

GENERAL NOTES

First record of Olivaceous Cormorants nesting in New Mexico.—During a 1972 survey of nesting birds at Elephant Butte Marsh, Sierra County, New Mexico, I found Olivaceous Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*) nesting in proximity with Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) and Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). The marsh comprises inundated salt cedars (*Tamarix* sp.) and willows (*Salix* sp.), with about 550 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons nesting in the salt cedars and 100 to 160 pairs of Double-crested Cormorants nesting in willow snags.

On 15 and 16 May 1972, four Olivaceous Cormorants were seen on nests at the marsh. Two of the nests were empty and two contained three eggs each. The nests, in slender willow snags, ranged from six to eight feet above water. A third empty nest nearby resembled the nests of this species in its situation and construction. On 23 May 1972, John P. Hubbard observed an additional Olivaceous Cormorant on another nest. When the marsh was revisited 16 and 17 June 1972, all of the nests of this species were empty. Failure of these nests, as well as all of those of night herons and most of those of Double-crested Cormorants, may have been due to hailstorms.

Several specimens of *P. olivaceus* have been taken in the state previously, two in the area of Cliff, on the Gila River, and at least two in the Rio Grande Valley near Hatch and Las Cruces; there is also an unverified record from the southeastern part of the state (Bailey, F. M., *Birds of New Mexico*, N. Mex. Dept. of Game and Fish, 1928). There are no previous records of the species nesting in the state. The birds seen by me and others in 1973 were smaller than *P. auritus*, with a distinct white border behind the gular patch. On 16 May 1972, identifiable photographs of an Olivaceous Cormorant were taken by Charles L. Hyder (now no. 121-1C in the U.S. National Photoduplicate file, Laurel, Md.). The eggs of the two species are similar in coloration, but those of *P. olivaceus* were smaller.

I am indebted to Jack Durham and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for the opportunity to study nesting birds at Elephant Butte Marsh.—CHARLES A. HUNDERTMARK, JR., 305 Arvada N. E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102. Accepted 10 July 1973.

Foot injuries in Leach's Storm Petrels.—Deformities and injuries to beak and feet are occasionally seen when banding birds, a number of notes and review papers having been published on this topic (e.g. Pomeroy, *Brit. Birds*, 55:49-72, 1962). Previously, I recorded an injury to the foot of a Leach's Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) (*Canadian Field-Naturalist*, 83:384-388, 1969) and suggested that it might have been caused by gulls (*Larus marinus* or *L. argentatus*) that were preying on the petrels. In 1970, 913 Leach's Storm Petrels were banded on Gull Island (47°15'N 52°46'W), the northernmost island of the three that form the Witless Bay Sea Bird Sanctuary, Newfoundland, and notes were made of any foot/leg deformities or injuries. Forty-six birds (5.0 percent) were found to have foot/leg injuries of varying degrees. In only two cases, however, were both feet/legs of a single bird involved. Montgomerie (pers. comm.) noted foot/leg injuries in 12 of 259 Leach's Storm Petrels (4.6 percent) banded in 1973, on Great Island, the southernmost island in the Witless Bay Sea Bird Sanctuary. Two of these 12 birds showed involvement of both feet/legs. The number and extent of injuries recorded in birds from the two islands is detailed in Table 1, while Figure 1 shows some typical injuries.

The incidence of injury within the islands' colony appears to be approximately five

