

California, the writer has not found records for this species in winter. Therefore, it was a surprise to find a single vulture in the Hoopa Valley Reservation, in eastern Humboldt County, during the winter storm season. This bird was first observed feeding on a dead horse alongside a road on December 19, 1953, during a mild snow storm. From that date until a severe storm on January 4, 1954, this individual bird could be observed each day. The bird fed on the gravel bars and perched in dead cottonwood snags along the Trinity River. After the storm of January 4, 1954, the bird was no longer noted.

On February 12, 1954, a single vulture was observed perched on a fir snag on the Klamath River in eastern Humboldt County, about fifteen miles north and east of the Hoopa Valley station. A local resident informed the writer that the bird had first been noted sometime around the first week in January. The local man was quite interested in the vulture as he had never observed them along the Klamath in winter before. It is highly probable that this bird was the same vulture that had been noted at Hoopa, as the dates are almost identical for departure and arrival at the new station. The distance is slight for such a bird. No indication of sickness or injury was noted.—ROBERT R. TALMADGE, *Willow Creek, California, February 27, 1954.*

#### Western Gull, with Symmetrical Wing Patches, Resembling Aberrant Heermann Gulls.

—While and since making observations on the persistence of a rare color aberration in the Heermann Gull (*Larus heermanni*), I have seen, in the general vicinity of San Diego, California, a considerable number of Western Gulls (*Larus occidentalis*) that showed a more or less definite white blotch at the angle along the front of each wing. Usually these symmetrically paired markings were small and irregular and I never could feel quite certain that the peculiarity was not due to displacement of wing coverts or to molting rather than to an aberration in pattern. On December 11, 1953, however, while on a cruise of the M. V. "Horizon," about four miles off the Whistling Buoy near the entrance to San

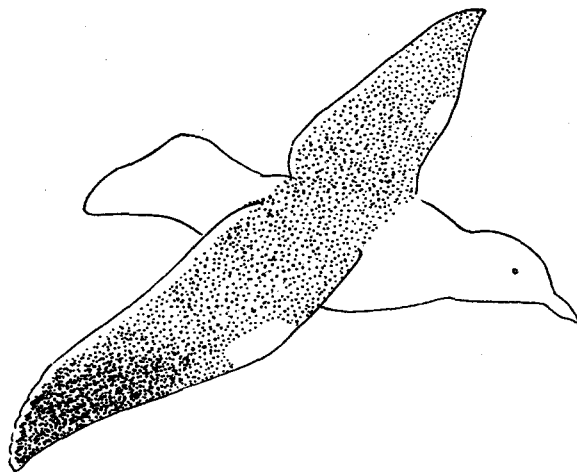


Fig. 1. An adult Western Gull sketched to show position of symmetrical white patches on angles of the wings.

Diego Harbor, I observed for some time at close range (to within 50 feet); with binoculars, from above as well as from the side, a fully adult Western Gull that was unquestionably aberrant in this respect. The approximate size and position of the very definite white areas was indicated on a field sketch, a copy of which is reproduced as figure 1. The aberration is noteworthy not only for its symmetry but also for its resemblance to the color variant noted in the Heermann Gull by several authors (Hubbs and Bartholomew, *Condor*, 53, 1951:221-227, with references; Pursill and Williams, *Condor*, 54, 1952:114-115).—CARL L. HUBBS, *Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, La Jolla, California, January 1, 1954.*