

'Aquiles' in the Drake Passage about 75 miles south of Cape Horn and 5 miles east of Diego Ramirez at approximately 56° 50' S, 68° 45' W, 26 January 1969. Peterson caught the tern after it lit on one of the lifeboats. It died 2 days later and was prepared as a study skin by Dean Blanchard. It was anatomically sexed as an adult male and, although dehydrated, was not emaciated. The specimen is now in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (USNM 534278). Its plumage is generally very worn and frayed, especially the wing coverts, outer primaries and tail, perhaps partly as a result of confinement aboard ship. One pair of inner secondaries appears fresh and recently molted.

The species is widespread in tropical waters of the Indian and western Pacific Oceans from 25° N to 25° S but only just reaches the Equator in the eastern Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. In South America, it occurs in Colombia and Guyana (Meyer de Schauensee, *Birds of South America*, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, Livingston Publ. Co., 1966, p. 108) and breeds off Africa on the islands of Príncipe, São Tomé, and Annobon in the Gulf of Guinea (Watson, *Seabirds of the tropical Atlantic Ocean*, Washington, Smithsonian Press, 1966, p. 113). The underparts of the specimen are virtually white, indicating an Atlantic origin. The specimen cannot be precisely allocated to either the Eastern Atlantic population, *S. a. melanoptera*, or the Western, *S. a. recognita*; birds from the Western Pacific, *anaethetus*, are strongly tinged with gray below while *nelsoni* of the Eastern Pacific is intermediate.—ROGER TORY PETERSON, *Old Lyme, Connecticut 06371*, and GEORGE E. WATSON, *Department of Vertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560*. Accepted 3 Nov. 70.

First authentic North American record of the British Storm Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*).—While banding shorebirds on Sable Island, some 110 miles east off the coast of Nova Scotia, on 10 August 1970, the junior author mist-netted and collected a specimen of British Storm Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*). The bird was a male and its testes measured approximately 5 × 3 mm. It weighed 24 g and the furculum depression was filled with fat, with some conspicuous deposits on other parts of the body. The preserved skin is deposited in the National Museum of Canada at Ottawa (catalogue No. 57448) where W. Earl Godfrey corroborated the identification.

The present specimen fits very well with the description and measurements given by Alexander (1963). Measurements were: total length 152 mm, wing 121 mm, tail 51 mm, culmen 11 mm, tarsus 21 mm, midtoe and claw 20 mm. Rather smaller than Harcourt's (the Madeiran or Band-rumped) (*Oceanodroma castro*), Leach's (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*), and Wilson's (*Oceanites oceanicus*) Storm Petrels, it is also distinguished from the two former by its square tail, and from the latter by its shorter legs and black feet. One of its most distinctive markings is a small white area on the under wing coverts. Finally according to Alexander (1963) and Murphy (1936), it is very similar in appearance to the Galapagos (or Wedge-rumped) Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma tethys*), but may be distinguished by the shape of the white rump patch, which is nearly rectangular rather than triangular. Also the upper tail coverts of *tethys* are almost completely white (feather shafts excepted) rather than black-tipped as in *pelagicus*.

The breeding distribution of *H. pelagicus* covers the eastern North Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. According to Stokes (1968), "it breeds in Iceland, Norway, the British Isles, Brittany and the Mediterranean as far east as Malta." The same author also mentions that "outside the breeding season, British storm petrels keep mostly to the

eastern side of North Atlantic or to the Mediterranean, but they have been recorded on the North American coast and as far south as the Cape of Good Hope." Stokes was apparently unaware that although the species was attributed to North America by nineteenth century literature, all current comprehensive works (Palmer, 1949; Squires, 1952; A.O.U., 1957; Tufts, 1961; Todd, 1963; Godfrey, 1966) reject all the published reports as unconfirmable. The one traceable reported specimen was a misidentified Leach's Petrel (Oberholser, 1917: 167).

Thus the present specimen appears to be the first unquestionable one collected in North America.

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Black Vultures attack live turtle hatchlings.—Black Vultures, *Coragyps atratus*, have been seen attacking various animals including baby herons, domestic chicks, newborn calves, skunks, opossums, and piglets (Baynard, 1909; Figgins, 1923; Redington, 1932; McIlhenny, 1939; Townsend, 1937). Another instance of their preying on live animals occurs at Organabo beach, French Guiana. Here hatchling leatherback turtles, *Dermochelys coriacea*, usually emerge from their nests at night, but daylight emergences in the late afternoon, probably related to cool weather, are not uncommon. The tracks of hatchlings below the high tide mark at this time are evidence the animals have emerged by day. Footprints of vultures may be plentifully interspersed with the tracks of turtles. It is often possible to predict a daylight emergence from a distance by the congregation of vultures. When approached these fly off, leaving dead turtles, headless and without front legs and viscera, strewn around; sometimes these are still wet. On one such occasion I saw a vulture pecking at and picking up