Does the Black Petrel Winter Off the California Coast?—In an effort to find concrete data in support of the current belief that *Loomelania melania,* the Black Petrel, is common at sea off the coast of southern California during the entire year, I have made an extended search for definite winter records. This search has not been successful.

There is the initial observation of Anthony (Auk, 11, 1894:321) over fifty years ago, when he said "I *think* [italics mine] I have seen them occasinally nearly all the year." Grinnell (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 3, 1902:16) seemingly accepted Anthony's remark at face value since there are no published statements of winter occurrence for the intervening period. The next record, that of Linton (Condor, 10, 1908:82), is equally unsatisfactory, that of "a dark Petrel, probably this species," seen near San Clemente on unspecified dates and near Anacapa Island on November 20, 1907. Willett (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 21, 1933:16) states that the Black Petrel "during the winter season feeds commonly on garbage off San Pedro." But I wonder if perhaps the date of September 30 might not have provided the basis for the assumption of winter occurrence, for it was on this date in 1928 that Willett and Loye Miller found the species in abundance off San Pedro and collected a number of specimens.

The latest definite dates for California waters which I can find in collections, literature, notes, or by correspondence, are September 18 for Monterey Bay (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology coll.) and September 30 for southern California (Los Angeles Museum and Loye Miller colls.). Further, Laurence Huey, Loye Miller, and the writer, all of whom are fairly familiar with the ocean off southern California, have never seen the species there at any time in the winter months. The earliest spring records are April 21, on which date in 1896 on Los Coronados Islands, Anthony (Auk, 15, 1898:141) found Black Petrels. Huey collected a specimen on the same islands and date in 1929. Anthony reported incubating birds on Los Coronados as "late as September 8," but there is no certainty that the young of such late nestings are brought to maturity.

Present evidence points to the winter range of this petrel as being in tropical and semitropical seas from the head of the Gulf of California, where its occurrence is possibly sporadic or irregular (van Rossem, Occ. Papers Louisiana State Univ. No. 21, 1945:30), south to about 8° south latitude, with perhaps the most concentrated populations occurring between Panama and Peru (Murphy, Oceanic Birds South Amer., 1936:743). Intermediate stations, dates, and specific comment on the distribution of the Black Petrel in Baja California and the Gulf of California will be offered later. The present note is designed to solicit definite information as to whether the Black Petrel winters anywhere along the Pacific coast of California and Baja California.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, November 9, 1946.*

Emperor Geese Again on Humboldt Bay, California.—Numerous occurrences of the Emperor Goose (*Philacte canagica*) have been recorded from Humboldt Bay, California. However, little has been mentioned about numbers, condition of the birds, and general activity. The writer, with the cooperation of some local fishermen, has recorded the following data concerning a small flock of these geese that was under observation in February, 1947.

Six individuals were noted on February 1 on the tip of the sandspit that juts out into the southern arm of Humboldt Bay from Buhne's Point. The birds were resting apart from a flock of Black Brant. These birds were tame and allowed the observer to come within ten yards. They were taking sand and small gravel from the spit. Upon closer approach, they walked slowly away, keeping apart from the Brant. At this time the bay was calm and the tide was high.

At low tide on February 12, three of these geese were located on an exposed sand bar in the south arm of the bay. Eel grass was growing in the sand. The birds were feeding on this eel grass and taking small amounts of sand. A short time later a fourth goose was noted on a near-by bar with a large flock of Brant. The three Emperors were rather wild and would take to flight if a person came within about one hundred yards of them. They would circle and alight on the opposite end of the bar, but would remain alert. The single individual would allow a closer approach, moving off with the Brant, when the observer reached a point about thirty yards from the flock. This bird was also noted feeding on the eel grass.

On February 17 four geese were located on the edge of a brackish slough that passed through a diked pasture adjacent to Buhne's Point. At this date the birds were wild and kept at least one hundred yards away from the observer. When a closer approach was attempted, the birds took flight and passed out of sight over the bay. The four were feeding from the water on the edge of the slough. At this time the bay was calm and the tide high.

It was reported to the writer that the Emperors fed in this slough daily, during high tide or when the bay was rough. Black Brant have been noted in this same field several times, and it seems to be a feeding area when the eel grass becomes exhausted.

Three Emperor Geese were reported from the north arm of Humboldt Bay on February 20, where they were observed feeding on the eel grass exposed by low tide. This group was also wild and

a close approach was impossible. They were with a flock of the Black Brant, but remained slightly apart and were more wary of man.

