

and Harry Reed. Mr. Reed submitted two good photographs and a description as follows: "Head white with dark mark over left eye only. Neck white grading into slate black as it joins the body. (Photographs show the dorsal lower half of neck to be dark, not white.—V.H.C.) Beak greenish yellow heavily blocked with black; legs and feet orange. Body: lower breast whitish buff, major part of body and tail slate; tail dark brown to black; upper and lower tail coverts white. Wing feathers slightly edged with whitish (not pure white). The 'honk' is that of a wild goose."

This description and the photographs lead to the conclusion that the bird was a Blue Goose in rather dark plumage. The species is variable in color. Certain specimens of Blue Goose in the collections of the Chicago Museum of Natural History match closely the principal features of the description of the bird at White Sands. Several of the specimens show various black or dark gray markings on the neck, although none has the heavy black mark noted on the bird in question. The information supplied by Mr. Reed does not suggest any of the Old World geese. The closest approach, the barred-head goose (*Eulabeia indica*) of Asia, is distinctly different.

This observation led to a review of reports rendered by Fish and Wildlife field personnel in New Mexico. Gale W. Monson, biologist formerly assigned to the Bosque National Wildlife Refuge, about 90 miles south of Albuquerque, reported seeing an adult Blue Goose there on December 15, 1940, and four adults on December 16. On both occasions the Blue Geese were with a flock of Canada Geese. The birds were studied at a distance of 200 feet with 6x glasses while they were feeding on a bar in the Rio Grande River, and they were positively identified.

In December, 1941, Monson identified three Blue Geese on the Bosque Refuge. Three adults, presumably the same birds, were again noted by refuge personnel on January 31, 1942. A. E. Borell writes that he also saw several Blue Geese in the same area on January 14, 1942.

Mr. Monson's observations of the bird on the Bosque Refuge appear to constitute the first record for the Blue Goose in New Mexico. He suggests that the species is extending its wintering range westward.—VICTOR H. CAHALANE, *National Park Service*, and RICHARD E. GRIFFITH, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Illinois*.

The Nesting Season of the Ashy Petrel.—When we consider the relatively large number of Ashy Petrels (*Oceanodroma homochroa*) that nest on the Farallon Islands and the proximity of these islands to the metropolitan area of central California, it seems strange that so little information is available regarding certain phases in the life history of this species. This is especially true with respect to the period of incubation and the time required by the young from hatching until the nest is left. Perhaps even more puzzling is the winter range of the Ashy Petrel. No data are available, as yet, to cast any light upon the latter problem. The writer has, however, attempted in the present paper to reach some conclusions about certain phases of the nesting cycle from facts scattered throughout the literature, from oological data and from museum study skins of downy and juvenal young. From the facts here presented, meager as they are, we may reasonably infer that the incubation and nestling period in *Oceanodroma homochroa* does not differ greatly from that of *Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa* as determined by Gross (Auk, 52, 1935:382-399).

Dawson (Birds Calif., 4, 1924:2026), in reference to the nesting activities of the Ashy Petrel, states that "the bird is occupied with its [the egg's] care and that of the young for fully two months." This would appear to be a considerable understatement of fact. In *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* the time required from hatching until the nest is left was estimated by Gross (*op. cit.*) to be about seventy days, with the incubation period occupying an additional forty-two to fifty days, making a maximum total of around one hundred and twenty days or roughly four months.

The period of egg laying for the Ashy Petrel would appear to extend over several months. Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 121, 1922:162) lists egg dates for this species on the Farallon Islands as from May 15 to July 13. The dates for thirty-nine sets of eggs in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences and records of fifteen additional sets used for exchange extend from June 19 to July 11. Smith (Condor, 36, 1934:171) records several fresh eggs noted in burrows on the Farallon Islands on August 16 and 17. These latter would seem to be exceptionally late dates. The extreme dates for egg laying therefore extend from the middle of May to the middle of August or over a three month period. It is likely that the period of egg laying normally is no longer than two months or from about the latter part of May to the latter part of July with the peak occurring in the latter part of June. In view of the relatively long incubation and nestling period, young hatched from eggs laid any later in the year would not be ready to leave the nest until midwinter at which time all Ashy Petrels have left the Farallons.

