



Figure 1. Aberrant Wilson's Petrel—from Kodachromes by Joanne Trimble.

**Aberrant Wilson's Petrel on the Newfoundland Grand Banks.**—In early September 1966 my wife and I spent eight days aboard a fishing dragger on the Newfoundland Grand Banks to make ornithological observations and photographs. During most of this time we remained about 260 nautical miles SSE of St. John's, Newfoundland. While positioned at  $44^{\circ} 30' N$ ,  $50^{\circ} 32' W$  during a strong south wind and heavy seas the morning of 6 September, we observed a small black and white storm petrel in the company of Wilson's Petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*). The bird, studied and photographed while the boat was hove to, was of the same size and proportions as the accompanying Wilson's Petrels, had the same long legs and yellow-webbed feet, and fed and flew in the same manner. These characteristics seem to indicate that the bird was an aberrant Wilson's Petrel. As the photograph shows, the plumage had extensive zones of black and white and the bill had a small yellow region at the base. All plumage characters were symmetric, and one of the most striking marks was a horizontal black band across the lower belly.

Although variations of this sort are extremely rare, similar examples have occurred before. In their discussion of the so-called "Pealea phenomenon" which is characterized by a white belly with dark streaks, Murphy and Snyder (Am. Mus. Novitates no. 1596, 1952) mention several aberrant Wilson's Petrels taken near Banks Peninsula, New Zealand. A bird seen in the Arabian Sea by D. M. Neale in early summer 1960 was "white with a dark patch on the nape and upper rump and dark shafts to the primaries and tail feathers" (W. R. P. Bourne, pers. comm.). As to the origins of these aberrations, one can only speculate.—BENJAMIN TRIMBLE, 47 Delancey St., New York, New York.

**An egret observed on St. Paul's Rocks, equatorial Atlantic Ocean.**—In April, 1963, the research vessel "Chain" of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution landed four geologists, including the second author, on St. Peter and St. Paul rocks (St. Paul's Rocks), at  $00^{\circ} 56' N$ ,  $29^{\circ} 22' W$ . In one of the spray pools of the flats on Southwest (Main) Islet, we observed and photographed (Figure 1) an egret that, considering its size and posture, was probably a Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*).