

GENERAL NOTES

Atlantic Fulmar in Worcester, Massachusetts.—Early on the morning of December 29, 1938, Mr. Edward A. Browne, of this city, brought to the Museum of Natural History a live male Atlantic Fulmar (*Fulmarus g. glacialis*), in the light phase. The bird was mounted and is now on display at the Museum. The identification was subsequently checked by Dr. W. Elmer Ekblaw, who is familiar with the species from association with it in the Arctic. So far as can be discovered at the Museum, this is the first record of the species for Worcester County.—HARRY C. PARKER, *Worcester Museum of Natural History, Worcester, Massachusetts.*

Occurrence of certain birds of the Southern Ocean in the Tropical Atlantic.—During a voyage on the direct route from Cape Town to Dakar (Senegal), observations were made as to the northern limit of range of some of the species of birds which commonly follow ships. After leaving the Cape of Good Hope on September 9, 1937, the usual species were seen behind the ship daily in numbers until the evening of the 12th (noon reckoning: Lat. 21° 02' S., Long. 6° 32' E.). On the 13th, there were still four individuals of the Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*), all in the white-backed, brown-winged plumage, and at least a dozen each of the White-chinned Petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) and the Cape Pigeon (*Daption capense*). All of these were present until darkness (about 6.30 p.m.) made further observation impossible; at that time the ship was at Lat. 15° 0' S., Long. 1° 20' E.

On the 14th, the ship was still followed by three individuals of *Procellaria*, one of which turned away to follow a passing south-bound vessel during the afternoon. The remaining two were present until nightfall, when the ship had reached Lat. 10° 19' S., Long. 1° 47' W. The temperature of the air at 6.00 p.m. was 67° F.; the temperature of the sea 70° F.

Since, excepting three stragglers of *Procellaria*, all the southern birds disappeared between the evening of the 13th and the morning of the 14th, the meteorological and hydrological observations covering the period in question are of interest:

	Sept. 13, 1937	Sept. 14, 1937
Density at noon	1025	1025
Temperature of air at noon	65° F.	65° F.
Temperature of sea at 4.00 p. m.	64° F.	
Temperature of sea at 8.00 p. m.	65° F.	
Temperature of sea at 12.00 p. m.	64° F.	
Temperature of sea at 4.00 a. m.		67° F.
Temperature of sea at 8.00 a. m.		69° F.
Temperature of sea at 12.00 m.		70° F.

The presence of these birds in low latitudes in this part of the ocean may be explained by the southern winter and the influence of the cold Benguela Current, a stream deflected by the African continental mass from the eastward drift of the Southern Ocean. In the neighborhood where the birds were last seen, the temperature of the water is affected by the warm Guinea Current, which sets southward into the Gulf of Guinea from the north. The abrupt upward change in temperature during the night of September 13-14 is a result of leaving the sphere of influence of one current for that of the other.