

(Birds of Mexico, 1953:58-59). Two definite records of this species are for 3 to 4 miles and 6 to 7 miles south of the mouth of Río Vicente (or Río San Isidro), respectively, on April 10 (one male, alone), and on August 8, 1954 (several males, in a raft of scoters including also at least one male Surf Scoter). On each occasion the birds were at rather close range in the surf.

The occurrence of this cool-water species in Baja California was to be expected, as the inshore temperatures of the northern part of the outer coast of Baja California are generally lower than those encountered along most of the southern California shoreline. Because of the cool upwelled water, many marine organisms of various groups that reach the San Diego region, and even some that skip that warmer area, are being found to occur in Baja California, and it is to be anticipated that nearly all of the northern types that reach the San Diego area will eventually be found to occur in the cooler stretches of the coast of northwestern Baja California.

The record of August 8 is much earlier than any reported from California, according to the listing by Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:90-91). Their summary of the known records encompasses the months from November to April. It is possible that the August bird, like a few Surf Scoters and a few White-winged Scoters, was a non-migrating individual—CARL L. HUBBS, *Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, La Jolla, California, November 8, 1954.*

Taxonomic Comment on Races of Leach Petrel of the Pacific Coast.—Several years ago A. J. van Rossem described (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 55, 1942:10) a new subspecies of the Leach Petrel, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, from the Los Coronados Islands, off the coast of Baja California, under the subspecific name *willetti*. He compared it with the other Pacific coast races of *leucorhoa*, that is, with *beali* and *chapmani*, and also with *socorroensis*, which he considered to be also a race of *leucorhoa*. It was said to differ from *chapmani* of San Benito Island in its slightly lighter and distinctly more plumbeous body coloration, in its paler and more variably white upper tail coverts and in its slightly larger size. In the Carnegie Museum there are 34 specimens from the Los Coronados Islands that presumably represent the race *willetti*. I must confess my inability to distinguish them satisfactorily from our series of 44 specimens from San Benito Island—topotypes of *chapmani*. Only one of our Los Coronados specimens shows any great amount of white on the upper tail coverts; a few others have some white feathers. The body coloration is the same as in the San Benito birds so far as I can see, although it may be that freshly collected specimens might show a difference. The difference in size is inconsequential, as may be seen by consulting Loomis' table of measurements (Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., ser. 4, 2, 1918:168-169). Thus only the color of the upper tail coverts is left as a differential character, and this would serve to distinguish not more than one out of five specimens. Therefore I cannot see how a case can be made out for *willetti*. Moreover, two of our San Benito specimens show traces of white on the upper tail coverts.

So I concluded a few years ago. Subsequently van Rossem, at my request, sent me 20 of his specimens from the Los Coronados Islands. My first step was to compare these with our series from the same islands, to discover if there had been any color change in the fifty years since ours were collected. Apparently there has been none. I have re-examined our material in connection with his, bearing in mind the points of difference which he specified, but I still fail to make out any differences which I would consider of subspecific value. Were the labels removed, it would be impossible, in four out of five cases, to refer a given specimen to one or the other race. Van Rossem sent me his measurements, as follows:

25 *willetti* ♂ ♂, wing, 146-161 (152.1); tail, 74-88 (81.6); bill, 14.2-17.5 (15.6).

25 *chapmani* ♂ ♂, wing, 138-154 (148.5); tail, 70-82 (76.9); bill, 14.7-16.0 (15.3).

These figures, overlapping as much as they do, in my opinion fail to justify a formal separation by name of the two populations. The photographs van Rossem sent me were not any more convincing.—W. E. CLYDE TODD, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 15, 1954.*

Nesting of European Starling in Western Montana.—On May 15, 1943, Mills (Condor, 45, 1943:197) observed the first nesting of the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in Montana. This was near Havre in Hill County, central Montana, at the frontier of the westward-expanding breeding range of the species at that time (see Kessel, Condor, 55, 1953:64). The following is apparently the first record of nesting west of the continental divide in Montana.

On May 23, 1954, about 6 miles west of Dixon in Sanders County, along a half-mile of narrow