

were seen there mainly from August onwards is not easy to interpret in light of the March specimen from Mejía mentioned above and our record of breeding starting in May at 14° S. However, it may well be that breeding occurs in coastal lagoons in southern Perú or even in northern Chile. Further investigation will doubtless show that *L. cirrocephalus* is now an established resident over a considerable range on the Pacific coast of South America, and it is possible that the species is still advancing northward and southward.

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WINTER OBSERVATIONS OF THE SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN

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Three species of albatrosses are resident in the North Pacific Ocean. Two of these are relatively common and widespread, while the third species, the Short-tailed Albatross (*Diomedea albatrus*), is an endangered species with a population of possibly fewer than 100 birds. There have been few published records of this species during the past 25 years according to the A.O.U. Handbook of North American Birds (Vol. 1, 1962) and the Red Data Book (Vol. 2, Aves. Int. Union Conserv. Nat. Morges, Switzerland, 1966). I am aware, through personal communications, of only a handful of unpublished sightings during this same period.

While serving on active duty in the United States Navy I was fortunate enough to observe *D. albatrus* on several occasions in the waters of the East China Sea, approximately 200-300 nautical mi. S of Tokyo, Japan. On the morning of 4 December 1959 two adults glided across the wake of the ship about 100 yards astern over rough seas at 33° 15' N, 140° 12' E. On 17 February 1961 a bird in immature plumage was seen sitting on a calm sea at 30° 02' N, 140° 09' E. The following year on 30 March 1962 one adult and a bird in immature plumage were seen gliding over rough seas at 33° 35' N, 145° 48' E. The last sighting was made on 4 February 1966 at 35° 18' N, 145° 02' E. On this occasion I observed an adult being momentarily harassed by three skuas (*Catharacta* sp.) over calm seas. Within a minute the latter broke off their harassment and headed north while the albatross alternately glided and flapped away to the east.

In all cases the identification was positive although the observations rarely lasted more than 90

sec. Having frequently observed the other two species of North Pacific *Diomedea*, I identified the adult plumage of the Short-tailed Albatross by the buffy wash on the white head and nape, its white back, pure white underwing surfaces and the pale pinkish bill. Birds in immature plumage were uniformly dark throughout but, unlike the similar Black-footed Albatross (*D. nigripes*), they lacked any white areas around the tail or face except for their light-colored bill. The relatively heavier body and larger bill of *D. albatrus* are also helpful field marks once the observer is familiar with the other two species.

Except for the last observation, Black-footed Albatrosses were seen simultaneously during each of the observations of the Short-tailed Albatross. The Laysan Albatross (*D. immutabilis*) was seen simultaneously with *D. albatrus* only once, that during the first of these observations, although single individuals were seen on other occasions in these waters at this season. Only during the first observation were all three species seen simultaneously, offering a rare comparison of field marks. Short-tailed Albatrosses were never seen to follow in the wake of ships as did *D. immutabilis* and, particularly, *D. nigripes*. It also was never seen to mingle with either of the other two species of albatross.

It is significant that all observations were made during the winter months and within 300 miles of their breeding grounds, Torishima Island in the Bonin Island group. According to the A.O.U. Handbook (1962) breeding activity begins in September and October. Consequently, I was somewhat surprised at the absence of the species during my brief one-day stay at this island early in September.

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