

Looking through the binoculars we discovered that the birds were sleeping and either resting on one leg or lying flat on their bellies. Every minute or so one bird or another would untuck its bill, raise its head, and look about. Of course as soon as we looked through the binoculars we realized that the birds were Black Oyster-catchers (*Haematopus bachmani*). We watched them for one hour and five minutes, finally getting within 150 feet of them. The ten birds were scattered over a space about ten feet square and although closely grouped they were noticeably separated into pairs.

Children scampering over the rocks frightened the birds. They flew off in a compact flock, uttering a few squeally notes as they went. Three or four hundred yards up the coast the flock split and six birds turned back toward Bird Rock. Later in the day when returning home we saw six Oyster-catchers perched close to the water on the steep face of Bird Rock. These birds were also separated into pairs. They were not especially shy, since they paid no attention to a group of men who were fishing from the mainland a hundred yards from their perching site.

On October 25, after some search, we managed to find one Oyster-catcher. The tide was low and the bird was foraging on a mussel-covered flat. It was deliberate in its manner; stealth was in all its movements as it stalked its prey. A sudden stab, and when it lifted its head a long spile worm was dangling from its red mandibles. The whole performance reminded me of a robin stalking angleworms on a wet lawn.—CHARLES W. MICHAEL, *Pasadena, California, November 15, 1937.*

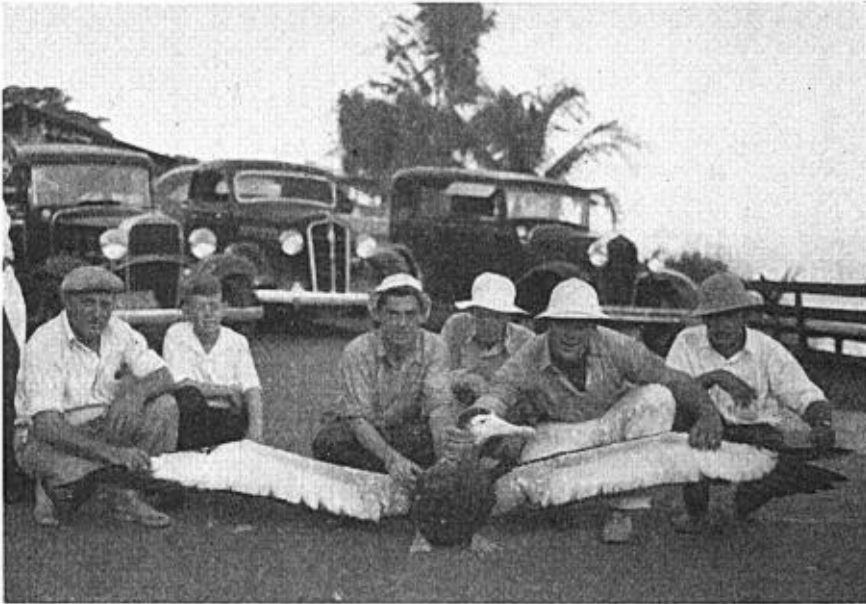


Fig. 35. Wandering Albatross captured and released in the Bay of Panama.

**The Wandering Albatross in the Bay of Panama.**—Mr. Lee B. Carr, of Balboa, Canal Zone, Captain of the launch "Wilpet" during my recent work along the Pacific coast of Colombia, informed me that an albatross had been captured in the Bay of Panama during August, 1937. Receipt of a photograph made by Mr. Carr reveals the surprising fact that the bird was a Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*), in the dark plumage of a yearling, with white face and wing-lining. Mr. Carr's note states that the captive was picked up by a fishing boat, carried into Balboa on deck, and was subsequently released on high ground, whence it took off successfully toward the sea after a running start.—ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, March 11, 1938.*

**Concentration of English Sparrows to Feed on Oak Galls.**—On December 7, 1937, I noticed a group of from 70 to 100 English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) in a large and rather isolated live oak on the Berkeley campus. The birds were actively and noisily feeding in the foliage of the tree. Several were seen clinging up-side-down in chickadee fashion to peripheral branches.