Magnificent Frigatebirds in Monterey Bay, California.—We observed and photographed an immature Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens*, in east Monterey Bay, California during a period of anomalous warm water 4 September 1971 (Figure 1). The bird was apparently attracted to a flock of gulls feeding on fish discarded into the old Salinas River channel east of the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. The bird never caught any of the fish in midair but robbed two Western Gulls (*Larus occidentalis*) that did. After swallowing the fish the frigatebird lost interest in the feeding gulls and glided north over the Moss Landing harbor and, according to several students from the laboratories who tried to follow the bird, later continued inland along the channel of Elkhorn Slough. The bird was not seen again.

On this same day E. L. Yarberry (pers. comm.) saw two Magnificent Frigatebirds in the vicinity of Monterey Bay, approximately 15 miles west of Point Pinos, Pacific Grove, California. Unfortunately he could obtain no information on the birds' sex or state of maturity for they were some distance away.

The only previous report of a Magnificent Frigatebird in the vicinity of Monterey Bay was of one seen off Point Lobos, California 12 January 1953 (Legg, Condor, 56: 313, 1954).

McCaskie (California Birds, 1: 117, 1970) reports that the Magnificent Frigatebird occurs only accidently on the Pacific coast north of Santa Barbara County. He further states that of the five records north of Santa Barbara County four were of immature birds. As one of the birds seen on 4 September 1971 was again an immature, the immature condition might be an important factor for the dispersal of these birds.

One of the previous records (20 June 1905) for immatures in northern California occurred within the time range of southern California records, but as McCaskie (ibid.) noted, the three remaining records were much later. As the 4 September record is within the southern California time range, apparently the time of year the immatures have been reported follows no set pattern.

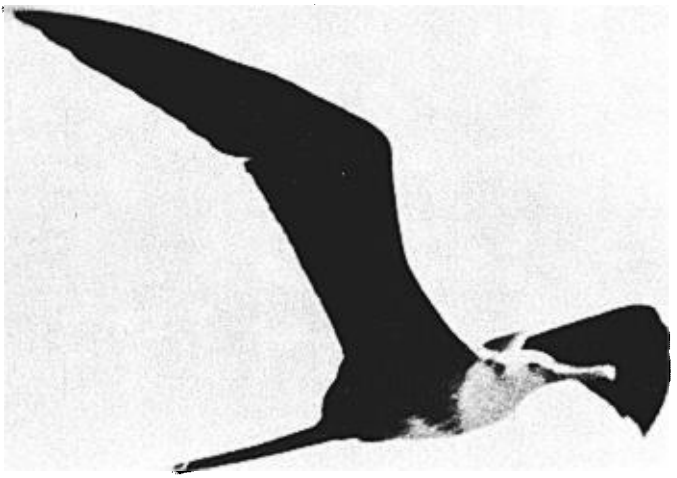

Figure 1. Immature Magnificent Frigatebird in Monterey Bay, California.

Sea conditions at a particular time of year, however, may have some bearing on the dispersal of these birds. In light of this it is noteworthy to mention that Monterey Bay had been experiencing an "anomalous oceanic period" for a week prior to the date of the sightings. The oceanic period is the result of open ocean waters moving into the bay causing high sea surface temperatures, a slight rise in salinity, and increased clarity of the water (Bolin and Abbott, California Coop. Ocean. Invest., Repts., 9: 28, 1960). This period, a regular phenomenon in Monterey Bay, usually occurs in September and October, with the latter month having the highest sea surface temperatures of the year. The average sea surface temperature recorded in late August, 1971 was 3°C higher than the average temperature for the previous month (W. W. Broenkow, pers. comm.). This abrupt rise in sea surface temperatures usually occurs in the month of October (ibid.). No correlation could be made between previous northern records and oceanic periods because adequate hydrographic data are lacking. Johnson (Trans. Amer. Fish. Soc., 91: 269, 1962) stated that if sea surface temperatures anomalies are large enough off the coast of Oregon and Washington, the availability of albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) can be predicted and that in fact, sea surface temperature anomalies are correlated with large albacore fisheries in these areas. An unprecidented large run of albacore, fished by an estimated 2,000 boats, did occur in Monterey Bay concomitant with the sightings and the anomalous oceanic period.—DANIEL H. VAROUJEAN, *Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Moss Landing, California, 95039,* and L. J. V. COMPAGNO, *Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, California, 94305.* Accepted 27 Dec. 71.

Habitat preferences in Herring Gull chicks.—Tinbergen (1953) found that Herring Gulls, *Larus argentatus,* returned as adults to nest in the same habitat type in which they had been reared as chicks. Such a preference may be genotypic (Emlen, 1963), or it may be a response to familiar aspects of the habitat and have its beginnings during the first few weeks of life (Goethe, 1937; Beer, 1965, 1966; Evans, 1970). To study this, we performed a field experiment in a colony of Herring Gulls to determine the extent of chick preference for vegetation types in a nesting area and the variability of this behavior with age.

The study site was Little Bell Island, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, a small island measuring 1,500 m by 400 m. Vegetation on the island may be divided into rather distinct areas including grassland, marshland, shrub and herb areas, as well as areas of mixed vegetation. We found a total of 562 Herring Gull nests on the island, 60 percent of which occurred in grassland, 29 percent in shrubs, 5 percent in herb areas, and 6 percent in moss areas. A total of 31 chicks, 1–5 weeks old, were captured from grass, herb and shrub sites in the colony, carried between 30–50 m away to a different vegetation type, and released. In each case, we withdrew approximately 50 m and watched the chick with binoculars. All but three chicks moved from the release area within 8 minutes. Movements were followed until the chick remained in one location for at least 10 minutes. The vegetation type in the location where the chick stopped was then recorded.

Results indicate that a significant number of chicks returned to the same territory or to a vegetation area similar to the one in which they were captured ($\chi^2 = 8.53$, $P < 0.02$). Of the 13 chicks that were caught in grass and released in shrubs, 84 percent relocated in grass, 85 percent of the 14 chicks captured in shrubs and released in grass relocated in shrubs, and three of the four chicks (75 percent) captured in herbs and released in grass or shrubs relocated in herbs. This relocation in the original vegetation type was significant in all vegetation types and did not