

**Fewer Golden-crowned Sparrows at Woodacre Station this Winter (1937-38).**—The Golden-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia coronata*) appeared at my banding station near Woodacre, Marin County, California, in lesser numbers this fall and winter than has been the case since the station was established, in 1928. Instead of several hundred of them wearing new bands only 87 have been banded so far this season. On the other hand there have been relatively more *returns* than in any previous season. Of these latter the year of banding and the number of returns were as follows: 1930, 1; 1931, 1; 1932, 0; 1933, 3; 1934, 2; 1935, 5; 1936, 22; 1937 (spring), 3: a total of 37 individuals. (In bird banding a "return" follows an absence of at least six months.)

Of the above returns the outstanding record is that of one that was banded as an immature, with band number A176908, on October 20, 1930. This bird was found in a trap on November 25, 1931; on April 3, 1932; November 6, 1933; February 11, 1934; December 2, 1934; November 8, 1935; October 25, 1936; and on December 5, 1937. Each time it returned it repeated a few times and disappeared again.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, February 6, 1938.*

**The Clark Nutcracker at Sea Level.**—In September, 1935, one of our local bird students called me at the museum and reported seeing a flock of 12 Clark Nutcrackers (*Nucifraga columbiana*) on La Cumbre Peak, which is approximately 8 miles air line from Santa Barbara and with an altitude of 4000 feet. I thought this interesting, as these birds are rarely seen in this vicinity at such a low altitude. However, on September 24, 1935, while on the beach near Goleta, Santa Barbara County, California, I thought I heard the call of a Clark Nutcracker. The notes came from some Monterey pines located in the door yard of a ranch house situated perhaps 450 yards from the beach. Upon scrutinizing the trees, I saw one of the birds pecking at a cone vigorously. While watching this one, I saw another in the same tree.

I collected both birds. One proved to be an adult male and the other an immature female. The male (no. 2962) I mounted for our exhibition collection in the hall of local birds, and the female (no. 2997) is in our study series. These are apparently the second and third specimens from the vicinity of Santa Barbara, a female (no. 843) having been picked up in Montecito, October 15, 1919, by Mr. William Barker.

On October 16, 1935, while collecting near the mouth of the Santa Clara River in Ventura County, I saw a single Nutcracker flying low over the willows.—EGMONT Z. RETT, *Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, February 28, 1938.*

**Red-naped Sapsucker and Rufous Hummingbird.**—An interesting case of Rufous Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*) making use of Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis*) workings was observed July 14-15, 1934, in a canyon a few miles northwest of Strawberry Reservoir, Wasatch County, Utah. The tiny stream of water in the bottom of the canyon was lined with clumps of willows, with stems up to an inch in diameter. The sapsuckers were observed in several places, working on the stems in the usual woodpecker fashion, holding with the feet, bracing with the tail, and picking at the stem.

Upon investigation, it was found that large numbers of stems had small patches of bark removed, up to one or two inches in length. Sap juices were slowly exuding from the cambium layer under the bark on to the edge of the bare area. Our observations seemed to indicate that in some cases the sapsucker had taken not only the exuding sap, but also some pieces of bark from the edge, thus enlarging the area.

It was noted also that the Rufous Hummingbirds made use of these same bare spots by standing in the air on their fluttering wings, probing with the bill as if sipping the exuding juices, and moving from bare spot to bare spot to repeat the probing. Whether the hummingbirds also picked up some of the insects collected around the exuding sap could not be determined; but our observations of the Western Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica aestiva morcomi*) flitting about in the willows, at least aroused the suspicion that they were taking such insects.—A. M. WOODBURY, *University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, January 5, 1938.*

**Black Oyster-catchers at Point Lobos.**—On October 24, 1937, the sun came into a clear sky, but on the far horizon beyond the blue sea there was a heavy bank of fog. We were walking in the Point Lobos Reserve, Monterey County, California, when we spied what we took to be a flock of crows perched in an unusual situation. The birds were resting high and dry, yet not much above the splash of the sea. The perching site was on one of those sandstone humps that reach out into the sea from the south shore of the Reserve.

