

rails. The tide during the night before my observation reached a very high level of 6.8 ft. Tides of such amplitude occur only a few days per month from May through early July and from November through January. The latter period is not during the reproductive season for these rails. Observers of the "kicker" in salt marshes might look for a correlation between the mystery song and high-amplitude tides.

I suspect that alert birders and ornithologists will discover the "kicker" in additional types of marshes and perhaps demonstrate that additional species of rails give the mystery song. In any case, we may confidently await the next chapters of the "ornithological mystery story."

I am pleased to acknowledge Mercedes Foster's constructive criticism on an earlier draft.

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Black-capped Petrel in the George's Bank area

by Kurt Lambert

On Mar. 23, 1977 I saw a Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata*, near the south-eastern slope of the George's Bank, position 40°58'N 66°35'W. The bird followed the ship for approximately 20 minutes and sometimes approached very close to the ship. I was able to identify it by its white neck, forehead, and rump and by its special way of flight compared to *Puffinus gravis*.

The unexpected date of this record is

remarkable. Undoubtedly the bird had been drifted northeastward by a strong low pressure area that brought hurricanelike gales moving to the NE during the days prior to the sighting. On Mar. 23 in the George's Bank area the wind came from the SW with a strength of 8 to 9 Beaufort.

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