Brit. Orn. Club, 213, 1934) the following more detailed laboratory notes taken from the frozen specimen are also offered: culminicorn, latericorn, naricorn, ramicorn, and inter-ramicorn generally light gray with a slight yellowish tinge, equivalent to the "Oyster Gray" (19A2) of Maerz and Paul (A Dictionary of Color, 2nd ed., McGraw-Hill, 1950); nail of upper mandible rich corn yellow, of lower similar but clouded with dusky back of incisive border; ramicorns streaked medially with dusky; prenaral groove narrowly dusky, behind nostril caulked with prominent extension of black membranous ridge margining entire base of upper mandible; rictal extension of gape edged by narrow vivid carmine lip continuing down and forward nearly across lateral face of ramicorn. Standard measurements taken from the thoroughly dried skin are as follows: chord of culmen, 136 mm.; width of maxilla at base, 33.0 mm.; depth of closed bill at base, 54 mm.; tarsus, 92; middle toe with claw, 145; wing (chord) 584; and tail, 224. The prepared skin has been photographed (Plate 16) by University of Washington photographer, E. F. Marten. The subspecific identification is based on the very large size of the bird, particularly of the bill and feet, the color of the bill, and the white nape and pileum. Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy of the American Museum of Natural History has kindly examined this report, and the photographic materials upon which it is based, and concurs in the racial determination (Murphy, *in litt.*; see also Amer. Mus. Novit. No. 419, April 5, 1930).

The specimen consisting of the skin and body skeleton is cataloged as Number 1616 in the Slipp collection at Pacific Lutheran College, Parkland, Washington, with provision for its transfer to the United States National Museum.

Efforts to account for erratic occurrences of sea birds far from their normal range are usually futile. However, we can say positively that in the present case there is no doubt that the specimen was a wild bird which had arrived on the scene by means of its own powers of flight, for its size and nature would render it a most unlikely captive, and its immaculate and unfrayed plumage testify to freedom and normal good health. It seems inconceivable, likewise, that it might have been tolled so far from its native waters by any one ship, although it showed no very great reluctance to joining the flock of "goonies" around the *JOHN N. COBB* and may well have traveled long distances in the company of ships encountered in its wanderings. Cyclonic wind storms are known to be a frequent cause of long distance transfers of sea birds from the tropics to higher latitudes (Murphy, 1936: 50–59), possibly accounting for a part of the extreme dislocation in the present case. The unprecedented nature of this record suggests that whatever combination of the above agencies may have been operative, a large residual allowance must be made for individual caprice on the part of the bird itself. We can hazard little more to account for the appearance of a relatively localized subspecies (*cf.* Murphy, 1936) some 8,000 miles away, across the tropic barrier, from its native islands.—J. W. Slipp, *School of Fisheries, University of Washington, Seattle 5, Washington.*

West Indian Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata*, Picked up on Fairfield Beach, Connecticut.—On October 7, 1938, a bird was found on Fairfield Beach and brought to Birdcraft Museum. It was smeared with fuel oil and appeared to have been dead for two or three days. Mr. Frank J. Novak, curator, mounted it and placed it in one of the cases as a Greater Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis*. While visiting the museum last June, Dr. Robert C. Murphy at once noted the bird and said that it was not a shearwater but one of the rare specimens of Black-capped Petrels. Later in the summer Mr. Novak and I took the mounted bird to The American Museum of Natural History for comparison with other specimens. Dr. Murphy examined it very carefully and made the following comment: "The disas-

trous hurricane of 1938 crossed the position of Fairfield, Connecticut, late on September 21st. Presumably the black-capped petrel was a West Indian waif carried northward in the course of this tropical storm which entered the area of the normal range of the species about September 18th. The bird probably died in northern waters some 12 or 13 days after the passage of the storm.

"The Fairfield specimen, an adult female, has been compared with six other examples of the black-capped petrel, several of which represent earlier North American records taken after the passage of hurricanes. It is typical in all respects of the species. The measurements are recorded below, but it should be noted that dimensions of tarsus and toe were taken from the mounted bird and are therefore likely to show slight disagreement with the same measurements taken in the conventional manner from study skins." Wing, 280 mm.; tail, 123; exposed culmen, 31.5; tarsus, 36; and middle toe and claw, 53.2 mm.—JOHN P. HOLMAN, *Birdcraft Museum, Fairfield, Connecticut.*

A Record for the Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata,* in Martinique.—Recently I have received for identification a small collection of bones from Martinique, forwarded by Pére R. Pinchon, from excavations in Carib shell middens at Paquemar, near the coast, three kilometers south of the settlement of Vauclin, in the southeastern part of the island. Associated here with pottery fragments, stone tools, and bones of turtle, iguana, and extinct mammals was a fragmentary section of the proximal end of a humerus that is unquestionably that of a petrel of the genus *Pterodroma.* While broken, in size and available characters this agrees with *P. hasitata,* and I have identified it as this species. With it were bones of the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrula martinica*), and two species of pigeons (*Zenaida aurita* and *Columba squamosa*).

The Black-capped Petrel has been recorded in the Lesser Antilles on Guadeloupe and Dominica, but the only previous report for Martinique has been that of L'Herminier (Proc. U. S. Nat'l. Mus., 1: 451, 1879). This naturalist includes it in a list of species, without data other than the name, observed between 1827 and 1844 on Guadeloupe and Martinique. Bond (First Supplement to the Check-List of Birds of the West Indies (1950), 2, 1951) recently examined these early observations, which have been almost forgotten, and believes that they are valid. The Paquemar specimen thus is verification of this earlier report.

The age of the deposits, which were excavated between 1947 and 1951, is uncertain, except that they are pre-Columbian. Pére Pinchon very kindly has allowed the petrel bone to remain in the U. S. National Museum where it is preserved in the collections in the Division of Birds.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C.*

***Oceanodroma tethys tethys,* a Petrel New to the North American Avifauna.**—In 1938 (Auk, 55: 256, 1938) James Moffitt recorded specimens in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences at San Francisco, which he regarded as *Oceanodroma tethys kelsalli* and which he thought were eligible for inclusion in the North American check-list of the American Ornithologists' Union.

These specimens had been collected by the Academy's Galapagos expedition in 1905, at sea, Latitude 22° 30′ N., Longitude 112° 39′ W., which is approximately 175 miles west of the tip of the peninsula of Baja California, Mexico. The A.O.U. Committee later rejected Moffitt's record on the grounds that the point of capture was too far off shore to come properly within the limits of the range allowed for the check-list.