

GENERAL NOTES.

An Influx of Leach's Petrels.—[The great of August 21–23, 1933, which reached hurricane proportions along the Atlantic seaboard brought numbers of Leach's Petrels (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) from the open ocean to the sea beaches and carried many to points far inland. Some Wilson's Petrels, a single Madeira Petrel, Bonaparte's and other Gulls, a Brown Pelican and some Phalaropes were also blown inland as will be seen from notes which follow. The records of Leach's Petrel however are so numerous that it seems best to combine them in a single note giving each observer due credit. The writer was himself at Cape May, N. J., where the storm was perhaps more severe than elsewhere and these Petrels were seen in numbers all along the ocean front and flying over the inundated streets and driveways. On August 25 two were still present on the shore of Delaware Bay at Cape May Point remaining within twenty feet of the land for an hour or more apparently feeding on something on the surface of the water.—Ed.]

On August 25 two were seen flying low over the waters of Barnegat Bay six miles south of Seaside Park, N. J., and I was informed by Mrs. H. W. Cannon that she saw from 35 to 40 on the Bay at Seaside Park on August 24.—CHARLES H. ROGERS, *Princeton Museum of Zoology, Princeton, N. J.*

One was found dead on Wissahickon Creek, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, on August 25, and is now in the local collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences.—HARRY LANCE, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

On August 24 ten Leach's Petrels were present on Lake Ontelaunee, six miles north of Reading, Pa., five on a smaller pond south of the city and another captured in a crippled condition in a garage. The next day two others were picked up at Hamburg and East Reading but none were to be found on the lake. On the 23rd during the height of the storm the caretaker saw upwards of one hundred on the lake.—EARL L. POOLE, *Reading Museum, Reading, Pa.*

A note in the Lancaster, Pa., "Intelligencer" states that a specimen was found on the grounds of Franklin and Marshall College in that city by Emil Rohrer, on August 25.—SAMUEL H. BROWN, *Lancaster, Pa.*

On August 24 thirty-five were seen on the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg, Pa., and three picked up dead. A flock of small birds apparently Northern Phalaropes (*Lobipes lobatus*), 27 Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*) and a Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) were also seen on the river. The next morning only one Petrel and three Bonaparte's Gulls remained.—HAROLD B. WOOD, M.D. AND MERRILL WOOD, *Harrisburg, Pa.*

About 6:30 on the morning of August 25 one of these birds was seen on the west side of Catlin Lake, near Newcomb, N. Y., in the central Adirondacks. It was not shy and I was able to view it at close range with binoculars. It was feeding on pieces of fish that lay about but when it tried to move from one piece to the next it would fall over on its side and use

its wings to steady and support itself. I could see no dangling feet when it flew and apparently it had lost them. It remained in the vicinity for about ten hours.—CHARLES E. JOHNSON, *Roosevelt Wild Life Station, Syracuse, N. Y.*

A couple of weeks ago [i. e. about August 25—Ed.] we had a Petrel (probably Leach's) here. My son and two men declare that they could approach to within ten feet of it.—CHARLES A. GIANINI, *Poland, N. Y.*

On the afternoon of August 25, a Leach's Petrel was picked up alive in a door-yard on one of the main streets of Bennington, Vt., and on the morning of the same day a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) was observed on a small mill pond located within the village limits.—LUCRETIOUS H. ROSS, M.D., *Bennington, Vt.*

On the morning of August 24 Mrs. George N. Morey, of Chevy Chase, D. C., found a Leach's Petrel at a basement window of her home completely exhausted. She immediately made efforts at resuscitation starting force-feeding with ground chicken lungs. That evening the bird's activity indicated that her efforts in its behalf might be successful but the following day the bird died. Upon dissection I found a small bruised area at the elbow of the right wing and a rupture of the small intestine. The body feathers show progress of molt but the flight feathers are in excellent condition although the greater wing coverts show considerable wear.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

The Breeding Habits and Breeding Range of Leach's Petrel.—The publication¹ of the possibility of Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) breeding at Penikese Island, Mass. (41° 27' N., 70° 55' W.), is of much interest. That this bird, so tenaciously local in its breeding grounds, according to what is known of its history, should show a colonizing propensity beyond the limits of its ancient domain, affords a gleam of hope to conservationists who may have had fears for its future.

Nesting in stone walls is a common habit of Leach's Petrel on the coast of Maine. The bird occupies the landward side of sea walls of angular rocks, or small boulders, driven above the ordinary thrust of stormy seas, or the broad based stone walls laid up for fences.

Nests concealed in the depths of these piles of bare stones afford no outward visible sign of their occupation by the birds, a fact which renders a determination of the numbers of nests in colonies where these retreats are available very difficult. Nor has the subject escaped the notice of writers on birds. E. A. Samuels mentioned this habit in his 'Ornithology and Oölogy of New England,' (1867, p. 553) and carried the statement forward through all of the editions of this work, down to that of 1880. The present writer has mentioned the same habit, pointing out a number of definite localities.² The requirement of the bird appears to be a darkened passage leading to a suitable shelf or base for its nest. I once found a nest

¹ 1933, *Auk*, L, pp. 426-427.

² 1925, *Maine Nat.* II, p. 47.