entirely distinct assemblage of sea birds, comprising penguins, diving petrels, shearwaters and fulmars of antarctic affinities, and endemic, strictly littoral steganopodes, abound in the cool, upwelling waters close to the coast. If *O. hornbyi* breeds in the southern parts of the Maritime Andes, it must, of course, cross the relatively narrow belt of cool water when passing between its nesting site and its pelagic feeding grounds; but it is rarely or never to be found by day in the inshore region. Loomis's suggestion that "Hornby's Petrel may prove to be a common Southern Hemisphere species

that visits the Northern Hemisphere after its breeding season" (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci. (4), Vol. 2, Pt. 2, p. 179, 1918) seems unlikely, since it is in general the "cold water" types of southern Tubinares, such as *Puffinus griseus*, *Priocella*, *Oceanites oceanicus*, etc., rather than the southern subtropical representatives, which make regular migrations to littoral waters of the northern hemisphere.

Gray's description (Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., Vol. 21, p. 62, 1853) states that the type specimen of *O. hornbyi* came "from the northwest coast of America," and that Admiral Hornby had "obtained it during his command on the Pacific station," perhaps during the period in which his headquarters were at Vancouver. In view, however, of the known circumstances and the probabilities as to the bird's habitat, together with the fact that the northern range has never been confirmed, and the utter lack of certainty as to the exact source of an unlabeled skin brought to England by a naval officer who had doubtless traversed the entire west coast of South America, it would seem to the writer that the species should be stricken entirely from the list of North American birds unless collateral evidence that the type was taken in the North Pacific can be produced.

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SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF BERKSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

BY WALTER FAXON AND RALPH HOFFMAN.

The following notes are offered as a supplement to the authors' 'Birds of Berkshire County, Massachusetts,' published in the 'Collections of the Berkshire Historical and Scientific Society,' Vol. III, pp. 107-166, Pittsfield, Mass., 1900. The numbers enclosed in brackets refer to the pagination of the separates issued at the same time.

P. 115 [9]. ***Hylocichla mustelina*** (Gmel.). WOOD THRUSH.—Seen as late as September 16 (Stockbridge).

P. 116 [10]. ***Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*** (Tschudi). OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.—Add Washington to the list of towns in which this bird breeds.