

TABLE 1
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STORM CENTER AND DISTANCE FROM SHORE OF 19 INLAND RECORDS
OF THE ANCIENT MURRELET

Location of inland record	Center of rain storms along coast occurring		
	Below 55 N lat.	Above 55 N lat.	Above and below 55 N lat.
West of Continental Divide	9	0	3
East of Continental Divide	0	5	2

inland records fall in two periods with a peak in November and one in March. It must be remembered that we are dealing with living birds, which in many cases may have moved some distance away from their first landfall. However, the fact that most birds were found in March and November, the peaks coinciding with the off-shore migration of the species, lends support to the idea that those birds were actually discovered shortly after they drifted inland. Similar peaks were found by Williams (Auk, 82:19-25, 1965) in his analysis of records of three species of jaegers (*Stercorarius*) in the Gulf of Mexico.

To test the correlation between inland murrelet records and weather conditions, I analyzed U.S. surface weather maps for each day of occurrence and four to five days prior to this day. Not all records could be treated in this manner since the maps appropriate to earlier records showed little information about weather conditions along the Pacific coast. Also some birds were believed to have been inland for a longer period than five days (see also Munyer), such as the specimen from Lake Pontchartrain (Lowery, 1955: Louisiana Birds) and the specimen from Nebraska, which was shot while it flew down the Missouri (Swenk, Nebraska Bird Rev., 1:14-15, 1933). Furthermore, for some records the date of discovery is not given. In 14 records the inland occurrence coincided with low pressure areas over the Gulf of Alaska and over the Pacific Ocean to the south as far as Washington, one to five days prior to the day of discovery of the specimens. In five cases the low pressure areas were over the northwest Pacific states. Inland records were found to coincide with wind velocities of 30 to 40 knots per hour and precipitation in the form of rain or snow along the coast.

I agree with Munyer that the birds are not blown straight east but instead that their course of flight is the resultant of a west wind and the normal flight direction which I assume to be parallel to the coast. If one accepts this reasoning, then those birds found farther away from the coast (around the Great Lakes) have come from storms centered in the northern area of the distribution of this species, while those from nearer the coast (west of the Continental Divide) have come from storms centered farther south along the coast. The data (table 1), although scanty, show this trend.

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A Second Record of Ancient Murrelet from Nevada.—On 27 November 1965 Albert Taylor captured an Ancient Murrelet, *Synthliboramphus antiquum*, which he had observed floundering about on the main street of Carson City, Ormsby County, Nevada. Attempts to get the bird airborne proved futile, and during the next few hours it was observed to have several episodes of diarrhea.

The murrelet was set free overnight, but the following morning Taylor found it dead and frozen in a vacant lot near his home. He promptly presented the specimen to the Nevada State Museum where it was prepared as study skin NSM 866.

This specimen, a female with a 2.5×10 mm crescent-shaped ovary, measured 218 mm in

total length and weighed 123 g. There was no body fat, and the digestive tract was empty and flaccid.

It appears that the fall molt was incomplete, as remnants of the white eye stripe and bars at the side of the nape are in evidence.

The first Nevada record of the family Alcidae, an Ancient Murrelet collected at Elko on 14 November 1955 and described by Gullion (*Condor*, 58:163, 1956), appeared under circumstances very similar to our own, soon after a period of storms in Nevada and along the west coast.

Munyer, from his review of weather conditions and the scattered literature recording about 27 inland occurrences of the Ancient Murrelet (*Wilson Bull.*, 77:235-42, 1965), concluded that most of these were forced by severe coastal storms. Although he sees evidence that on rare occasions a bird might overwinter in the interior of North America, most of the specimens described were in a very poor state of nutrition when found, indicating inability to adapt to freshwater conditions (I assume that the Ancient Murrelet does accumulate fall fat).

Another point of interest is what appears to be a disproportionately large number of females among the recorded specimens.—BILL SMITH, *Zoologist, The Nevada State Museum, Carson City, Nevada, 24 January 1966.*

Albinistic Feathers in Storm Petrels (Hydrobatidae).—Albinistic members of the family Procellariidae were mentioned by Sage (*British Birds*, 56:409, 1963) who had six records of one species, and by Gross (*Bird-banding*, 36:67, 1965) who mentions seven individuals of three species. In the family Hydrobatidae, partially albinistic Ashy Petrels (*Oceanodroma homochroa*) were mentioned by Loomis (*Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.*, ser. 4, 2 (2):171, 1918) who noticed "albinistic feathers" in some specimens. Looking through series of storm petrels, I found these abnormalities in 10 species. Skins from the California Academy of Sciences (CAS), from the Stanford University collection (SU) now at the Academy, and from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ) in Berkeley were examined, in all 852 skins of which 73 were albinistic. The museum number of each albinistic specimen was recorded and is available to those interested.

In a few of the species I examined, significantly high percentages had albinistic feathers. Several workers have found that the incidence of albinism is greater in certain families than others. Deane (*Bull. Nuttall Ornithol. Club*, 1:20-24, 1876) states that in the families Fringillidae, Tetraonidae, and Anatidae it is of comparatively frequent occurrence. Nero (*Auk*, 71:137-155, 1954) states that: "Plumage aberrations are common among Icterids and have attracted the attention of several previous observers," and mentions eight species, he himself having found a high percentage in Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Edson (*Auk*, 45:377-378, 1928) found a high percentage in a population of Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), and Hanson (*Auk*, 66:164-167, 1949) in one of Canada Geese. Gross (*op. cit.*) compiled a list of 304 species of American birds with records of albinism, many showing high incidences, and Sage (*op. cit.*) had records of 163 species compiled from workers in Great Britain and others.

Gross (*op. cit.*) divides albinistic birds into four groups: (1) "total or pure" where there is complete absence of melanism; (2) "incomplete" when pigment is absent from the plumage, eyes, or naked parts, but not all three; (3) "imperfect" when pigment is reduced or diluted in any or all three areas but never completely absent; and (4) "partial" when it is absent from localized areas. The petrels here recorded all come under the fourth category. Gross also speaks of "symmetrical" and "asymmetrical" albinism. These petrels come under the latter grouping. Nero (*op. cit.*) divides partial albinism into two categories: (1) Random, when white occurs in dissimilar areas from bird to bird, and (2) Specific, when it occurs in approximately the same area in each specimen. To a certain degree, albinism in these Storm Petrels could be designated as specific in that in the majority of the specimens it was manifested as one or a few white feathers on the head, nape, or throat, that is, on the more anterior regions. Nero (*op. cit.*) found a similar situation in Red-winged Blackbirds, and Hanson (*op. cit.*), studying albinism in a population of Canada Geese in Illinois, noted that "unusual amounts of white on the head and neck are not uncommon."

In Red-winged Blackbirds, Nero (*op. cit.*) observed that "in most museum specimens and in