

GENERAL NOTES

Probable Bulwer's Petrel off Key West, Florida.—I observed a small, all dark petrel with a long wedge-shaped tail that I identified as a Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii*) off the Florida Keys, about 15 miles east-southeast of Rebecca Light on 14 May 1969. Rebecca Light is west of Key West, approximately two-thirds of the distance to the Dry Tortugas, from which islands we were returning at the time.

One of a group of three petrels flew in to within 50 feet of our boat and stayed alongside for almost a minute. It was a uniform brownish-black with a somewhat lighter brownish band across the upper surface of its wings. Its flight was more like a shearwater than a storm petrel. It did not have the latter's fluttering flight, but rather had a gliding flight and used its wings only sparingly and then only in short bursts. In size, this bird was much smaller than Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*), several of which we had seen only a few minutes before, and larger than the storm petrels, even than the Black Petrel (*Loomelania melania*). While I realize that size comparisons based on non-contemporaneous sight records are open to some question, I had seen Black Petrels less than three weeks earlier when three of them followed our ship from the Gulf of Panama toward the Galapagos for two days.

Dr. George E. Watson of the Smithsonian Institution, who concurs with my identification, adds "In the Atlantic Ocean the Bulwer's Petrel breeds only on Madeira and the Cape Verde Islands but regularly, it seems, migrates south and west toward the Americas. It has been recorded in the Caribbean and may even be a regular migrant in the southeast Caribbean and near Trinidad. Many more observations are needed from that part of the Caribbean to establish any regular pattern of occurrence (if indeed a pattern exists). Your observations near the Tortugas, however, may only be regarded as extraordinary vagrants."

The 1957 edition of the A.O.U. Check-list in its Hypothetical List contains an old and uncertain record of the Bulwer's Petrel from Greenland. Until such time as a specimen or photograph of this bird can be obtained for North America, it must remain as a hypothetical.—JOSEPH W. TAYLOR, 20 Parish Road, Honeoye Falls, New York 14472, 19 November 1971.

Spring migration of the Gannet in Florida waters.—The Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) is a regular winter visitor to Florida waters (Sprunt, Florida bird life, Coward-McCann, New York, 1954, p. 17), but little is known of its spring migration. Palmer (Handbook of North American Birds, 1:308, 1962) reports that spring migration begins in March with the majority of birds gone from Florida waters by about mid-April. The earliest dates of migration for Florida are 3 March off the east coast at Cocoa (Stevenson, Audubon Field Notes, 12:273, 1958) and 15 March off the Gulf coast at Alligator Point, near Panacea (Stevenson, Audubon Field Notes, 9:252, 1955) but these birds may not have been migrants. The latest dates are 2 June at Alligator Point (Cunningham, Audubon Field Notes, 20:497, 1966) and 27 June about 12 miles northwest of Key West (Sprunt, Auk, 65:315, 1948).

Palmer (op. cit.:308) states that for the first three years Gannets stay at sea all year. Thomson (Brit. Birds, 32:286, 1943) reports that some young, non-breeding British Gannets remain in African waters, the winter range of the population, throughout the breeding season. I know of no records of Gannets of any age in Florida waters for July and August. Several observers have described a correlation between the age of Gannets and the time of migration. Cruickshank (Birds around New York City, Amer.