The last observation was on February 27, when three of these birds were noted again on the sand spit at Buhne's Point. The three were together, but were in a flock of Black Brant, which rested upon the dry sand.—ROBERT R. TALMADGE, *Eureka, California, March 15, 1947.*

Unusual Winter Visitants to Berkeley, California.—In the course of bird-banding operations on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley, the following noteworthy specimens were obtained:

Zonotrichia leucophrys oriantha. A White-crowned Sparrow of this race was collected on January 24, 1947. This represents the first known record of this race along the central coast of California (Grinnell and Miller, Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:521). The specimen is now no. 96783 in the collection of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

Lanius excubitor invictus. A Boreal Shrike was taken on February 2, 1947, from a Potter two-celled trap which held, in the other cell, an immature White-crowned Sparrow, evidently the shrike's intended victim. This is the southernmost record of this species from coastal California. The Boreal Shrike has been reported recently from Humboldt County (Talmadge, Condor, 48, 1946:96); and interiorward, it has been recorded from as far south as Davis, Yolo County, in the central Californian valley (Grinnell and Miller, *op. cit.*:378). My specimen, now M. V. Z. no. 96782, is a first-year female.

I am indebted to Drs. Alden H. Miller and Frank A. Pitelka of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology for the above identifications.—PAUL D. HURD, JR., *Berkeley, California, March 10, 1947.*

Winter Record of Western Tanager at San Diego, California.—On February 13, 1947, a single Western Tanager was seen on my feeding shelf in East San Diego. It was in the company of White-crowned Sparrows and Linnets. Other winter records for southern California are from Santa Barbara, November to February 10, 1931 (Spaulding, Condor, 33, 1931:129) and at National City, San Diego County, February 12 to April 10, 1922, and February 1 to 3, 1927 (Johnson, Condor, 24, 1922:136, and *ibid.*, 30, 1928:326).—JAMES E. CROUCH, *San Diego State College, San Diego, California, March 26, 1947.*

Anna Hummingbird with Three Eggs.—Of interest to oologists will be the report that on April 6, 1946, I found a nest of the Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) containing three eggs, near Whittier, California. Incubation had begun in all eggs, and needless to say the nest looked very full. —EDWARD M. HALL, *Whittier, California, January 15, 1947.*

The Type of Passerculus guttatus: a Correction.—A confusing *lapsus* occurs in my recent discussion of the Savannah Sparrows of Northwestern Mexico (Condor, 49, 1947:93-107). On page 101, the first line of the third paragraph of text should read: "The type of *Passerculus guttatus* . . ." instead of "The type of *Passerculus rostratus* . . ." as printed.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Dickey Collections, University of California, Los Angeles, June 16, 1947.*

Notes on the Birds of the Upper Salinas Valley, California.—While in the Army the writer spent two years at Camp Roberts, California, which is situated in the Upper Salinas Valley in the vicinity of the line between Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties. In the course of my tour of duty at Camp Roberts the following notes on birds were made and constitute changes or additions to the list of species for this area published by Willett (Condor, 10, 1908: 137–139) as a result of his observations between May 23 and June 3, 1908.

Casmerodius albus. Common Egret, A lone bird was seen along the Nacimiento and Salinas rivers on nine different occasions between November, 1945, and March, 1946.

Nycticorax nycticorax. Black-crowned Night Heron. A single immature was noted in the willows at the edge of the Nacimiento River on July 10, 1944. A flock of eight was flushed from the willows in the Salinas River bottom on February 16, 1946.

Botaurus lentiginosus. American Bittern. One observed on the edge of the Salinas River on February 27, 1946.

Anas cyanoptera. Cinnamon Teal. A flock of 20 was noted regularly in the Salinas River from February 16 to March 12, 1946.

Mergus merganser. Common Merganser. A pair noted in the Nacimiento River, either together or singly, from January 5 to March 2, 1946.

Elanus leucurus. White-tailed Kite. A lone bird was noted over the Nacimiento River approximately five miles upstream from its junction with the Salinas River on April 26, 1944.

Accipiter striatus. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Noted occasionally over the willow thickets in the Salinas River bottom.

Buteo lineatus. Red-shouldered Hawk. A single adult observed in a group of oaks and cottonwoods at the edge of the Nacimiento River on January 23, February 6 and March 27, 1946.

Buteo regalis. Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk. One observed on October 23, 1944.