

find that they had, as she put it, "almost as many feathers on the inside of the skin as on the outside." What she saw undoubtedly was the mass of new feathers which were freed from their sheaths as a result of her scraping away the fatty areolar subcutaneous tissue and had expanded their otherwise curled up webs. Fortunately, Mrs. Simpson saved some of the feathers that were lost in the process of skinning, and these I have examined with a magnifying glass. Attached to their bases in most cases are new feathers from five to 12 millimeters long and tightly curled up in their follicular sheaths. On slitting some of these open it was easy to see the nearly formed, typical, feathery structure within.

It follows from this that in at least three genera of penguins (*Spheniscus*, *Aptenodytes*, and *Eudyptes*) the new feathers are well developed before the old ones are shed, and that the new ones actually push out their predecessors, whereas in practically all other birds the new feathers supposedly begin to develop when the old ones are dropped. According to Stresemann (Handbuch der Zoologie, VII, Vögel, 1927: 32) the new feathers develop prior to the shedding of the old ones not only in penguins but also in cassowaries; they are not known to do so in any other group of birds.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *United States National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**Extension of range of the ringed penguin.**—While I was a member of the U. S. Navy Second Antarctic Development Project, 1947–1948, it was my privilege to participate in a landing upon Peter I Island, Antarctica, located at 68° 50' S., 90° 30' W. We landed from the U. S. S. Edisto on February 15, 1948. Peter I Island is about fourteen miles long in a north-south direction and about five miles wide. It was entirely covered with snow except for the bare rock slopes. Lars Christensen Peak, a lofty rounded peak of an extinct crater about 3,937 feet high, is the greatest elevation. Our landing was made at Framnes Head, at the head of Sandefjord Bay. It is a steep, rugged platform of lava and basaltic rock about 250 feet long and 130 feet broad upon which a provision depot was established by Norway five days before our arrival. Near the cache of gear left by the Norwegians was a small rookery of Adelie penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*). The Adelie has been recorded for Peter I Island and is more or less abundant in its immediate vicinity, but mixed with *Pygoscelis adeliae* were two ringed penguins (*Pygoscelis antarctica*), which I collected as live specimens for The National Zoological Park. These two specimens did not appear to have been breeding, as were the Adelies which were in the last phase of the breeding cycle.

A search of the literature reveals that Peter I Island is a new locality for the ringed penguin (*Pygoscelis antarctica*). Murphy (Oceanic Birds of South America, 1: 407, 1936) states that the species does not range beyond the islands off the west coast of the Antarctic Archipelago and that it is resident on practically all islands of the American quadrant, from latitudes close to the Antarctic circle northward to the Falklands. The South Orkneys and the South Sandwich groups are its principal centers of abundance. South Georgia has never been more than a foothold for the species, and from the Falkland Islands it is recorded only as a straggler. *Pygoscelis antarctica* is not known to the continental coasts of South America.

Therefore, I report Peter I Island as a new range for *Pygoscelis antarctica*.

In captivity the ringed penguin is obstinate, stubborn, unintelligent, pugnacious, disagreeable, and above all a poor feeder, thus making the bird a poor zoo specimen. Its relatives will take food after a forced-feed period of about 30 days, but *antarctica* seemingly does not adjust itself to life in captivity. The result is that the bird has been displayed only twice, for the long trip from the south polar regions has proven

too much of an ordeal.—MALCOLM DAVIS, *The National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C.*

**Wilson's petrel in interior Florida.**—On June 10, 1948, while investigating the birdlife of Biven's Arm, a lake south of Paine's Prairie south of Gainesville, Florida, I noted a small, dark bird resting on the water about 75 yards distant. A few moments later, a low flying plane flushed the bird which was then obviously a Wilson's petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus oceanicus*). The white rump, characteristic legs and feet, were plainly visible. With me, at the time, were James Pittman and Marshall Nehrenberg, of Orlando, Florida.

The next morning an attempt was made by Dr. Pierce Brodkorb, of the biology department of the University of Florida, to secure the bird, but it was not found. The weather for this period, and both before and afterward, was quite normal.

Search of the literature fails to reveal any other inland Florida record. Biven's Arm is practically in the center of north Florida. A few days later, several of these petrels were observed en route from Key West to the Dry Tortugas, where I have seen them every June for the past four seasons.—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, 4TH, *The Crescent, Charleston 50, South Carolina.*

**Death of a brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*).**—On November 5, 1945, at about 7:30 a. m. on the northwest shore of Pensacola Bay just opposite its entrance into the Gulf of Mexico, my attention was attracted to a disturbance in the water approximately one hundred yards off shore. Closer inspection with field glasses revealed that a school of small fish was being preyed upon by larger fish at a point where the shallow waters of the bay met the deeper channel of the inland waterway. Within a few minutes a flight of 15 or 20 brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), which had also apparently been attracted by the commotion, began diving into the school and feeding on the small fish.

As the school of fish moved away the pelicans followed, still diving and feeding, with the exception of one male which remained behind on the water, apparently in some difficulty. A breeze from the southeast carried the bird toward shore as its struggles became weaker. Within twenty minutes the bird had ceased activity, except for a slight movement of the head and neck. When the dead pelican was examined a large living fish was found lodged in the pouch. It was probably the movement of the fish which was responsible for movements of the head and neck of the bird just before it was picked up. The fish, a sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*), measured about 15 inches in length and 17 inches in girth and was estimated to weigh about six pounds. The position of the fish in the pouch was such that the snout of the fish apparently interfered with the glottis of the pelican. A little water was found in the trachea and lungs of the pelican, and it was assumed that the bird died of suffocation hastened by exhaustion from struggling.

The bird had been unable to disgorge the fish because the width of the fish's body was more than an inch greater than the space between the lower jaws. It was necessary to slit the pouch of the pelican to remove the fish for examination. Experimentation demonstrated that the fish slid into the pouch quite easily by springing the lower jaws apart, but it was impossible to remove the fish, tail first, through this opening without injuring the bill. It was also impossible to turn the fish end for end within the pouch.

The question which naturally arises is whether the pelican purposely attacked such a large fish, or if, by a freak circumstance, the fish was engulfed by accident. The latter could occur if the pelican and sheepshead had arrived simultaneously at the