

ducks, mostly N. Shovelers and Pintails, until they began departing for the n. in the second week of March. Less common species among them included several Mallards, Green-winged Teal, two dozen Am. Wigeon and two Hooded Mergansers. A ♂ Garganey in full breeding plumage was there Mar. 28 (RC), and eight Koloa (Hawaiian Duck-*En*) were recorded Mar. 31 (RC,RP). The wintering Canada Goose remained until May 7.

SHOREBIRDS — Bristle-thighed Curlews appeared this spring at their regular haunt near Kii Pond, one Mar. 10 and two Apr. 11 (PB). A Bar-tailed Godwit coming into breeding plumage was seen regularly at Kure Atoll Mar. 15 - May 9 (MR). One in full breeding plumage was at Lisianski I., May 12-14, and three in winter plumage were on Laysan I., May 15 (MR). Hawaiian (Black-necked-*En*) Stilts started nesting very early at Kii Pond this year, the first egg being found Mar. 10 (RC).

GULLS AND TERNS — A Glaucous Gull in second-year plumage was at Kure Atoll Mar. 15 - Apr. 1 (MR). The W. Gull wintering at Paiko Lagoon, O., remained through the season. Two Laughing Gulls at Kii Pond were last seen together Mar. 10 (DS), and one remained until Apr. 10 (RC). Five Gray-

backed Terns Apr. 13 flying over Kii Pond (RC) represented a remarkable record. In the main Hawaiians, Gray-backed nest only on Moku Manu islet off Oahu's s.e. coast, and are virtually never reported any closer to the main islands. At Johnston Atoll, Sooty Tern nesting was in full swing with eggs, small and large young present Apr. 25. Numbers were estimated at 100,000 birds on East I., and 50,000 on Sand I. (CH). Hawaii's first Caspian Tern, reported last season, was seen at Kalua-puhi Pond, K.M.C.A.S., O., through the spring (m.ob.), and was still there May 31 (RC).

OWLS THROUGH HONEYCREEPERS — A Short-eared Owl found at Kure Atoll Apr. 16 was last seen flying to sea toward Midway Atoll, 100 km to the e. (MR). Four individuals were on Midway during the winter, raising the possibility that these strays may have been from Asia or Alaska. The Hawaiian endemic race normally is confined to the main Hawaiian Is., 2000 km s.e. of Midway. A stray Mockingbird first reported in January at Tern I., French Frigate Shoals, was still thriving Mar. 15 when the island was revisited (CH).

Japanese Bush-Warblers were introduced to Oahu 50 years ago, and remained rather scarce until the late 1960s. Since then they have been seen and heard more and more fre-

quently, and at new localities around the island. Now the species has crossed the Kaiwi Channel to Molokai. Its very distinctive song was heard in April (TBe) and identified May 28 (LP) at Pepeopae Lookout in the high mountains of Molokai, about 80 km from the nearest point of Oahu. Its status and range on the island will be better defined during the U.S.F.&W.S. Forest Bird Survey this summer. The 'O'u, one of the scarcest Hawaiian honeycreepers, was observed again this spring on Hawaii I. (DR *et al.*) and on Kauai (JSi).

ABBREVIATIONS — Islands: K. = Kauai, O. = Oahu, M. = Maui, H. = Hawaii; *En* = Endangered Species, P.H.N.W.R. = Pearl Harbor National Wildlife Refuge, K.M.C.A.S. = Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station.

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Alabama's first Leach's Storm-Petrel

D. Mark Brown and Brent Ortego

WHILE SEARCHING for shorebirds on a peninsula that extends into a bend of the Chattahoochee River at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge on October 7, 1978, we discovered a dead bird lying 25 meters to the west of the river in Barbour County, Alabama. Upon picking it up, we immediately recognized it as either a Leach's (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) or Harcourt's (*O. castro*) Storm-Petrel by its single tubular nostril, forked tail, white rump and black feet. The specimen was in good condition and was deposited at the Auburn University Vertebrate Zoology Museum. It is specimen number AUM 326.

We later identified the bird as a northern Leach's Storm-Petrel (*O. l. leucorhoa*). It was distinguished from Harcourt's by its: (a) deeply forked tail — more so than Harcourt's (b) gray stripe bisecting the white rump — absent in Harcourt's and (c) dark shafted white rump feathers — Harcourt's are light-shafted. The subspecies was determined by the bird's large size (total length = 213 mm, wing chord = 165, tarsus = 24, and culmen = 16) and almost totally white rump. The

specimen was determined an adult male.

