

its wings to steady and support itself. I could see no dangling feet when it flew and apparently it had lost them. It remained in the vicinity for about ten hours.—CHARLES E. JOHNSON, *Roosevelt Wild Life Station, Syracuse, N. Y.*

A couple of weeks ago [i. e. about August 25—Ed.] we had a Petrel (probably Leach's) here. My son and two men declare that they could approach to within ten feet of it.—CHARLES A. GIANINI, *Poland, N. Y.*

On the afternoon of August 25, a Leach's Petrel was picked up alive in a door-yard on one of the main streets of Bennington, Vt., and on the morning of the same day a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) was observed on a small mill pond located within the village limits.—LUCRETIVS H. ROSS, M.D., *Bennington, Vt.*

On the morning of August 24 Mrs. George N. Morey, of Chevy Chase, D. C., found a Leach's Petrel at a basement window of her home completely exhausted. She immediately made efforts at resuscitation starting force-feeding with ground chicken lungs. That evening the bird's activity indicated that her efforts in its behalf might be successful but the following day the bird died. Upon dissection I found a small bruised area at the elbow of the right wing and a rupture of the small intestine. The body feathers show progress of molt but the flight feathers are in excellent condition although the greater wing coverts show considerable wear.—FREDERICK C. LINCOLN, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

The Breeding Habits and Breeding Range of Leach's Petrel.—The publication¹ of the possibility of Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) breeding at Penikese Island, Mass. (41° 27' N., 70° 55' W.), is of much interest. That this bird, so tenaciously local in its breeding grounds, according to what is known of its history, should show a colonizing propensity beyond the limits of its ancient domain, affords a gleam of hope to conservationists who may have had fears for its future.

Nesting in stone walls is a common habit of Leach's Petrel on the coast of Maine. The bird occupies the landward side of sea walls of angular rocks, or small boulders, driven above the ordinary thrust of stormy seas, or the broad based stone walls laid up for fences.

Nests concealed in the depths of these piles of bare stones afford no outward visible sign of their occupation by the birds, a fact which renders a determination of the numbers of nests in colonies where these retreats are available very difficult. Nor has the subject escaped the notice of writers on birds. E. A. Samuels mentioned this habit in his 'Ornithology and Oölogy of New England,' (1867, p. 553) and carried the statement forward through all of the editions of this work, down to that of 1880. The present writer has mentioned the same habit, pointing out a number of definite localities.² The requirement of the bird appears to be a darkened passage leading to a suitable shelf or base for its nest. I once found a nest

¹ 1933, *Auk*, L, pp. 426-427.

² 1925, *Maine Nat.* II, p. 47.

of this Petrel, containing a young bird, within the base of a hollow prostrate log, cast up well above high water mark on the shore of Matinicus Rock; the log, stranded upon small boulders, rested a foot or more above the ground. The practice of nesting in hollow logs at the Nova Scotian Seal Islands is mentioned by J. H. Langille.¹ When ashore at night this bird utters at least five distinct notes, which appear to express as many emotions.²

It has been pointed out that the sense of smell,³ dull as it is in the human species, affords an excellent means of determining whether or not a burrow or cavity is tenanted by the Petrel. I have always employed this method when visiting small colonies, where the birds may be present one year and perhaps absent the next, and have never been deceived by the preliminary evidence rendered by this avatism.

Had the gentlemen made use of this sense at Penikese their argument might have been much strengthened.

The statement that "The known breeding range of Leach's Petrel extends no farther south than Matinicus Rock" may or may not have been uttered in accordance with a rather common practice among writers on birds, of calling eastern Maine "northern Maine," but in any case, Matinicus Rock, 43° 47' N., 68° 51' W., is neither the southern nor the western known limit of the bird's breeding range in the western Atlantic. The southern limit of that range is not in Maine, but in Nova Scotia, probably at the Seal Islands off Cape Sable, about 43° 24' N., 66° 01' W., while the western limit is in Casco Bay, Maine,⁴ about 43° 39' N., 70° 07' W. The Casco Bay stations are eight minutes south of the latitude of Matinicus Rock.

It is plain that this does not take into consideration the possibility of the bird breeding at Penikese Island, which if confirmed will extend the range both south and west; south more than a degree of latitude and west about forty-eight minutes of longitude.

It seems to the writer possible that the relatively recent extension of the breeding range of that aggressive pioneer, the Herring Gull, south-westward, followed as this has been, in some degree, by other northern breeding sea birds, may have led the way for this Petrel to follow. We would not be understood to imply that the two species are close associates; when we became acquainted with Leach's Petrel half a century ago, and until its breeding places were invaded by the Herring Gull, about 1911, the Petrel was the associate of Terns, on the outer fringe of islands, but within the range of the Herring Gull.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Museum of Natural History, Portland, Maine.*

¹ 1884, *Our Birds in their Haunts*, 539.

² 1925, *Maine Natr.* II, pp. 53-54.

³ 1884, *Hist. N. Am. Bds. Water Birds* II, p. 410.

⁴ 1871, Bolles, *Bull. Essex Inst.* III, p. 114; 1874, Benner, *Forest & Str.* II, p. 133; 1877, Brown, *Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cl.* II, p. 27; 1902, Kendall, *Osprey*, N. S., I, p. 7. My unpublished records bring the subject forward to present time.