GENERAL NOTES

A Golden-cheeked Warbler on the Farallon Islands.—On 9 September 1971 a Golden-cheeked Warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*) was caught in a mist net on South Farallon Island, San Francisco County, California. The bird seemed weak and had no fat. Its weight at capture was only 8.7 g. We tried to keep it alive for experiments on the orientation of vagrant warblers (DeSante, MS), but it died several hours later. The specimen is a male based on plumage and autopsy. Its skull was incompletely ossified.

The rather unusual occurrence of this species on the Farallones prompted consideration that the individual was a hybrid of other warbler species, particularly a hybrid Hermit × Townsend's Warbler (*D. occidentalis* × *D. townsendi*). Comparison with specimens in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology confirmed the initial identification. The specimen differed in coloration from the Hermit × Townsend's hybrids described by Jewett (1944, Condor 46: 23). It had an all-black back and crown, whereas the hybrids have green or gray backs and their crowns have only variable amounts of black spotting. The specimen also lacked the yellow in the breast that all the hybrids possess. We thank L. C. Binford for confirmation of species identification and N. K. Johnson for advising on the problem of hybridization. The specimen is now in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences.

South Farallon Island, 32 km from the coast, is well-known for attracting vagrants. Indeed, 314 species of birds—many for the first or only time in California—have been recorded there (summarized in Ainley, MS). In fact, within a week of the Golden-cheeked Warbler the following other vagrants were recorded: Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*), Black-and-White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*), Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*), Blackburnian Warbler (*D. fusca*), and Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*). The occurrence of *D. chrysoparia*, however, warrants special note. This species, one of the least abundant of North American warblers, is restricted in its breeding range to the Edwards Plateau of Texas and it winters in Central America (Pulich 1965, Audubon Field Notes 19: 545). As a vagrant, single individuals have been recorded previously only from Florida, on 24 August 1964 (Woolfenden 1967, Auk 84: 115), and from St. Croix, the Virgin Islands, from November to January 1939–40 (Beatty 1943, Auk 60: 110). Thus, the Farallon record is only the third time the species has been recorded as a vagrant and it is the first time it has been recorded north or west of its normal range. The island lies about 2,400 km northwest of central Texas. The date of the Farallon record is the latest for *D. chrysoparia* in the United States. Pulich (op. cit.) gives 15 August as the latest date for this species in Texas.

A migrant flying a northwest route in the fall is a rare exception to the usual pattern of fall vagrants on the Pacific Coast, as discussed by DeSante (MS). The bird could have been disoriented by weather. During late August 1971, central Texas experienced unstable weather including several tornadoes, and in the first week of September, hurricane "Fern" developed off the extreme southern coast of Texas and went ashore near Brownsville (from Daily Weather Maps, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration). The storm thus intersected the usual route Golden-cheeked Warblers take in the fall. Associated with the storm, to the south and west of its center, there was a flow of air towards the west and north at least as far as Arizona. Other than these points we cannot speculate further on how the warbler got to the Farallones.

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Northern Fulmar colonies on the south coast of Devon Island, N.W.T., Canada.[1]—On 2 August 1972 during an aerial reconnaissance of breeding seabirds around Devon Island, two major colonies of Northern Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis*) were sighted on steep cliffs on its southwest coast, one of which may be the largest fulmar colony known. This colony, located between Stratton Inlet and Hobhouse Inlet (74° 28′ 00″ N, 86° 58′ 40″ W to 74° 27′ 40″ N, 86° 43′ 00″ W), consists of expansive grassy-turfed steep rock cliff ledges extending continuously for about 6.6 miles (10.1 km). All the grassy-turfed ledges and crevices of the cliff face appeared to be occupied by nesting fulmars. No attempt was made to estimate the colony size precisely, but the colony is in at least order of magnitude 5 (10,000–100,000 breeding pairs). The second fulmar colony on cliff ledges at Cape Liddon is relatively small (order 4: 1,000–10,000 breeding pairs), occupying some 2.2 miles (3.5 km) of cliff (74° 37′ 45″ N, 91° 10′ 40″ W to 74° 38′ 20″ N, 91° 03′ 15″ W). Both these colonies had been sighted previously, but no reports were made. Cape Liddon was first identified as a possible fulmar nesting site on 4 May 1970 by C. J. Jonkel in association with polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) surveys. Similarly, the Hobhouse Inlet colony was seen on an earlier flight in late July 1972 by S. D. MacDonald. We found no evidence of a fulmar colony at Cape Riley (74° 40′ N, 91° 42′ W), first reported by an officer of the Parry Expedition of 1819–20 and listed as a suspected breeding location by Fisher (1952, The fulmar, New Naturalist Series, London, Collins).

It is extremely difficult to determine whether these colonies are of recent origin or not. The only reference to fulmars nesting in the vicinity is that made by Duvall and Handley (1946, Report of a wildlife reconnaissance of the eastern Canadian Arctic, Spec. Rept. U. S. Dept. Interior, Fish and Wildl. Serv.) following their short stay at Hobhouse Inlet: "Some [fulmars] were [seen] flying about a high cliff as though they may have nests, but none were observed to alight." This suggests they may have detected the edge of the present colony that extends into Hobhouse Inlet but failed to observe the major part of it. No mention of the Cape Liddon site could be found in a search of the literature.

One possible explanation to account for these colonies not being discovered previously is that they are new colonies and did not exist earlier. But this seems rather unlikely because nothing suggests that fulmars in arctic waters have increased in numbers (Salomonsen 1965, Auk 82: 327) and even if they have it would be difficult to account for recent colonies having reached these sizes since 1946 based on the rates of increase shown by boreal nesting fulmars (Fisher ibid., Salomonsen ibid.). Consequently it seems more plausible that these colonies were present in historic time but went unnoticed.—DAVID N. NETTLESHIP, *Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.* Accepted 4 Apr. 73.

[1] An investigation associated with the program "Studies on northern seabirds," Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada (Report No. 12).