

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Distribution of the Pacific Kittiwake in November and December of 1948.**—The winter range of the Pacific Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*) is known to extend over the offshore waters of the Pacific coast to southern California (Grinnell and Miller, *Pac. Coast Avif.* No. 27, 1944:170). The following information is recorded in the hope that it will eventually be useful in formulating a more complete picture of the fall and winter movements of this species. The observations were made aboard the Motor Ship "Black Douglas" between November 11, when we entered the Gulf of Alaska, and December 18, 1948, when we entered the Strait of Juan de Fuca, returning to Seattle, Washington. Six to eight hours a day were spent in observation. Alternate hours from sunrise to sunset were spent in the ship's pilot house.

Although we saw no Kittiwakes in the Gulf of Alaska, we saw them from Kodiak Island well into the Bering Sea and in the waters off southern California. We observed only a scattered few as far as 100 miles into the Bering Sea. Except for darkness we might have seen them all the way to the Pribilof Islands.

We left Unalaska, in the Aleutian Chain, on November 26 and headed for San Francisco on the great circle route. No Kittiwakes were encountered until we were more than halfway across the North Pacific. When approximately 800 miles northwest of San Francisco on December 2, we again saw them but only at the rate of two or three a day until our last day out, December 6.

We noted that Kittiwakes were concentrated in several widely separated areas. In Whale Pass, near Kodiak Island, on November 17, we saw an estimated one to two hundred birds and a somewhat smaller number on November 19 in Unimak Pass near Unalaska. As we approached San Francisco on December 6, the Kittiwake was the most abundant bird during the day's run from about 100 miles northwest of the Golden Gate to the Farallon Islands. We saw an estimated 150 to 200 birds of this species. They were notably numerous again on December 11, about 30 miles off Point Concepcion, California, as we entered the open sea from the shelter of San Miguel Island and ran northward parallel to the coast.

After leaving the waters off central California on December 15, on our northward cruise, the birds became increasingly scarce and we saw comparatively few north of California, off Oregon and Washington. The last bird observed was an immature individual seen twelve miles inside the Strait of Juan de Fuca on December 19.

During the period of our cruise the Pacific Kittiwake appeared generally most abundant between December 6 and 14, in the waters off central California from about 25 to 50 miles offshore. Of the total number observed in this area approximately two-thirds were immature. Farther north, in the Aleutian area, on the other hand, the immature birds did not appear to be predominant.

The question as to how the Kittiwakes reach California waters might be answered by future observations at sea. Do they straggle toward California singly and in small groups dispersed over the North Pacific, or do they migrate by way of a more easterly route and not directly across from the Aleutian area? The fact that we encountered none for the first 1200 miles after leaving the Aleutians and then encountered scattered individuals during the several days before reaching California waters favors the latter possibility.

Apparently the last specimen of the Pacific Kittiwake collected in the San Diego area was one recorded by Anthony in 1897 (*Auk*, 15, 1898:267). While on the beach at La Jolla on January 2, 1949, I saw an immature bird of this species fly close overhead several times. One side of the breast was quite heavily smeared with oil. This, in conjunction with the brisk northwest storm winds of the previous two days, probably accounted for its occurrence near shore and somewhat south of its normal winter range.—KARL W. KENYON, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Seattle, Washington, March 16, 1949.*

**Steller Jay Flies South in the Spring.**—A Steller Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) banded in Boulder, Colorado, on February 21, 1948, was reported dead on July 16, 1948, 13 miles west of Mountainair, extreme western Tarrant County, New Mexico, about 50 miles east-southeast of Albuquerque. The band was returned to me and the number (41-340996) verified. It is usually held that the movements of jays are confined to concentration at generally lower altitudes (5000 to 9000 feet) in winter and dispersal over wider areas at higher altitudes (5000 to 11,000) in summer (Bent, *U. S. Nat. Mus.*