Looking through the binoculars we discovered that the birds were sleeping and either resting on one leg or lying flat on their bellies. Every minute or so one bird or another would untuck its bill, raise its head, and look about. Of course as soon as we looked through the binoculars we realized that the birds were Black Oyster-catchers (*Haematopus bachmani*). We watched them for one hour and five minutes, finally getting within 150 feet of them. The ten birds were scattered over a space about ten feet square and although closely grouped they were noticeably separated into pairs.

Children scampering over the rocks frightened the birds. They flew off in a compact flock, uttering a few squeally notes as they went. Three or four hundred yards up the coast the flock split and six birds turned back toward Bird Rock. Later in the day when returning home we saw six Oyster-catchers perched close to the water on the steep face of Bird Rock. These birds were also separated into pairs. They were not especially shy, since they paid no attention to a group of men who were fishing from the mainland a hundred yards from their perching site.

On October 25, after some search, we managed to find one Oyster-catcher. The tide was low and the bird was foraging on a mussel-covered flat. It was deliberate in its manner; stealth was in all its movements as it stalked its prey. A sudden stab, and when it lifted its head a long spile worm was dangling from its red mandibles. The whole performance reminded me of a robin stalking angleworms on a wet lawn.—CHARLES W. MICHAEL, *Pasadena, California, November 15, 1937.*

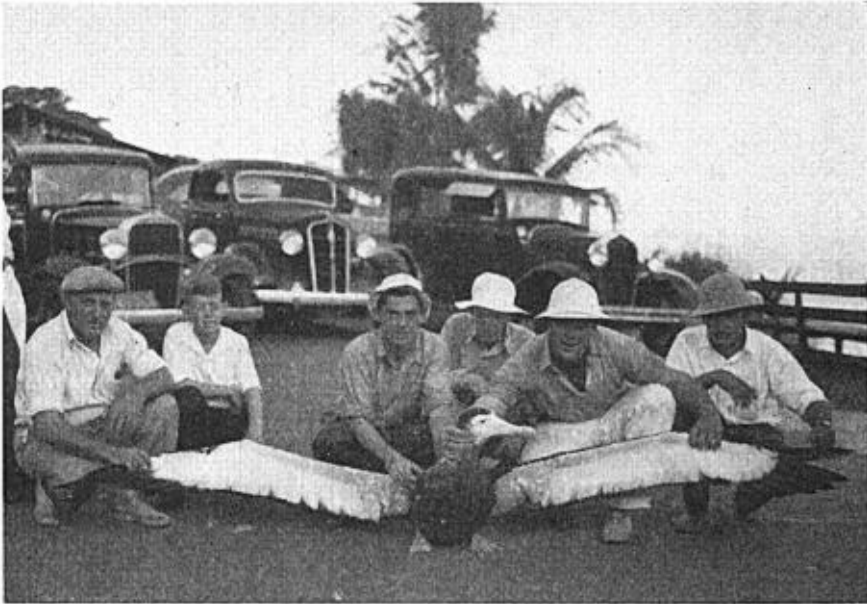


Fig. 35. Wandering Albatross captured and released in the Bay of Panama.

**The Wandering Albatross in the Bay of Panama.**—Mr. Lee B. Carr, of Balboa, Canal Zone, Captain of the launch "Wilpet" during my recent work along the Pacific coast of Colombia, informed me that an albatross had been captured in the Bay of Panama during August, 1937. Receipt of a photograph made by Mr. Carr reveals the surprising fact that the bird was a Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*), in the dark plumage of a yearling, with white face and wing-lining. Mr. Carr's note states that the captive was picked up by a fishing boat, carried into Balboa on deck, and was subsequently released on high ground, whence it took off successfully toward the sea after a running start.—ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, March 11, 1938.*

**Concentration of English Sparrows to Feed on Oak Galls.**—On December 7, 1937, I noticed a group of from 70 to 100 English Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) in a large and rather isolated live oak on the Berkeley campus. The birds were actively and noisily feeding in the foliage of the tree. Several were seen clinging up-side-down in chickadee fashion to peripheral branches.