

LIST OF SEA BIRDS COLLECTED BY MR. CHAS. FAGAN

By ALEXANDER WETMORE

SPECIMENS of sea birds received by the Biological Survey during the past year from Mr. Chas. Fagan, chief wireless operator on the S. S. "Santa Elisa," W. R. Grace and Co., have included a number of rare species, some of which have not been represented previously in the collections of the U. S. National Museum. During voyages made between New York and Valparaiso via the Panama Canal, Mr. Fagan has taken every opportunity to capture birds that came aboard ship, attracted by lights at night, and has also procured them by other methods. The records made, as given in the following list, are of value as they give definite places of occurrence for several tubarine birds that are little known, and afford data on the distribution of other commoner species. A list of the species taken follows.

Hydrobates tethys (Bonaparte). A female of the Galapagos storm petrel was secured at 10 p. m. on November 17, 1922, at a point about 90 miles south of Iquique, Chile.

Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa (Vieillot). A specimen collected June 19, 1922, at eight in the evening, came aboard ship 320 miles northeast of Colon on a direct line between the canal and Cape Maysi, Cuba, a point directly south of Jamaica. There seem to be no previous definite records of the species for the Caribbean Sea. The specimen in question has a wing measurement of 153.0 mm. Mr. Fagan states that it seemed weak, and was in poor physical condition when taken.

Oceanodroma melania (Bonaparte). Two petrels that show the sooty coloration and short heavy bill of this species were secured off the coast of southern Peru. One came aboard at one a. m., September 22, 1922, near Lobos de Afuera, and the other at two a. m., November 24, 1922, five miles off Lobos de Tierra. Both are females.

Oceanodroma markhami (Salvin). Since the report of Mr. Fagan's first specimen of the Markham Petrel (Condor, xxiv, 1922, p. 28) four additional skins have been received, taken as follows: Male, September 16, 1922, ten p. m., opposite Lagarto Head, Peru; male, September 17, 1922, one a. m., 15 miles off Coles Point, Peru (near Molendo); two males, November 17, 1922, ten p. m., 90 miles south of Iquique, Peru. Though one of these birds is somewhat paler than others, the series is quite uniform in coloration as well as in other characters. The five skins now in the collection of the U. S. National Museum indicate a range for this rare species from 35 miles north of Callao, Peru, to below Iquique, Chile.

Oceanodroma hornbyi (Gray). The Hornby Petrel, known for many years from three specimens, has been recorded recently in numbers from the coast of Peru (R. C. Murphy, Auk, xxxix, 1922, pp. 60-65). It is a pleasure to state that through Mr. Fagan's interest three skins of this rare bird have been received at the National Museum, the first to be placed in the collection of that institution. These three were taken as follows: July 20, 1922, eleven twenty p. m., abeam of Lobos de Tierra Island, Peru, three and one-fourth miles offshore (sex not recorded); male, September 22, 1922, one a. m., near Lobos de Afuera Island, Peru; male, November 24, 1922, two a. m., five miles off Lobos de Tierra Island, Peru. It may be stated that during the first week in May, 1920, while en route from Valparaiso to Callao, I kept careful watch for this species but did not record it.

Pelagodroma marina (Latham). A specimen secured June 23, 1922, at 10 p. m., 13 miles off Santa Elena, Ecuador, has a wing measurement of 145.0 mm. It is difficult, with the material at hand, to assign this bird to its proper subspecies.

Puffinus subalaris Ridgway. A female secured December 22, 1922, at five a. m., 180 miles south of Balboa, Panama, is smaller than the average, as the wing is only 175 mm. long. The species is supposed to be confined to the Galapagos Islands.

Pterodroma cookii defilippiana Giglioli and Salvadori. At one thirty a. m. on July 21, 1922, a petrel of this species was secured 35 miles north of Lobos de Tierra Island, Peru. This skin is the first of the race to be received at the National Museum.

Pterodroma phaeopygia (Salvin). A fulmar of this species was secured at one a. m., June 21, 1922, fifteen miles off Cape Santa Elena, Ecuador. Though *Aestrelata sandwichensis* Ridgway has been placed in the synonymy of *phaeopygia* I note that the bill in the type of *sandwichensis* is distinctly smaller than in the skin from the coast of Ecuador.

Macronectes giganteus (Gmelin). The capture of a male in Arica Harbor, Chile, on August 30, 1922, is described by Mr. Fagan, in a letter, as follows: "We were fishing for Cape pigeons and terns when this large bird settled down on the water near by and gradually edged up toward the ship's stern. Suddenly we hooked a tern which flapped its wings and the fulmar dashed for it, grabbed it by the wing and held it under water. One of our oilers threw a bolt that killed it and the tern immediately flew away unhurt. The dead fulmar floated away and a companion apparently knew something was wrong, as it perched on the dead one's back several times, gave a couple of squawks and flew away. A boatman brought the dead bird aboard. After I had skinned it I cut open its stomach and was surprised to find the head and neck and also the tail of a diver which we see frequently in these southern waters."

Procellaria aequinoctialis Linnaeus. One taken July 16, 1922, at eight thirty p. m., four and one-half miles off Atico, Peru, has the white chin spot divided by a sooty line.

Priocella antarctica (Stephens). A female silvery-gray fulmar was captured on a hook on the afternoon of August 30, 1922, in Arica Harbor, Chile.

Daption capense (Linnaeus). A female Cape pigeon was taken with the preceding on the afternoon of August 30, 1922, in Arica Harbor, Chile.

Pelecanus thagus Molina. An immature Molina pelican was secured on August 26, 1922, nine miles off Lagarto Head, Peru. The species while exceedingly abundant in a limited area has not been represented previously in the collections of the National Museum.

Sula variegata (Tschudi). One came aboard at one a. m. on June 26, 1922, when abreast of Lagarto Head, Peru.

Sterna anaetheta nelsoni Ridgway. A female bridled tern, barely grown, in immature plumage was secured at midnight, September 24, 1922, when abreast of Cape Mala, Panama. The wing, which has not yet quite attained full length, measures 251.0 mm.

Phalaropus fulicarius (Linnaeus). A male red phalarope in full winter plumage came aboard at one a. m., November 21, 1922, ten miles southwest of Chala, Peru, a winter record of interest for this northern bird.

Washington, D. C., March 11, 1923.