

Sight record of Band-rumped Storm-Petrel off the coast of Palm Beach County, Florida.—On 25 July 1982, at 0710 approximately 24 km ENE of Boynton Inlet, Palm Beach County, Howie Langridge (son of second author), John McMellon, and the authors observed a bird which we identified as a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*). In a 19-ft boat powered with a 100 hp outboard engine, we pursued the bird on a flat sea at a speed of 48-56 kph as it tried to elude us. The sky was clear at the time. On our initial approach we were able to get within 5 m of the bird and saw it from the side and rear. We watched the storm-petrel at distances of 8 to 15 m for most of our 10-min observation period. It stayed within a meter of the ocean surface at all times. At 0745 about 5 km further east, we found and chased what appeared to be the same bird for 2-3 min. Langridge and Sykes wrote notes during and immediately after the observations while Trotsky operated the boat.

We were able to compare the bird we saw to the Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Occanites oceanicus*), three of which were seen on the same trip, one within 5 min of the initial observation described above. The bird we saw was noticeably larger than *oceanicus*.

The general coloration of the body of the bird we saw was very dark brown, not black. This was readily apparent in the good light at close range. The wings were narrow, appearing longer than in *oceanicus*, which are paddle shaped. The wings were dark brown with a light bar on the upper surface and uniformly dark on the under surface. The tarsus, toes, and webbing between the toes appeared black, and the feet did not extend beyond the tip of the tail. The black tail appeared square-tipped. The small immaculately white rump patch was straight along its anterior and posterior edges forming a narrow rectangle. The white of the rump extended across the flank becoming narrow and curving posteriorly onto the under tail coverts to form a blunt hook. Upon first approach the white rump patch was difficult to see because of its narrow width (anterior to posterior) and our angle of view from behind the bird. The rump did not show any dark central division typical of most Leach's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*). Also, the rump patch of the bird we saw was much more narrow than in *leucorhoa*. The wings of the bird were narrow and appeared longer than in *oceanicus*, and similar to *leucorhoa* except the wings did not have the bend at the wrist as pronounced as in *leucorhoa*. The wing beat was slower than in *oceanicus*. In viewing the bird from the rear, we observed that the wing strokes were above the plane of the body. The flight consisted of a slight zig-zag. It did not bound like *leucorhoa* but flew on an even horizontal course. We saw the storm-petrel make one long glide during the course of our pursuit. While being chased *castro* appeared to have an erratic flight similar to the Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) but on a rather direct path except when it changed direction. Our pursuit of the bird probably caused it to alter slightly its usual manner of flight. Our observations described above, made under ideal viewing conditions, fit rather well the principal characteristics given by Watson (1966) and Naveen (1982) for the identification of *O. castro*.

Our observation appears to be the seventh record of the warm-ocean Band-rumped Storm-Petrel for Florida: three in the Gulf of Mexico; two in the Florida Keys; and two in the Atlantic Ocean. Previous records for the state include the following: 1) a bird was found alive at Key West, Monroe County, on 21 October 1958, fed table scraps, but died on 30 October, and was

given to Frances Hames (identification confirmed by Alexander Wetmore) (Stevenson 1959); 2) a bird flew aboard a commercial fishing vessel 56 km off Cape San Blas, Gulf County, on 6 December 1958, where it died (Hallman 1966); 3) Joyce T. Baxter found one dead at Pensacola Beach, Escambia County, on 20 August 1969 (Purrington 1970); 4) Richard T. Paul and Alexander Sprunt, IV, found a bird alive in good condition in a parking lot under a street lamp on Upper Matecumbe Key, Monroe County, on 1 June 1973, and measured, photographed, and released it (Kale 1973); 5) Robert D. Barber and Johnnie Johnson observed an individual off Cape Canaveral, Brevard County, on 15 September 1974 (Edscorn 1975); and 6) C. Peretz and D. King found a sick bird at St. Petersburg Beach, Pinellas County, on 10 October 1977 and after it died deposited it in the collection at the University of South Florida (Edscorn 1978).

In the Atlantic Ocean this species breeds in the Azores, Madeira, Salvages, Cape Verde, Acension, and St. Helena islands and ranges during the non-breeding season mainly along the west coast of Africa, with vagrants occasionally reaching the eastern and southern United States and southern Canada (Watson 1966, American Birding Association Checklist Committee 1982). Further observations of pelagic birds along both coasts of Florida may reveal the Band-rumped Storm-Petrel to be more regular than the records now indicate.

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