Bourne (1962, Leach's Petrel, pp. 225-230 in R. S. Palmer (ed.), Handbook of North American birds. Vol. 1. Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, Conn. 567 pp.) reported great geographic variation occurring within the species; northern subspecies being larger (wing chord = 153-160 mm, tarsus = 23-24, and culmen = 15-16) and having the whitest rumps, while those of the southern subspecies were smaller (wing chord = 139-141, tarsus = 20, and culmen = 13) and darker. The most southerly populations (*O. l. chapmani*) being very small and entirely black.

THE BIRD WE FOUND (Fig. 1) was obviously of the northern race. This subspecies breeds in the North Pacific and Atlantic oceans. It has a wide winter distribution with main concentrations along tropical convergencies. Atlantic stragglers have occurred between the Canaries, Cuba, Buenos Aires and Cape of Good Hope (Bourne op. cit.).

Since there was no inclement weather prior to the bird's discovery, its appear-

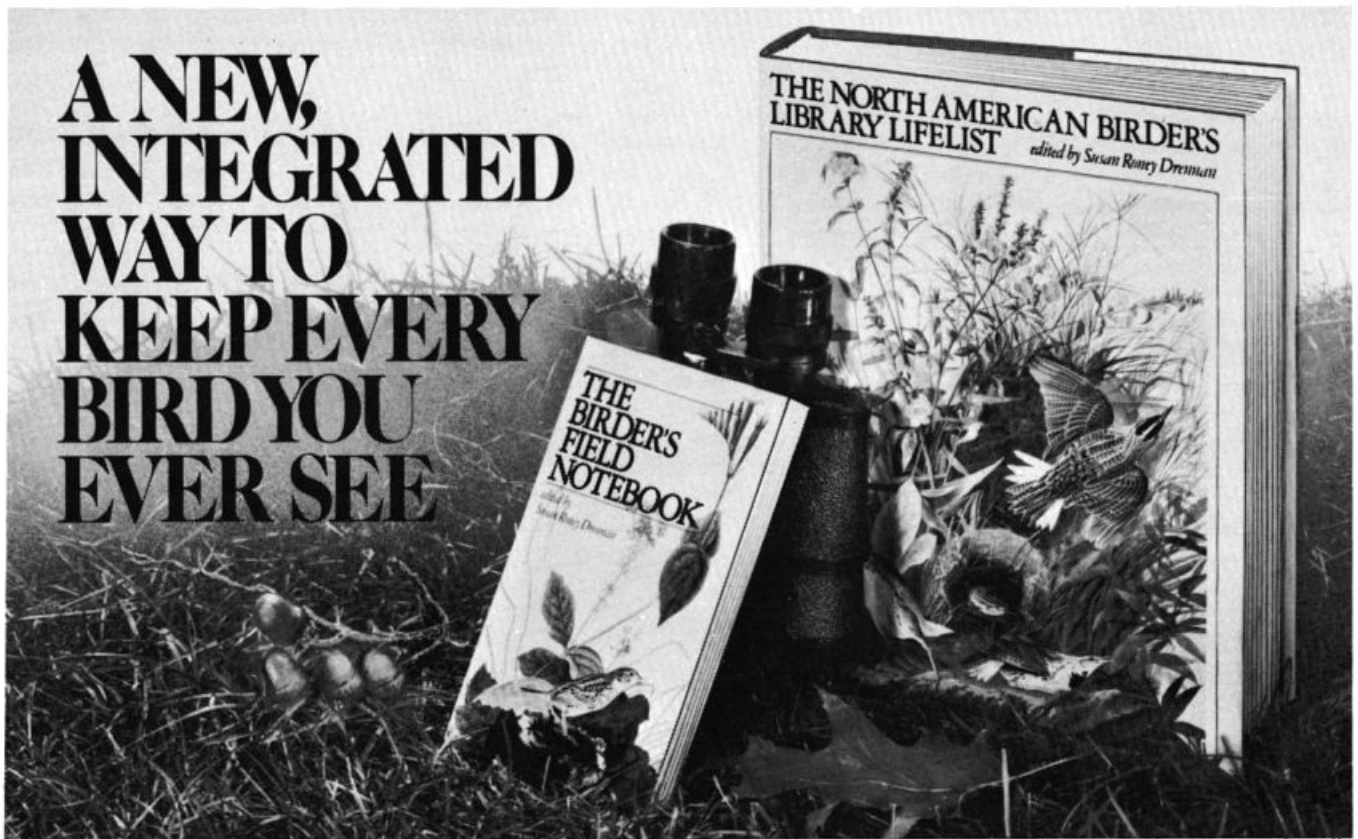


Fig. 1. Leach's Storm-Petrel at Eufaula N.W.R., Ala., Oct. 7, 1978. Note tubenose, deeply forked tail, v-shaped white rump bisected by gray stripe, and long wings with pale wingbar. Photo/Brent Ortego.

ance and death 200 km inland was a mystery. The specimen represents the first Alabama record and the first non-aided inland record for the southeastern United States.

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