

The Leach's Petrels of Penikese Island, Massachusetts.—Since reading Mr. Arthur H. Norton's note on Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa*) in 'The Auk' for January, 1934, I have been hoping to get further information of the Penikese Island birds, but as the season of 1934 has gone by without bringing anything in the way of a specimen to clinch the record, it seems best to give now what little I have to say in addition to the report of Dr. Townsend and myself in 'The Auk' for October, 1933. I shall have to admit in the first place that Mr. Norton has caught us on a point or two. Both of us knew of the Seal Island, Nova Scotia, colony—in fact, Dr. Townsend had himself seen it, in 1920—and we were also well aware of the fact that Seal Island is farther south than Matinicus Rock, but at the time of writing our note we were thinking more of the distance of the nearest known colony of Leach's Petrel from Penikese and, not having a map showing Nova Scotia by us at the time to remind us of that colony, we simply forgot about it. This, of course, is an explanation, not an excuse for our error. For the Maine records we relied implicitly upon Forbush's 'Birds of Massachusetts,' which states on the authority of Mr. Norton himself, that the species "breeds as far west as Muscongus Bay," which, though farther west than Matinicus Rock, is not so far south. I think we had the right to assume that Mr. Forbush had considered all the available records when he wrote up the species for his book. It is now of interest to note that Mr. Norton confirms earlier records extending the range on the Maine coast to Casco Bay.

In spite of Mr. Norton's apparent skepticism as to the breeding of Leach's Petrel at Penikese, I still think that the evidence that the birds regularly haunt the island in the breeding-season, and go in and out of holes at the bottom of a retaining wall there, is irrefutable, and that this evidence is for all practical purposes conclusive as to the actual breeding, and I know that Dr. Townsend felt the same way. It seems next to impossible that birds of a species that is not known to come ashore voluntarily, except to breed, should come year after year to Penikese and be heard there night after night in the breeding-season unless they were there for the purpose of breeding.

It is unfortunate, of course, that circumstances have prevented as yet the taking of either eggs or young there. An attempt was made in August, 1933—after our visit to the island—by Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr., and Mr. Maurice Broun. Dr. Austin permits me to give an account of their efforts and observations. They stayed up all one night and had an excellent view of the birds, one of which came within ten feet of them and sat on the wall "in very plain sight." They spread before the entrance to the hole that the birds were known to use a net such as is used in the banding operations of the Austin Ornithological Research Station, but the Petrels avoided it, evidently seeing well in the dark. The next morning they made an attempt to tear down the wall at this point but found that the boulders composing it extended back ten or fifteen feet into the hillside and that the eighty yards of wall was such a honey-comb of passages that the cost of a thorough investigation would be prohibitive. To bring the case up to date, I can report that the flight song of the Petrels, now well known to the men who visit Penikese to band Terns, was heard there in July, 1934, by Messrs. Laurence B. Fletcher, Henry Endicott, and Orrin C. Bourne.

I should like to place on record a description of the notes of Leach's Petrel as heard at Penikese. The rhythm of the flight song was remarkably uniform, though the tone varied, being sometimes rather sweet and pure, sometimes harsh and rasping. It may be represented by the syllables *wick'-ah wick'-ah wɪ-hɪ-hɪ-hɪ-hɪ*, the last five notes descending and producing the crowing effect mentioned by Chapman in his 'Handbook.' The whole seemed to me to consist of nine syllables instead of the eight

given by Chapman. It can best be imitated by half whistling, half whispering the syllables. The notes heard in the hole under the wall were of an entirely different character. They consisted of a rapid purring trill followed by a higher, accented note and then a lower note. A very unsatisfactory rendering of this rather pleasing performance might be *br-r-r-r-aw' chum* (the *u* as in full). This phrase was repeated over and over again in quick succession.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

White Pelicans in Florida.—On December 21, 1934, accompanied by Miss C. M. Williams of Cambridge and Miss A. W. Pearse of Roxbury, Mass., I made a boat trip through part of the Ten Thousand Islands region south of Everglade, Florida, under the pilotage of Capt. 'Phonse Lopez of Everglade, in search of Roseate Spoonbills and other birds. At an unnamed pond among the mangroves, we were surprised to find a flock of White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) which we estimated as about six or seven hundred birds. As we approached the flock flew, circling around over the pond in a most impressive manner. As I watched them, I became aware of a long line of birds in the distance, approaching from the south, which turned out to be another flock of about two hundred birds. A third line of perhaps a hundred followed these and the three flocks united, circling around over the pond and the surrounding mangroves for some time, when part of the flock left towards the north and the remainder, as we withdrew, alighted again on the pond.

I had seen the White Pelican at Yellowstone, at Klamath Lake, and near Salt Lake City, but never in such large numbers or under such impressive circumstances. I find no mention of any such concentration of White Pelicans in Florida in recent years (John Muir, in his 'Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf' in December, 1867, speaks of "the pelicans that frequently whiten the shore like a ring of foam"), and Howell in his 'Florida Bird-Life' reports only one flock containing a hundred birds, though he mentions numerous small flocks. The total number we saw on December 21 must have been close to one thousand birds.

The same day we saw about fifteen Roseate Spoonbills, two Frigate-Birds, a few Great White Herons, as well as many other Herons, Ibises, etc. The preceding day, at Sarasota, we had seen eleven Eastern Glossy Ibises.—JOHN B. MAY, *Cohasset, Massachusetts.*

A Sight Record of the Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) in Northern Idaho.—On October 13, 1934, while walking along the banks of the St. Joe River near the town of St. Maries, I saw a lone Phalarope swimming in the muddy ditch on the landward side of the dike. At this time of the year the back-wash from the river forms an extensive mud flat beyond the narrow drainage ditch, and as the bird was loath to leave the water, I could easily view it with seven-power binoculars at a distance of less than fifteen feet.

Having observed the Wilson's Phalarope in this locality on several occasions, I was immediately aware that this was a totally different bird, and not being so familiar with the Northern, at once assumed it to be that species. However, past experience in similar cases led me to take notes on the spot and it was well that I did so.

After observing the bird at leisure upon the water, I attempted to force it to flight by tossing small clods in the water near it, but instead, it merely swam to the opposite bank of the ditch and walked stiffly out on the mud flat. Here it stood for several minutes in a rather dejected attitude and only after one of my missiles barely missed it, did it deign to fly a few feet, showing the prominent white wing-pattern. It was of course in the fall plumage and appeared to be fully adult, though rather bedraggled. When it left the water, the large amount of white and its general form