

study of this intermediate specimen as well as other material of both supposed forms, totaling eleven in all, I have concluded that Gaii did not go quite far enough and that "*pectoralis*" is in fact only the immature plumage of *poliogaster* and that the name *pectoralis* is a synonym. The chief reason why this has not been appreciated earlier, aside from the previous lack of specimens molting from the one into the other, is the fact that this immature plumage is so distinct and unusual that it is difficult to believe that it can be the forerunner of the plainly colored adult of *poliogaster*. Although there seems to be no other *Accipiter* with quite such a striking contrast between adult and immature, it should be pointed out that in most species of the genus in which the adult is without spots or barring the immature is so marked. *Accipiter b. bicolor* is a good example in the New World and there are others among the numerous species of *Accipiter* in the East Indies and New Guinea.

The species *poliogaster* is a rather unusual *Accipiter*, not only as regards its immature plumage, but also in its relatively short tail and stocky proportions. Some might prefer to give it a genus of its own, as was done long ago by Cabanis who applied the name *Dinospizias* to *pectoralis*. The difficulties of subdividing the genus *Accipiter* are well known and I certainly recommend leaving *poliogaster* in it.

I am indebted to D. Amadon who compared my material with that in the American Museum of Natural History and agreed in the conclusion stated above. Further details and photographs will be included in my forthcoming treatise on the avifauna of Misiones.—WILLIAM H. PARTRIDGE, *Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 19, 1961.*

An Occurrence of the Laysan Albatross on the Northwestern Coast of Oregon.—On July 13, 1960, a Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*) was found washed ashore on the beach between Gearhart and Peter Ihrdale State Park, Clatsop County, Oregon, by William M. Wallace. Due to the state of deterioration it was prepared as a skeleton and no determination of sex was possible. I find no previous mention of this species occurring on the Oregon coast in the literature. The specimen is now in the United States National Museum (no. 431309). I would like to thank Herbert G. Deignan of the National Museum for confirming the identity of the specimen.—LEON A. FREDRICH, *Portland, Oregon, May 14, 1961.*

Flight Speeds of Some Small Birds.—Numerous observers have reported speeds of flying birds, but the measurements have usually been made under conditions in which it was impossible to measure the speed and direction of the wind. The importance of correcting for air movement is shown by the fact that in the speed range of most small birds, failure to make appropriate correction for a wind described by meteorologists as merely a "gentle breeze" may cause calculation of the air speed of the bird to be in error by as much as 50 per cent. The following measurements were made under conditions of known wind speed.

Birds were trapped at Orinda, California, between February 4 and April 5, 1961, and were taken within two hours to a large, corrugated iron, highway drainage pipe 56 inches in diameter. The birds were released singly about 30 feet back in the dark culvert and were photographed with a motion picture camera as they emerged from the pipe. The camera ran at a speed of 68 exposures per second, determined by photographing a long, swinging pendulum of known frequency. As each bird emerged from the culvert, it flew across a 3-foot-wide piece of cardboard ruled with lines one inch apart, thereby making it possible to measure the bird's progression in successive exposures. A large mirror adjusted to the appropriate angle to reflect a second 1-inch grid perpendicular to the first appeared at the edge of each photograph. The position of the bird's image in this mirror enabled one to calculate the bird-to-background distance, and from this to correct for the fact that the bird was closer to the camera than was the background grid. The culvert opened into a sheltered ravine into which wind seldom penetrated. Nevertheless a sensitive wind indicator was placed so as to appear in each photograph. Only on one morning was there a detectable breeze, which was a cool draft emerging from the pipe at 2 miles per hour. Correction has been made for this in the measurements given in table 1.

On one morning the light was so weak that the image reflected in the mirror could not be seen in the photographs, and consequently the background-to-bird distance could not be calculated. In these examples I have assumed that the bird was in the middle of the possible range of distances. This assumption introduces the possibility of an error as great as 10 per cent, so I have placed these values in parentheses. The other measurements are probably accurate to within a few per cent.