

(1) Writing of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*), Beal (U.S.D.A. Biol. Surv. Bull. 37, 1911:1-64) stated that "cambium, or the inner bark of trees, was eaten every month, but most in winter and spring. The greatest consumption is in April, 48.95 per cent . . ." (2) Pynnönen (Ann. Soc. Zool. Fenn., 9, 1943:1-60) has described the bark-eating of the Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*) in Finland. On December 6, 1934, for example, he observed an individual which visited a single spot on a birch tree eight times for this purpose, but he further states that the habit did not become regular until March. Both of these species drill holes to obtain sap. The sapsuckers can obtain sap in mid-winter in Maryland, as described elsewhere (Kilham, Auk, 73, 1956:451-452), and Great Spotted Woodpeckers may drill holes for sap, as described by Witherby *et al.* (Handbook British Birds, vol. 2, 1940:284) among others. My hypothesis is that Red-headed Woodpeckers, as well as sapsuckers and the Great Spotted Woodpecker, may obtain sap in an alternate way by consuming bark into which it has permeated, and, possibly, become concentrated by evaporation, following repeated wounding of a tree in a single spot.—LAWRENCE KILHAM, *Bethesda, Maryland, January 23, 1959.*

The Starling Arrives in San Diego, California.—Sixty-nine years after the original American stock of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was released in New York City, the species has finally reached the southwesternmost county in the United States. On February 4, 1959, the writer observed two Starlings at the intersection of 11th and C streets in downtown San Diego, California. Both birds flew low overhead, permitting positive identification; one Starling, already in breeding plumage, had the characteristic yellow bill coloring and the unmarked, iridescent green breast. This is the first recorded occurrence of the species in San Diego County, although it was reported in California (Siskiyou County) as early as 1942 (Jewett, Condor, 44, 1942:79) and has recently been recorded in Imperial County and as a breeding bird in Los Angeles County (Rainey, Van Hoose, and Tramontano, Condor, 61, 1959:57).—KEN STOTT, JR., *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, February 4, 1959.*

More Observations of the Least Petrel and Pale-footed Shearwater Off Southern California.—The Least Petrel (*Halocptena microsoma*) was considered by Grinnell and Miller (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 27, 1944:45) to be a "late summer or early fall vagrant" in the waters west of San Diego and only four occurrences for the state of California have been published to date. Observations of this species during the late summer and early fall of 1958 might indicate that this species occurs regularly in small numbers at this time in the extreme southern waters of the state. On September 1, 1958, about 40 individuals of this species were observed by me together with larger numbers of Black Petrels (*Loomelania melanis*), Leach Petrels (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*), and Ashy Petrels (*Oceanodroma homochroa*) about 5 miles east of Pyramid Cove, San Clemente Island. Prolonged observations of these Least Petrels revealed them to be easily separable in the field from the other three species of petrels and a discussion of their field characteristics might be in order so as to aid in future identification.

When the members of our party first sighted petrels, it was evident at once that among them were some noticeably small birds with swift, erratic flight that kept them close to the ocean surface. Even when seen unaccompanied by other petrels, their very small size was evident. The boat gave chase, but at full throttle (about 18 knots) we could not maneuver fast enough to get a clear shot at them, although several were attempted, and so none was collected. In addition to their small size (about two-thirds that of the Ashy Petrels and one-half that of the Black Petrels) and characteristic swift flight, as contrasted to the fluttery flight of the Ashy Petrels, no whitish areas were visible on the under sides of their wings; such is to be seen in the Ashy Petrels. The very best field mark of the Least Petrel, which was easily seen when these birds were close to the boat, was the rounded or wedge-shaped tail as compared to the forked tails of the other petrels. The tail was also shorter proportionally than that of the other species seen. These latter field characteristics were especially evident when the birds veered and turned.

On September 13, 1958, six more Least Petrels were seen at a point about 8 miles west of Point Loma, San Diego County, and they were successfully photographed in motion pictures.