

last three years on trips extending some thirteen miles off shore I have seen what I now feel sure was this species. Previous state records are: May, 1870, one specimen, Coues; June, 1892, one specimen, H. H. Brimley; "about 1897," two specimens and July, 1924, two specimens, R. J. Coles (Auk, January, 1925).

On July 26, 1925, a dying Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*) was taken at Bogue Banks by several of us from the U. S. Fisheries Station, Beaufort, skinned by the writer and sent to the National Museum. Previous state records consist of a specimen picked up on the beach near Beaufort, July, 1910, and those reported by Dr. Coles (l. c.) who stated that the species is a common summer visitor at Cape Lookout and that on and after July 25, 1924, more than a hundred stayed in Lookout Bight.

I take pleasure in thanking Mr. H. H. Brimley for information as to North Carolina records and Dr. C. W. Richmond for the date the dying Audubon's Shearwater was taken.—JAMES S. GUTSELL.

Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) in the District of Columbia.—While rowing down the Potomac River, a short distance above Hains Point, D. C., October 4, 1930, the writer's attention was attracted to a flock of five Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) feeding in the extensive growth of aquatic plants which are so conspicuous in the late summer. In making his way through this growth in quest of the Grebes, the writer discovered a specimen of Leach's Petrel quietly resting on the water. It was collected and is now in the U. S. National Museum. There have been four previous records for this species at Washington, D. C., the last being in 1891.—W. HOWARD BALL, 1861 *Ingleside Terrace, N. W., Washington, D. C.*

In Re "Townsend's Oregon Tubinares."—Dr. Stone has questioned Townsend's North Pacific records of the Yellow-nosed Albatross, Sooty Albatross, Giant Fulmar, and Slender-billed Fulmar, after a brief discussion and quotations, in which he says: "It will, I think, be evident that Townsend had no clear idea of the identity of the various species of Tubinares nor of where he secured the several specimens; that he sent Audubon no information about the four in question and probably did not label them at all; and that he had every opportunity to secure specimens of all four in the South Pacific, while his illness may have made it still more difficult for him to remember which specimens had been obtained at the mouth of the Columbia and which in the South Pacific." (*Auk*, XL VII, 1930, pp. 414-415.)

I may, perhaps, be pardoned for the presentation of the same or similar evidence in a more favorable light in respect to the veracity of that intrepid pioneer ornithologist of the great Northwest, John Kirk Townsend, and of observing the actual sequence in publication dates of the citations, which, from a critic's standpoint, sometimes makes all the difference in the world.

The brig *May Dacre*, on which Townsend and Nuttall sailed to the Hawaiian Islands, cleared the Columbia river bar December 11, 1834, and on this day the former noted: "We saw, outside the bar, a great number of birds, of various kinds—ducks of several species, two or three kinds of Guillemots (*Uria*)—shags (*Phalacrocorax*) among which was a splendid new species, brown albatross (*Diomedea fusca*), the common dusky Pelican (*P. fuscus*), and numerous *Procellaria*." Again on the 20th "We observed constantly around us several species of dark Albatross, Puffins, Petrels, etc." Confirmatory data relative to the locality were attached to the specimens of the four species in question, quoted by Audubon as "near" "not far" "within a day's sail" or "some distance from the mouth of the Columbia river." Unfortunately no dates were quoted until the voyage was half completed, when the type specimen of the Black-footed Albatross was taken Dec. 25, in Lat. 30° 44' N., and Long. 146° W.; a most tangible record.

At this time Townsend was in his 26th year, mentally alert, "with a constitution strengthened and invigorated by healthful exercise," but like almost all collectors of that period, did not appreciate the importance of a fully labeled skin. However there seems no impropriety in his remark upon the similarity of the habits of the Slender-billed Fulmar and Pintado Petrel, for it is obviously an addendum following his South Pacific experience.

Spencer F. Baird came into possession of a number of Audubon's types, including the four in question collected by, and presumably, labelled by Townsend; all of which were duly deposited in the National Museum. The Yellow-nosed Albatross given as "Columbia river," the Sooty Albatross and Giant Fulmar "Coast of Oregon," and the Slender-billed Fulmar, the least authenticated as to locale, "Pacific." (*Birds, 1858.*) All these forms of the Tubinares were of course quite new to Townsend, and to the more experienced Nuttall as well, though neither had the means of knowing whether they were novelties to science, but after Townsend's return home and his specimens in the hands of Audubon, he ventured, in the scientific appendix to his "Narrative," published in April, 1839; to name only *Diomedea fusca*, which name and figure had already appeared in Audubon's 'Birds of America.' A comparison of the names in the final volume published in 1838, and the 'Narrative' reveals that where Audubon had figured the species in his elephant folio, Townsend had followed him; otherwise, Townsend had been unable to follow because the descriptive volume had not appeared at the time his own list had gone to press. That this was well known at the time is proved by Townsend's note on *Sylvia tolmiei*, which Audubon had mistaken for *S. philadelphia*, and later in vol. V of his 'Ornithological Biography' changed to *S. macgillivrayi*. Townsend remarked: "If I had been aware, before publication of my appendix, of Mr. Audubon's wish to name this bird, I should have adopted his appellation with cheerfulness; but as his intention was never communicated to

me, the name which I have given it, having priority, must of course be retained." (*Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, viii, 1839, p. 159.) How many of Townsend's specific names were adapted by Audubon, it is impossible to state; it is certain that the former was not at all pleased to find that the latter had amended the "*splendens*" of his fine new Violet-green Cormorant to "*resplendens*," or of his rejection of his name "*tolmiei*" in favor of "*bachmani*," in the instance of his new Oyster-catcher. However, it is quite possible that Audubon adopted some of Townsend's tentative names for some of his newly discovered Tubinares, as he undoubtedly did in other instances.