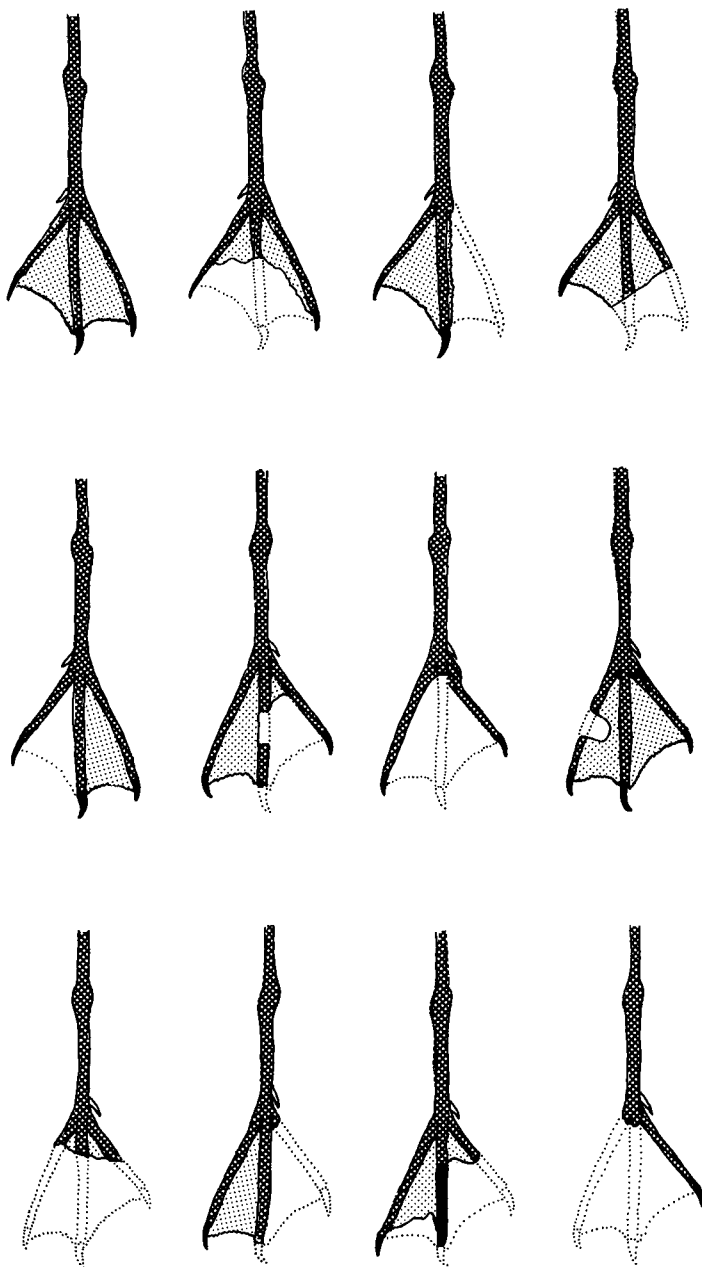


FIG. 1. Typical injuries to feet of Leach's Storm-Petrels, the dotted area being the missing portions.

TABLE 1
EXTENT AND NUMBER OF FOOT AND LEG INJURIES NOTED IN A SAMPLE OF 1172 LEACH'S STORM PETRELS

Type of injury	Foot		Comments
	Left	Right	
1 toe missing	4	13	Whole or partial amputation, or small pieces missing, often some web damage.
2 toes missing	6	9	Whole or partial amputation, including web damage.
3 toes missing	1	4	Partial amputation, small portions of web remains.
Whole foot missing	3	5	Removed at joint or just distal to joint.
1 web missing	2	1	
Tarsometatarsus			
Partially missing*	5	2	Stumps of various lengths remaining.
Tarsometatarsus			
Whole missing**	1	1	Amputated at tarsometatarsal/tibiotarsal joint.
Deformed	2	1	

* One specimen where leg (left or right) not specified in notes.

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percent and is most likely caused by gulls and/or Common Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*). The latter are hole-nesters, and the petrels often start their own burrows in the entrance to puffin tunnels, perhaps to avoid having to dig through a tough, dense mat of grass roots. In some cases, encounters may occur in the burrows between the two species and might result in injuries to petrels, particularly of the type where a small piece of toe or web has been "nipped" out (Fig. 1, middle row, far right). On the other hand, various colleagues have suggested that the injuries might have been caused by fish, when the birds were resting or swimming in the sea, although I prefer the gull/puffin explanation.

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Snow Goose soaring with White Pelicans.—On 20 May 1972 at 11:00 we observed a flock of 21 soaring White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) near the Delta Waterfowl Research Station, Delta, Manitoba. The flock was at an altitude of about 200–300 feet and moving toward the west. The day was clear and mild with little wind. As the flock passed, we noticed one bird considerably smaller than the rest, which examination with field glasses proved to be a Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). As the pelicans soared and spiraled in normal flight, the Snow Goose seemed to have difficulty maintaining position within the flock. It flew at greater speeds and in larger arcs than the pelicans. As it approached the flock from the rear, it began shallow wing-beats in an attempt to