

Lack (Darwin's Finches, 1947:81) noted in passing that the mockingbirds on Hood Island feed more extensively on the shore than do those on other islands. From December 12 to 28, 1962, I was able to watch the mockingbirds in the seabird colonies at the eastern end of Hood Island and compare these with other mockingbirds on Tower Island, visited from November 22 to 24, 1962, and from January 4 to 8, 1963, and Champion Island, near Charles Island, visited from January 11 to 15, 1963.

On Hood Island the mockingbirds frequently approached and pecked untended eggs of boobies (*Sula nebouxii* and *S. dactylatra*), and albatrosses (*Diomedea irrorata*). Eibl-Eibesfeldt (personal communication) has seen mockingbirds pecking the eggs of Swallow-tailed Gulls (*Larus furcatus*). They probably also peck those of other seabirds, even those of hole nesters like the tropic birds (*Phaëthon aethereus*). The mockingbirds persisted for no more than a minute or two when they were unsuccessful in attempts to break eggs, and there were many old, abandoned albatross eggs lying around unbroken in the colony. If any such egg were moved (for example, by me), it would attract renewed attention. On no occasion did I observe mockingbirds breaking an undamaged egg, but they did open up and eat a slightly cracked fresh egg of *Sula dactylatra*, and a similarly cracked rotten egg of *Diomedea irrorata*. Pecking was partly directed at the cracked area or at marks like cracks, such as a spidery asterisk that I drew in pencil. Thus, it seems likely that *Nesomimus macdonaldi* is an effective scavenger of cracked abandoned eggs and may kill a number of chicks in untended eggs that may be pipping. Once I observed a mockingbird carrying off the egg of a *Tropidurus* lizard, and Eibl-Eibesfeldt has filmed mockingbirds feeding on the eggs of *Amblyrhynchus*, the marine iguana (Die Echsen von Galapagos. Color film No. FT 594, Inst. f. Film und Bild im Wissenschaft und Unterricht, Munchen, 1960/62.)

In striking contrast to *Nesomimus macdonaldi*, the mockingbirds on Tower Island, *Nesomimus parvulus*, are indifferent to the eggs of the seabirds among which they live. Eggs of *Sula dactylatra*, *S. sula*, and *Larus furcatus* were abundant during my visits to the island, but I never saw the mockingbirds take an interest in them. Whole, cracked, or even broken fresh eggs placed well out of reach of the adult seabirds were completely ignored by the mockingbirds. *Nesomimus trifasciatus* on Champion Island, where *Larus furcatus* and *Sula nebouxii* are abundant, seemed almost as uninterested in eggs as *Nesomimus parvulus*. One of three birds after two minutes fed briefly from an egg that I had broken for them, whereas on Hood Island an egg broken under similar conditions was surrounded by several gobbling mockingbirds within half a minute.

This is an interesting example of a behavior pattern differing strikingly between closely related species. One would guess that the behavior is learned from other individuals, and it is relevant to note that *macdonaldi* appears to show much more curiosity than *parvulus* and *trifasciatus*. Such differences invite comparison with Miyadi's observations on the distinct food preferences and feeding habits of isolated groups of Japanese monkeys (Proc. XV Internat. Congr. Zool., 1959: 857-859).

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Bird Records from Midway Atoll, Pacific Ocean.—In 1961, 1962, and 1963 I spent an average of three months on Midway Atoll each year, from mid-June to mid-August and from late November to late December. Although the primary objective was a long-range study of the Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*), supported by contract 3479(00) with the Office of Naval Research, some incidental observations of the occurrence of other species are noteworthy. Unless otherwise stated for each species, these constitute "first published records" for Midway Atoll.

Macronectes giganteus. Giant Fulmar. On two occasions, December of 1959 and December of 1961, a bird thought to be of this species flew over Eastern Island, but it was not until

December 9, 1962, that positive identification was made of a dark-formed bird on the north-eastern beach of this island.

Although this is a bird of the Southern Hemisphere, it is known for its strong powers of flight, its wanderings, its tendency to follow cold currents northward, and it has been reported on several occasions from the West Coast of North America (from California by Cooper, Amer. Nat., 4, 1871:758; from the Columbia River by Audubon, Ornith. Biogr., 5, 1839:320). Despite the fact that these records have been discredited for one reason or another, the evidence against their acceptance seems to rest primarily on the fact that the occurrence was just too far away from the known range! The species is not easily confused with any others of the North Pacific, and its appearance there is no more surprising than is that of other "south-of-the-equator" birds.

Fulmaris glacialis. Fulmar. One adult observed at close range on Sand Island, December 8 to 10, 1959, and another seen on December 16, 1962.

Puffinus griseus. Sooty Shearwater. Single individuals found as road kills near Administration Building on Sand Island, December 11, 1959, and December 2, 1963.

Phaethon lepturus. White-tailed Tropic Bird. One individual collected in December of 1959, on Eastern Island; one flew over in December of 1962, and one in November of 1963—my only records in 10 months on the atoll. The presence of this tropic bird is not unexpected here, but the literature revealed no records, at least during a cursory search.

Sula dactylatra. Blue-faced Booby. Although this species occurs regularly on the southwest end of Eastern Island, the fewness of its numbers is significant. I have never seen more than nine adults during any of seven trips to Midway, and only once were there as many as four nests.

Sula leucogaster. Brown Booby. No nests have been found, but an individual was collected on Sand Island in December of 1959. Single birds, flying overhead or perched on buoys near the channel to Eastern Island, have been observed regularly in June, July, August, and December, from 1961 to 1963.

