

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Short-tailed Albatross Sighted off the Oregon Coast.—During an otter trawl tow on the research vessel "Acona," an immature Short-tailed Albatross (*Diomedea albatrus*) was observed and photographed. The sighting occurred at 3 p.m., Pacific Standard Time, on December 11, 1961, at latitude 44° 21.6' N and longitude 124° 50.0' W, approximately 32 miles west of Yachats, Oregon.

Kodachrome transparencies of this Short-tailed Albatross were examined by Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy and the identification was confirmed. The bird was dark without distinctive markings except for its large pink bill, which was mottled with brown or black near the distal end. This albatross was noticeably larger than the Black-footed Albatrosses (*Diomedea nigripes*) it accompanied. It was observed aggressively feeding among 15 to 25 Black-footed Albatrosses and numerous gulls, located approximately 75 feet from the vessel. The Short-tailed Albatross appeared to stay in or around groups of Black-footed Albatrosses accompanying the vessel from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on December 11. Although the Black-footed Albatrosses appeared to respect the presence of the Short-tailed Albatross, there seemed to be no great rivalry between the two species.

The Short-tailed Albatross was thought to be extinct until in recent years some 20 birds were observed returning to their breeding grounds near Yokohama (Pough, *Aubudon Western Bird Guide*, 1957). This sighting is apparently only the second for this species from the area between Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and southern California since 1898. The other observation was made in 1961 off Vancouver Island by Lane (*Canadian Field Nat.*, in press).—BRUCE WYATT, *Department of Oceanography, Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon, June 18, 1962.*

First Records for the Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher and Purple-crowned Fairy Hummingbird from México.—On November 4, 1961, near the Laguna Cobá, 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, Tabasco, I collected two species not heretofore recorded from México. Within a period of fifteen minutes, I obtained a pair of Ruddy-tailed Flycatchers (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*) and a female Purple-crowned Fairy Hummingbird (*Heliothryx barroti*). The Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher has previously been taken in Guatemala and British Honduras, from which areas it ranges southward to Brazil and Bolivia. The race of this species that reaches Tabasco is *T. e. fulvigularis*. The Purple-crowned Fairy Hummingbird has also been taken in Guatemala and British Honduras, and it ranges southward as far as Colombia and Ecuador. Laurence C. Binford, my field companion, and I subsequently saw the Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher on November 6, 7, 11, 13, and 14, 1961, at the same locality, and Binford collected an additional female on November 6. We subsequently saw the fairy hummer on November 5, 6, 12, and 13, 1961, and Binford obtained a male on November 6. The two species were found both within the rain forest and at its edge. These records were obtained while on an expedition sponsored by the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology, at which institution the specimens are now deposited.—DELWYN G. BERRETT, *Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 8, 1962.*

Census of Ring-billed and California Gull Colonies in Eastern Washington.—Two nesting colonies of Ring-billed (*Larus delawarensis*) and California (*L. californicus*) gulls located on the Columbia River islands within the Hanford Reservation, Washington, were censused in 1961. One nesting site is at Coyote Rapids and the other is about 20 miles downstream near Ringold. Both colonies became established on these islands first in 1956. They were probably displaced from downstream islands inundated that year by the development of Lake Wallula by McNary Dam. In 1954 a colony was reported near Pasco which is within the McNary impoundment area (Hudson and Yocom, *Research Studies State College of Washington*, 22, 1954:23). Another new nesting colony of Ring-billed Gulls was reported in 1961 on a Columbia River island downstream from McNary Dam near Boardman, Oregon (Broadbrooks, *Murrelet*, 42, 1961:7).

On both islands the California Gulls nested on the higher ground near the center of the islands and the Ring-billed Gulls nested on the periphery of the colony. Most birds nested in areas where lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*) and eriogonum (*Eriogonum compositum*) served as nesting cover. Ring-billed Gull nests were estimated to have comprised 90 to 95 per cent of all nests at the Ringold colony and 75 to 90 per cent at the Coyote Rapids colony.

The Ringold colony was visited weekly. On April 7, about 500 gulls were present; many nests were formed but none contained eggs. The population increased until about April 28 when an estimated 2000 adults were present. On this date eggs were first observed in six of the several hundred nests formed by that time. On May 4, an estimated 70 to 75 per cent of the nests contained eggs; by May 17 all active nests contained incubated clutches of eggs.

Nests on both islands were censused on May 31 by placing ropes across each colony at approximately 10-foot intervals and scoring all nests and their clutches included in each delineated area. The census results are shown in the table. The clutch size was the same for both colonies, averaging 2.7 at Ringold and 2.6 at Coyote Rapids.

NUMBERS OF EGGS OR YOUNG PER NEST OF RING-BILLED AND CALIFORNIA GULLS
AT HANFORD RESERVATION ON MAY 31, 1961

Number of eggs or young per nest	1	2	3	4	5	6	Totals
Ringold colony							
Eggs	31	194	610	24	16	1	876
Young	7	63	83	5	2	0	160
Total number of nests	38	257	693	29	18	1	1036
Total number of eggs and young	38	504	2079	116	90	6	2833
Coyote Rapids colony							
Eggs	70	277	625	29	15	0	1016
Young	15	72	49	3	0	0	139
Total number of nests	85	349	674	32	15	0	1155
Total number of eggs and young	85	698	2022	128	75	0	3008

Many nests were inundated during the period of the survey by rising river levels due to the annual freshets. A greater percentage of the nests of Ring-bills were flooded than were those of California Gulls because of the difference in nesting elevations. Final production of young was much below the potential of nearly 5800.

One California Gull nest contained two normal and one albino nestlings. The albino was smaller than average for the colony and had white down and pink eyes, bill, and feet. It was the only albino that was noted among thousands of young observed during five years of observation on these islands.

The census was carried out under Contract No. AT-(45-1)-1350 between the Atomic Energy Commission and the General Electric Company.—W. C. HANSON, *Biology Laboratory, General Electric Company, Richland, Washington, June 23, 1962.*

Parula Warbler again in California.—On June 18, 1962, my attention was caught by the song of a strange warbler at my home in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California. The singing bird proved to be a male Parula Warbler (*Parula americana*) which was observed at close range for a period of approximately twenty minutes before an unsuccessful attempt was made to collect it. It had foraged through the outer branches of live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*), valley oaks (*Q. lobata*), Oregon oak (*Q. garryana*), and madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*).

On June 23 I again heard the same song and advised local bird watchers, five of whom were able to make observations of this fine male warbler. Two of these people, Dr. Parmeter and Mrs. Titus, had been familiar with the species in the east. The bird remained in the area throughout the day and could be located easily by its constant singing. Most of its foraging was being done at fairly high levels in the predominant Douglas firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), but it was also noted to feed in the upper branches of Oregon ash (*Fraxinus oregona*) on occasion.

Nothing was heard of the species in the interim between the dates mentioned nor has it been recorded since the latter date. One would of course assume that it was most likely the same bird. However, on July 15 I discovered the remains of the original bird which had *not* escaped the attempt at collecting as was thought. The specimen is now in the collection of Dr. Jack Arnold of Sonoma State College.

These records of the presence of two actively singing male Parula Warblers, coupled with the nesting record at Carmel, California (Williams, Legg, and Williamson, Condor, 60, 1958:345-353) provide additional data relative to the status of this species on the Pacific coast.—GORDON L. BOLANDER, *Santa Rosa, California, July 19, 1962.*