The youngest downy of this species in the Academy collection (C.A.S. no. 22171), recorded on the label as being two days of age, was collected on August 15. On August 16 and 17, Smith (*op. cit.*) observed many downy young varying from newly hatched individuals to those which may be esti-

mated to be two weeks of age, judging from his description of the budding remiges. Three specimens in the Academy collection, all taken on September 15, 1911, exhibit marked age differences. The youngest of these (C.A.S. no. 18686) is probably about twelve days of age, being densely covered with down and showing no sign of juvenal plumage. The next older one (C.A.S. no. 18685) has progressed to a stage equivalent to slightly less than forty days for *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (see Gross, *op. cit.*). The remiges are protruding through the down and the rectrices and rump feathers are present but hidden for the most part by the dense covering of down. The most advanced individual (C.A.S. no. 18684) has the juvenal head, neck, back, wing and tail feathers well developed with only a few traces of natal down adhering to the tips of these contour feathers. The breast and abdomen, however, are still covered with dense down which completely obscures the short juvenal feathers which are present on these parts. It is likely that this individual was at least sixty days old at this time. Complete descriptions of these specimens have been given by Loomis (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., ser. 4, 2, 1918:171-172). If we accept these approximate ages, based on the rate of development of a closely related species, these young Ashy Petrels would have hatched about September 3, August 6, and July 17, respectively. Another downy in the Academy collection (C.A.S. no. 22127), taken on November 6, is estimated to be about fifty-five days old which would place the hatching date around September 12. The juvenal feathers of the wings, tail, rump and head are partly grown, with down adhering only the feathers of the back. The ventral part of the body is heavily covered with down and the short juvenal feathers which are present are completely obscured from view.

It is of interest here to record two immature specimens in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences, both of which were taken in the city of San Francisco. To the best of the writer's knowledge there is to date no published record, based upon an actual specimen, for this species from San Francisco. Although the Ashy Petrel is a common breeding bird on the Farallon Islands it has been noted at but three localities on or along the mainland of central California. These are listed by Grinnell and Wythe (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 18, 1927:46) as follows: Point Reyes, Marin County; near Redwood City, San Mateo County (November 9, 1909, and November 16, 1911); Pigeon Point Light House, San Mateo County (April 26, 1897). One of the two above mentioned specimens from San Francisco, an immature female (C.A.S. no. 33549), was found on the corner of Page and Market streets on October 13, 1930. The other, an immature male (C.A.S. no. 57879), was taken while still alive from the mouth of a house cat near one of the amusement stands just east of the Great Highway bordering the Pacific Ocean, a distance of several city blocks south of the Cliff House, on November 14, 1941. Significant perhaps is the fact that both of these birds were young of the year not long out of the nest. Both have a small amount of natal down still adhering to the tips of some of the feathers. The specimen secured on October 13 shows only a trace of down on several of the lateral abdominal feathers and probably had been out of the nest several weeks. The November-taken individual, however, possesses a considerably more extensive patch of down adhering to the tips of the feathers covering the posterior abdominal regions and is believed not to have been out of the nest more than a few days. From these data we may surmise that the period of hatching extends from about the middle of July to the middle of September with the peak occurring about the middle of August which is roughly about fifty days after the peak in egg laying. This would indicate an average incubation period of fifty days for *Oceanodroma homochroa* or essentially the same as in *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*.

We may conclude, therefore, that the nesting period of the Ashy Petrel is exceedingly long, a character which it shares with other storm petrels of the family Hydrobatidae. Judging from data available it may extend over a period of six months on the Farallon Islands or from about the middle of May to the middle of November in extreme instances. As the period of egg laying for the species extends over several months, we may presume that about four months is required for the development of any one individual from the time of egg deposition until the nest is left. Approximately fifty of these days are involved in incubation.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, March 1, 1944.*

American Golden-eyes Feeding on Salmon Eggs.—Munro (Canadian Field Nat., 37, 1923: 107-116, and Trans. Roy. Canadian Inst., 22, 1939:259-318) has recorded salmon spawn as an item of diet of both American and Barrow golden-eyes. In the first study he found one American Golden-eye which had eaten these eggs, but in the second he reports that twenty individuals had fed extensively on salmon eggs. Most of these birds were taken on Cowichan River in British Columbia. Cottam (U.S.D.A., Tech. Bull., 643, 1939:1-140) studied the food habits of the American Golden-eye from 385 stomachs and he found no salmon eggs. In view of the scarcity of records, it is thought important to record the fact that American Golden-eyes were found to be feeding on the eggs of the sockeye salmon (*Onchorhynchus nerka*) at Flathead Lake, Montana.