until the morning of September 10, 1922, when a single bird dived three times at distances of about seventy-five to one hundred and fifty feet from me.

Twice out of the three times the pouch was very noticeably distended, though not so greatly as in the former case. While I could not see everything clearly in the instant of time available, I thought I could see a more direct sweep of the head forward and upward when the pouch was distended and a more direct sweep sidewise when it was not. No fish were caught at any of the three attempts. Failure to catch was very evident, because the bird did not assume the swallowing position.—W. E. ALLEN, *Scripps Institution for Biological Research, La Jolla, California, October 9, 1922.*

An Explanation of a Seeming Discrepancy[1].—My attention has been called to a seeming discrepancy between the descriptions given respectively by Dr. Joseph Grinnell and myself of the nesting of the Forked-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*) on St. Lazaria Island, Alaska, as quoted by Mr. Arthur C. Bent in his Life Histories of North American Petrels and Pelicans and their Allies (Bulletin 121, U. S. National Museum): Dr. Grinnell speaks of only one egg in a burrow of this species, while I mention the presence of more than one and note also the joint occupation of many burrows by two species of petrels, the Forked-tailed and the Leach Petrel (*O. leucorhoa*).

This apparent contradiction lies in the fact that we worked in different parts of St. Lazaria Island, in different associations. Dr. Grinnell speaks of being in the woods, where conditions apparently did not suit the Leach Petrel, while my work was done in open land only sparsely covered with bushes, where, in the loose soil, the two species frequently occupied the same burrow.

In 1897, the year after my visit to this island, M. A. Brace, a marine who had accompanied me at the time, sent me a box filled with petrel eggs of the two species, taken from St. Lazaria Island, with a letter in which he stated that he had not been particular about identifying the eggs by means of the parent birds, but that I could pick them out myself. The contents showed that the two species were breeding in the same burrow, and in the same spot as during my own visit.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, December 12, 1922.*

A Winter Record of the White-crowned Sparrow in Los Angeles.—On December 15, 1922, in an interval between showers, I observed in a partly leafless poplar tree, above the birds' bath in my garden, two birds which appeared to be *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*. The white stripe at the side of the head terminated at the eye, the black stripe above extended to the bill and filled in the loral space, in complete accord with the description and with the illustration furnished by the United States Biological Survey.—MRS. G. H. SCHNEIDER, *Los Angeles, California, January 7, 1923.*

The Proportions of the Sexes in Collections of Bird Skins.—The question has often been asked, What is the average number of female birds in relation to the number of males in North American collections? To answer this I have examined the records of four collections, two made in Ontario and two in California. And I have taken two types of collector, one, the student learning his birds as he collected them; the other type, the sportsman who, after reaching the age of maturity, had begun the collecting of specimens seriously, for study. The result is given below.

Sportsman California			*Student* California		
Males	Females	Per cent	Males	Females	Per cent
314	211	67	217	117	54
Sportsman Ontario			*Student* Ontario		
Males	Females	Per cent	Males	Females	Per cent
352	174	50	320	153	50

The average of females collected in the case of the California sportsman is very high, and the four collectors have between them averaged about 54½ per cent of females to males. It would be interesting to know how this proportion compares with the proportionate number of the sexes in life.—J. H. FLEMING, *Toronto, Ontario, December 12, 1922.*

[1]Contribution No. 204 from California Academy of Sciences.