

(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

cottonwood stream border, I observed 12 to 15 Starlings between 9 and 11 a.m. Here I saw a male Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer*) fly to a nest hole at the top of a dead cottonwood trunk. He was promptly displaced by a male starling, carrying food, who entered the hole, then turned around and looked out. It was a sharply cut aperture, probably of this year's excavating by a flicker. The flicker remained for the next half hour in the neighboring cottonwood tree, 12 to 15 feet distant, and called repeatedly, but it did not come into the nest tree again. The male starling continued to stand guard while I was there. He was not otherwise belligerent toward the flicker. Probably the issue had been settled some time before.

The female starling, carrying food but growing wary as I watched, retired to a distant tree top and several other starlings gathered with her there, evidently in response to her agitation. Finally she returned to the dead cottonwood top, hopped about for some time, and then departed without food. Again she came with insects and left without them. I had changed my seat to one in sight of a second hole 8 feet below, but she had not entered either nest hole. On circling the tree, a third, older, ragged-edged flicker hole was disclosed on the opposite side, 18 inches below the first. She returned a third time with a large billful of angle worms and soon entered this hole, appearing at once without them. I saw her bring food four more times at intervals of 6 to 8 minutes. The nest was about 35 feet up in the cottonwood.

Three Tree Swallows also came and hovered a few inches in front of the upper nest hole to which the flicker had come, but they never alighted. The male starling was always nearby. Once when the flicker came very near, the female starling gave a warning cry at the nest entrance and the male came closer to her.

It would seem that the flicker had been driven from his newly-excavated nest hole in the dead cottonwood top, or that at least the tree had been preempted by the starlings before the flicker's spring-time return.—JOHN L. BLACKFORD, *Libby, Montana, June 6, 1954.*

Another Blue-footed Booby in Southern California.—An immature booby was found at Paloma Street and North Foothill Boulevard in Pasadena, California, on the night of September 17, 1954, by Mrs. Roberta H. Rumble. The bird was exhausted and apparently in a dying condition. It was given water and a small trout, and by the next day it appeared fully recovered. We put it in a large flying cage where it promptly perched on the back of a large desert tortoise and rode around contently all day. It only slipped off to refresh itself with a dip in a large tub of water and to nibble on the tortoises' lettuce. It accepted a half cup of mosquito fish which it captured itself in the water dish. The bird was checked for identity by Jean Delacour of the Los Angeles County Museum and was determined to be *Sula nebouxi*, the Blue-footed Booby. There are three previous records of this species for southern California, the most recent in 1934 (see Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:52).—ALMA STULTZ, *Audubon Center of Southern California, El Monte, California, November 23, 1954.*

Great Swallow-tailed Swift in Michoacán, México.—Prior to 1951 the Great Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila sancti-hieronimi*) was recorded only from the mountains of western Guatemala, where six specimens had been collected. In that year, Carr and Dickinson (Wilson Bull., 63, 1951:271-273) reported nine specimens from south-central Honduras and a sight record made by Griscom and Miller in north-central Nicaragua in 1917. More recently the known range was extended to extreme southern México by Alvarez del Toro (Condor, 54, 1952:113-114), who obtained a specimen at Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas. A smaller species, *Panyptila cayennensis*, which occurs locally in the lowlands from eastern Honduras south to southern Brazil, is known in México from the unique type of *P. c. veraecrucis* from Presidio, Veracruz (Moore, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 60, 1947:143-144).

On June 6, 1954, I collected a specimen of *P. sancti-hieronimi* at a point 3.5 miles northwest of Tzitzio, 6500 feet, Michoacán, México, on the road leading south from the Mexico City-Guadalajara highway to Huetamo. This individual was one of five to eight birds of this species that circled low over my camp in the late afternoon in association with another, smaller swift (probably *Cypseloides niger*) and several unidentified swallows. The locality has been described by Davis (Condor, 55, 1953:90-98) in connection with a report of the birds of the Tzitzio region. It is a region of slopes and ridges where dry pine-oak forest mingles with leguminous thorn-scrub elements invading upward from lower elevations to the south. Near the highway, four or five miles northwest of my camp site, there is a series of vertical cliffs.