Branta canadensis. Canada Goose. A very small individual was observed repeatedly in late November and December of 1961, along the north edge of the middle of the length of the main airplane runway on Sand Island. One Canada Goose was reported, but not seen by me, in December of 1959. Bryan and Greenway (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 94, 1944:102) recorded this species only as far west as Kauai Island in the Hawaiian Archipelago.

Anser albifrons (frontalis?). White-fronted Goose. One specimen from Eastern Island, December, 1962, and identified by Dr. E. R. Blake of the Chicago Natural History Museum. There were two birds present at that time. *Anser albifrons gambelli* was reported only from the islands of Hawaii and Molokai by Bryan and Greenway (*op. cit.*:101).

Anas platyrhynchos. Mallard. One male on brackish pond south of harbor on Sand Island on December 3, 1963.

Anas strepera. Gadwall. One male taken at same time and place as given for Mallard.

Anas acuta. Pintail. Flocks ranging up to 20 birds are fairly frequent on brackish pond in winter on Sand Island. In December of 1961, two separate flights of more than 30 birds were seen. A pair was observed on November 30, 1963, on Eastern Island.

Anas carolinensis. Green-winged Teal. Small groups of three to eight birds are not uncommon on the brackish pond on Sand Island in December.

Mareca americana. American Widgeon. Only one record: two birds feeding in dry weeds at northeast end of main runway on Sand Island on November 30, 1963.

It is not surprising that these species of ducks should be reported from Midway. Most of them have been reported from the Marshall Islands, even farther out of their expected ranges, by Baker (Univ. Kansas Publ., Mus. Nat. Hist., 3, 1951:100-102) and more recently by Yocom (Auk, 81, 1964:441-442). Further, the teal has been recorded "as an accidental visitor" to the Hawaiian Islands (Laysan Island), the Pintail "as a regular migrant" at least to the eastern Hawaiian Islands (Laysan east), the widgeon from Laysan eastward, as "an accidental," and the Gadwall from Oahu (Bryan and Greenway, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 94, 1944:104-105).

Aythya fuligula. Tufted Duck. Five present on brackish pond on Sand Island in December of 1963. Only previous record known to me is my own (Fisher, Condor, 62, 1960:480).

Erolia acuminata. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. Almost always present on the beaches in December on both islands. Especially abundant in November and December of 1963, when several flocks of 20 to 30 birds were present for several days. Bryan and Greenway (*op. cit.*:114) reported this species "as an occasional visitor" on Midway.

Cyclorhynchus psittacula. Parakeet Auklet. Two specimens from beach of Eastern Island in late January of 1963, evidently blown in, along with the Horned Puffins, by heavy storms of the preceding two weeks. Reported by Robert Klemm, my research assistant.

Fratercula corniculata. Horned Puffin. Eight examples in January of 1963: one alive on beach at Kure Atoll; two dead in edge of *Scaevola* on west side of Sand Island; and five dead on beaches of Eastern Island. Reported by Robert Klemm.

Asio flammeus. Short-eared Owl. This species has never been found in numbers greater than two or three, and usually on Eastern Island, despite the abundance of food represented by exotic rats and mice. My last observation was of a caged bird in the home of Commander Boyd Weber on December 8, 1961; the bird was incapable of flight because its feathers were badly disrupted by road tar. Since much of the prime habitat of this species has been bulldozed in the last two years, the bird may no longer exist on Midway. It was observed on Kure Atoll in December of 1963.

Alauda arvensis. Skylark. One bird on December 6, 1961, and two on November 30, 1963, on open grassy area in middle of Eastern Island. It is probable that these individuals belonged to the population established on the larger Hawaiian Islands to the southeast.—HARVEY I. FISHER, *Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, September 19, 1964.*

Black Brant Summering at Salton Sea.—Five Black Brant (*Branta nigricans*) were at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, Imperial County, California, during the summer of 1963. The birds were first seen on April 22, feeding on newly sprouted bulrush (*Scirpus tuberosus*). From that time on, throughout the summer, they were observed frequently. For a period in July and August only three could be found, although on September 7, four were seen, and on September 15, five. The final observation was of three birds on October 12.

During July and early August, the three birds passed through their prebasic [= postnuptial] molt and were completely flightless for a time. Two of the birds retained the usual appearance of the Black Brant, but the third became much lighter in color. Temperatures ranged from 110° to 120° F. during their stay, quite different from what they would have encountered had they completed their normal migration. The birds appeared to be healthy at all times.

Guy McCaskie kindly informed us of his observations of two Black Brant at the north end of the Salton Sea on September 16, 1962. On April 9, 1963, he saw a flock of at least 100 at the same location. He also reported that at least 30 were still there on April 27, 1963, and one was there until at least May 11 of that year.

In the spring of 1964, about 225 Black Brant appeared at Salton Sea Refuge on April 16. This number decreased to five by the middle of May, when they were last seen at the north end of the sea. On June 27, one was observed on the refuge, and on June 30, a pair was noted. McCaskie saw about 30 at the north end of Salton Sea on April 25, May 2, and May 9. On September 6, 1964, he saw two on the refuge.

In the past, wintering Black Brant have been found only on the Pacific coast of Lower California. In 1964 large numbers of Black Brant were reported to have wintered on the Gulf of California side. This change in wintering grounds is a likely explanation for their inland appearance at Salton Sea which is on a direct flight line northward from the head of the Gulf of California.—JOHN H. NOWAK, *Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Venice, Louisiana*, and GALE MONSON, *Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D.C., December 3, 1964.*

A Record of the Groove-billed Ani in Southern Nevada.—A Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) was seen by us at Boulder City, 2450 feet elevation, Clark County, Nevada, on December 7, 1964, and was kept under observation for about one-half hour. The bird seemed unafraid and we were able to approach to within a few feet of it and note the grooves in the heavy beak and the zygodactylous feet. When discovered it was perched in a trellis in a garden,