

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Distribution of the Pacific Kittiwake in November and December of 1948.—The winter range of the Pacific Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*) is known to extend over the offshore waters of the Pacific coast to southern California (Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 27, 1944:170). The following information is recorded in the hope that it will eventually be useful in formulating a more complete picture of the fall and winter movements of this species. The observations were made aboard the Motor Ship "Black Douglas" between November 11, when we entered the Gulf of Alaska, and December 18, 1948, when we entered the Strait of Juan de Fuca, returning to Seattle, Washington. Six to eight hours a day were spent in observation. Alternate hours from sunrise to sunset were spent in the ship's pilot house.

Although we saw no Kittiwakes in the Gulf of Alaska, we saw them from Kodiak Island well into the Bering Sea and in the waters off southern California. We observed only a scattered few as far as 100 miles into the Bering Sea. Except for darkness we might have seen them all the way to the Pribilof Islands.

We left Unalaska, in the Aleutian Chain, on November 26 and headed for San Francisco on the great circle route. No Kittiwakes were encountered until we were more than halfway across the North Pacific. When approximately 800 miles northwest of San Francisco on December 2, we again saw them but only at the rate of two or three a day until our last day out, December 6.

We noted that Kittiwakes were concentrated in several widely separated areas. In Whale Pass, near Kodiak Island, on November 17, we saw an estimated one to two hundred birds and a somewhat smaller number on November 19 in Unimak Pass near Unalaska. As we approached San Francisco on December 6, the Kittiwake was the most abundant bird during the day's run from about 100 miles northwest of the Golden Gate to the Farallon Islands. We saw an estimated 150 to 200 birds of this species. They were notably numerous again on December 11, about 30 miles off Point Concepcion, California, as we entered the open sea from the shelter of San Miguel Island and ran northward parallel to the coast.

After leaving the waters off central California on December 15, on our northward cruise, the birds became increasingly scarce and we saw comparatively few north of California, off Oregon and Washington. The last bird observed was an immature individual seen twelve miles inside the Strait of Juan de Fuca on December 19.

During the period of our cruise the Pacific Kittiwake appeared generally most abundant between December 6 and 14, in the waters off central California from about 25 to 50 miles offshore. Of the total number observed in this area approximately two-thirds were immature. Farther north, in the Aleutian area, on the other hand, the immature birds did not appear to be predominant.

The question as to how the Kittiwakes reach California waters might be answered by future observations at sea. Do they straggle toward California singly and in small groups dispersed over the North Pacific, or do they migrate by way of a more easterly route and not directly across from the Aleutian area? The fact that we encountered none for the first 1200 miles after leaving the Aleutians and then encountered scattered individuals during the several days before reaching California waters favors the latter possibility.

Apparently the last specimen of the Pacific Kittiwake collected in the San Diego area was one recorded by Anthony in 1897 (*Auk*, 15, 1898:267). While on the beach at La Jolla on January 2, 1949, I saw an immature bird of this species fly close overhead several times. One side of the breast was quite heavily smeared with oil. This, in conjunction with the brisk northwest storm winds of the previous two days, probably accounted for its occurrence near shore and somewhat south of its normal winter range.—KARL W. KENYON, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Seattle, Washington, March 16, 1949.*

Steller Jay Flies South in the Spring.—A Steller Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) banded in Boulder, Colorado, on February 21, 1948, was reported dead on July 16, 1948, 13 miles west of Mountainair, extreme western Tarrant County, New Mexico, about 50 miles east-southeast of Albuquerque. The band was returned to me and the number (41-340996) verified. It is usually held that the movements of jays are confined to concentration at generally lower altitudes (5000 to 9000 feet) in winter and dispersal over wider areas at higher altitudes (5000 to 11,000) in summer (Bent, *U. S. Nat. Mus.*

Bull. 191, 1946:73; Bailey, Birds of New Mexico, 1928:474). The action of the ~~bandled bird seems~~ entirely in accord with such movements, since the banding station is at 5500 feet; ~~and the recovery~~ area was reported as about 8500 feet, pine-juniper-oak association, on the eastern slope of the Manzano Mountains. But other circumstances mark this flight as peculiar. Mountainair is almost exactly 400 air-line miles south-southwest of Boulder. But a flight in this direction would have to lead across the Sangre de Cristo range at an elevation of 12,500 feet; more probably the bird would follow an arc along the mountain front and cover a total minimum distance of 450 miles.—JOHN N. HOUGH, *Boulder, Colorado, February 1, 1949.*

Brood Size in the Barn Owl.—The accompanying tabulation summarizes the numbers of young of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) that I have observed in 87 nests of this species at Escondido, San Diego County, California, from 1928 to 1946, inclusive. This record includes 12 fledglings that escaped before I could band them.

Young in nest	Frequency
1	3
2	9
3	11
4	28
5	18
6	14
7	4

The 366 young noted represent an average of 4.2 young per nest. In some years the annual mean was as high as 4.6 (10 nests in 1933) and as low as 3.3 (11 nests in 1934). If equally striking fluctuations were present in this region in other years, they were masked by the small size of the sample annually studied. I am indebted to Dr. J. J. Hickey for assistance in the analysis of data.—FRED N. GALLUP, *Escondido, California, February 5, 1949.*

Mating of Wild and Pinioned Canada Geese.—Mr. Roy Nichols, a rancher near Davenport, Lincoln County, Washington, has been raising Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) from stock obtained originally from game dealers, and to this stock he has recently added individuals from the eastern United States, probably of the race *B. c. canadensis*. Locally a few Canada Geese nest, and thousands of them migrate through this section of the state.

In the spring of 1948, Mr. Nichols had one male and four females, all pinioned, when, on March 24, 1948, eight wild Canada Geese, presumably *B. c. moffitti*, landed among his pinioned stock and remained with them throughout the night. The following day seven of the wild birds left; a large gander remained and mated with a two-year old goose. For a time the gander was quite "wild" but gradually he became more accustomed to Mr. Nichols. This pair nested near a small marsh near his barn, placing the nest in the open along a woven-wire fence. They brought forth four young on May 20 and these were raised successfully. According to Mr. Nichols, this is the first time that he has ever had wild Canada Geese mate with his pinioned stock although wild birds have occasionally been "decoyed in" by his birds during migration.

He reports further that the pinioned geese called in what seemed to be a very distressed manner when the eight wild birds flew from his barnyard on the evening of March 24 and were able to cause the wild birds to return and stay for the evening. He had never heard geese call in such a manner throughout the years that he has had Canada Geese. The gander that stayed with his flock mated immediately with the two-year old goose and has never left the vicinity of the ranch buildings since the first evening that the wild birds remained with his pinioned geese. He has been able to get the gander into his chicken house by herding in the entire flock.—CHARLES F. YOCOM, *Department of Zoology, State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington, October 28, 1948.*

The Franklin Gull in Oregon.—During the past few years rumors of the occurrence of Franklin Gulls in east-central Oregon have reached me. In discussing this matter last spring with John C. Scharff he assured me that a number of these birds had been nesting on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in the past few years. Recently I received a frozen specimen of *Larus pipixcan* and a photograph of a nest and three eggs of this species from Dr. Ray C. Erickson. This specimen, an