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**One Deleterious Effect of Mobbing in the Southern Lapwing
(*Vanellus chilensis*)**

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Through their behavior, mobbing birds make themselves more conspicuous to predators. Whether they also increase their risk is not always clear: fully motile adults mobbing in a group might appear relatively immune to predation in many mobbing situations. The relationship between conspicuousness and risk must depend both upon the mobbers' abilities and the strategies used by the predator.

Few data systematically address the costs of mobbing. I offer the following observation to show that on occasion the risks can indeed be great, even to flying adults mobbing in a group. While single examples in which a mobber was killed do not provide an estimate of the normal risks incurred by mobbers, by accumulating a list of similar cases (e.g. Smith 1969, Ibis 111: 241-243) we render a generalization of no or minimal risk less acceptable.

Southern Lapwings (*Vanellus chilensis*) breed abundantly on the Argentine pampas. They respond aggressively to predators near their nests or young, and chase predatory birds in flight. One frequent subject for their attentions is the Crested Caracara (*Polyborus plancus*), a known predator of lapwings (Hudson 1920, Birds of La Plata, Vol. 2, E. P. Dutton & Co.). During two breeding seasons' fieldwork in the pampas near Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires Province (1973-4), I commonly observed lapwings chasing caracaras, with lapwings from neighboring territories flying up to join as the mob passed over their area. On 26 December 1973, as I watched from a blind, a caracara flew over, approximately 50 m off the ground. Six lapwings pursued it; although their identities were not certain to me, the lapwings came from the local area in which at least three broods were being tended. As the predator and its mob passed over the area I was observing, the caracara suddenly changed behavior: rather than a direct flight, it began wheeling in circles, following, it seemed, one lapwing in particular. The rest of the group also began wheeling, remaining over an area less than 100 m in radius, and they were soon joined by another caracara. The lapwings called continuously and raucously; they also dove at the flying caracaras, approaching within a few meters with each pass. Less than a minute after the second caracara appeared, one of the pair grabbed a lapwing as it dove past: the caracara simply stuck out its talons when the lapwing veered too closely below. The two predators then landed in a grassy area beneath the site of capture, and after a brief series of head-bobbings, one began to tear out the lapwing's feathers while the other walked around nearby; meanwhile, lapwings continued to dive. Within 15 min, the caracaras flew off, carrying what remained of the shorebird with them.

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**First North American Record of the Streaked Shearwater
(*Puffinus leucomelas*)**

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On 3 October 1975 I collected an adult female Streaked Shearwater, *Puffinus (Calonectris) leucomelas*, associated with approximately 15 *P. creatopus*, 40 to 50 *P. griseus*, and about 30 *P. bulleri* in Monterey Bay, California. Its location in the bay was approximately 36°45'N, 122°55'W, where depth was 70 fathoms. The specimen weighed 560 g, had a wingspread of 1,090 mm, wing chord of 290 mm, tarsus of 58 mm and a culmen-to-base length of 49 mm. The feet were flesh-colored and the bill was entirely olivaceous. The bird was in excellent condition with moderate fat deposits in the abdominal wall. The stomach contents consisted primarily of fish flesh, crushed cephalopod beaks, and beaks of *Loligo opalescens*, the common commercial squid off California.

The previous most easterly north Pacific report of a sighting is near the Hawaiian Islands, which, according to King (1967, U.S. Nat. Mus. Smithsonian Ident. Manual, Seabirds of the Tropical Pacific Ocean, pl. 3, pp. 26–27) “. . . requires elaboration.” The original report came from observers aboard a Japanese fishing vessel (King *in litt.*). Austin and Kuroda (1972, Bull. Comp. Zool. 109: 302) state that “This is the common shearwater off Japan. It breeds on small offshore islands from Hokkaido to Kyushu and winters in the waters from Tokyo southward, usually well out to sea.” King (op. cit.) indicates that the species also breeds on the Pescadores in Formosa Strait and winters in the tropical western Pacific north of New Guinea, offshore of the Palau and off the Bismarck Archipelago.

This species is well illustrated in Kobayashi (1956, Birds of Japan in Natural Colours, Osaka, Japan, pl. 41, No. 276). The characteristic white head and neck streaked with dark brown and the white edged dark brown feathers of the back, rump and upper tail coverts are accurately portrayed. The throat, ventral neck and entire underparts are white, including the underwing linings. Confirmation of my identification was made from a Kodachrome transparency by Warren B. King of the Smithsonian Institution.

At sea, the Streaked Shearwater may be distinguished from other white-bellied shearwaters off coastal California by its whitish face: the entire facial region anterior to and above the eyes appearing white. In the hand, these white feathers are seen to be flecked with dark brown (Fig. 1). In flight when viewed from the underside, the Streaked Shearwater resembles the New Zealand Shearwater (*P. bulleri*) in having all underparts white, whereas the Pink-footed Shearwater (*P. creatopus*) and the Manx Shearwater (*P. puffinus*) differ from the two former species in having sides of breast, flanks and abdomen grayish-brown. The specimen has been deposited at the California Academy of Sciences, No. 69265.—Received 11 February 1977, accepted 30 March 1977.

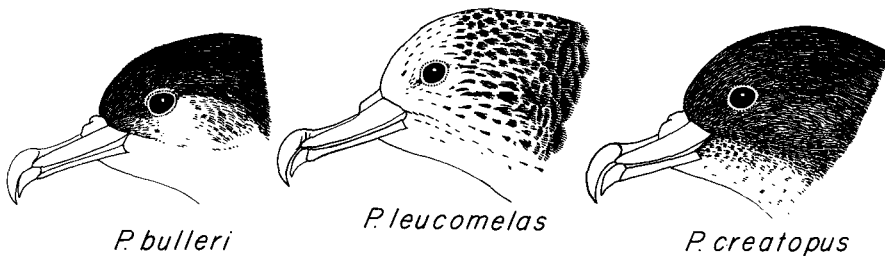


Fig. 1. Side views of shearwaters of similar size off coastal California to show the striking white facial region of the Streaked Shearwater. This is a good field character that distinguishes this species from others.