Townsend's "Narrative of a Journey Across the Rocky Mountains to the Columbia River, and a Visit to the Sandwich Islands, Chili, etc.," was written originally for the home circle. It is a charming account of the chief incidents of his journey and is easily one of our best narratives of pioneer days in the Northwest.

When Audubon's fifth and final volume of his 'Ornithological Biography' appeared in June, more than two months later than Townsend's 'Narrative,' the latter was enabled to include all the above Tubinares in his 'List of Birds Inhabiting the Region of the Rocky Mountains, the Territory of the Oregon, and the North West Coast of America,' which was read Sept. 1, 1839. (*Ib.* pp. 151-158.)

The inclusion of the Chilian Finch, cited as further evidence of Townsend's carelessness or loss of memory, lacks conviction in view of Audubon's delegation to his friend Harris the selection from the Townsend collection of all skins considered of new species; it was no fault of the collector that the species later designated by Audubon as "*Fringilla mortoni*" became part of the purchase, especially as the latter expressed a desire for all of Townsend's notes "appertaining to species belonging to our fauna or otherwise." (*Auk*, XX, 1903, pp. 377-387.) Moreover the locality given by Audubon, "Upper California," is doubtless a misquotation. Townsend apparently never set foot in California. Audubon in another instance credits him with taking a fine specimen of a male California Quail near Santa Barbara on March 6, 1837, at the time he was actually preparing to leave the Hawaiian Islands for Tahiti, and Nuttall, who really collected the year previous in the vicinity of that little California village, was safely in Boston!

I believe there can be no doubt that this modest, sport-loving Quaker ornithologist was the most conscientious of collectors, and that his time-dimmed records, with the corroboration of his older associate, Thomas Nuttall, leave little to be desired by way of substantiation.—FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Pa.*

(In the note referred to by Mr. Burns the writer had no thought of belittling Townsend for whose work he has the greatest regard. It would however be perfectly excusable for any ornithologist of that date or for many years after to confuse such puzzling birds as Petrels. And the point

should have been emphasized that Audubon was quite likely the one upon whom any criticism should rest for not ascertaining more exactly the history of the specimens in question. As a matter of fact the species are merely being removed to the hypothetical list at the end of the volume and when birds are recorded so far from their known habitat and are then never again seen within our range in more than one hundred years. I think most persons will agree that they had better be removed from the regular North American list and that in all probability some blunder had occurred in their original record.—W. S.)

Early Occurrence of the Gannet on the South Carolina Coast.—On the afternoon of October 2, 1930 the writer, in company with Mr. Peter Gething of Charleston, S. C., saw an adult Gannet (*Sula bassana*) from the beach of the Isle of Palms, Charleston County, S. C. The bird was watched for some time as it carried on its fishing in plain view from the beach, diving some half dozen times in the time we had it under observation, with and without 8x glasses. The sunlight was brilliant, bringing out the glistening white of the plumage with startling clearness.

The writer can find no record of such an early appearance of this species on the South Carolina coast, nor indeed for any part of the coast south of New England. Personally, it has never been observed in winter prior to December 13. Records for that month, together with others for January and February, prove it to be a winter visitor and it has been noted in the spring locally, as late as May 30. Mr. Arthur T. Wayne, in his 'Birds of South Carolina,' does not give any arrival dates and implies that the species is only a transient visitor, since he had not observed it in winter. Since the book was published however, the writer is under the impression that Mr. Wayne did see it in the winter months.

Research has shown that no arrival dates are given in 'The Birds of North Carolina' (Pearson and Brimley) for that coast. Gannets were seen by the writer on returning by boat from New York, October 30-31, 1930, after the A. O. U. meeting, as far south as Cape Fear, North Carolina. In 'Birds of the New York City Region' (Ludlow Griscom), October 5 seems to be the early date for the Gannet off that city. In 'Birds of New York' (Eaton) October 5, is also given as the date for the coast of the State. In 'Life Histories of North American Petrels and Pelicans and Their Allies' (Bent) the early date for New York is given as October 5, again, Montauk Point being specified. In view of these dates, the occurrence of the Gannet off Charleston, S. C., on October 2, seems extraordinary, not only for the Carolina coast, but for most of the Atlantic seaboard.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR., 92 South Battery, Charleston, S. C.

Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cynoptera*) in Michigan.—An adult female was taken in the Monroe Marshes, by an unknown hunter, on the opening day, September 16, 1930, and is now mounted in the collection of Dr. Hugo A. Freund of Detroit.