

a pair of these hawks was nesting nearby, as one of the birds was calling several times in the period when the falcon's nest was under observation.

No disgorged pellets were found underneath the nest tree. However, a large number of bleached ptarmigan bones were scattered below the nest. One ptarmigan sternum was partly covered by a thin crust of lichens, possibly indicating a long period of use of the nest site.

It is interesting to speculate on the reason why the Gyrfalcon, customarily a cliff nester, would use the stick nest in the tree. Gyrfalcons in Alaska (Cade, *loc. cit.*) typically make use of old stick nests of other birds, especially Ravens' nests on cliffs. In the Lookout Point area and westward to Hornby's Bend, Ravens are not common. I know of only one breeding pair near Hornby's Bend and the nest is located on a cliff. Only a few potential nesting sites on cliffs are available to the Gyrfalcon in the middle Thelon area. I know of only one short stretch of the Thelon where the river cuts through steep sandstone banks. Rough-legged Hawks and Peregrine Falcons, both of which nest on cliffs, are known to nest here and Gyrfalcons may also be found nesting on rock ledges of the steep banks.

The tree nest under discussion was revisited on June 23, 1962. The nest was not occupied but a pair of gray Gyrfalcons had three young in a partly hollowed out witches' broom in a white spruce nearby. This tree, only about 100 yards from the 1961 nesting tree, may have been the one occupied by the Rough-legged Hawks in 1961. The young were about 4 weeks old and one of them was flying on July 10, 45 days after the estimated date of hatching.

The small number of nesting sites in the area under discussion no doubt is a factor contributing to the low density of Gyrfalcons. This scarcity of nesting sites in the area may also influence other birds of prey. In 1960, an artificial nesting platform was constructed in a spruce near Hornby's Bend by members of the National Film Board party working in that area. The following spring the nest was occupied by a pair of Pigeon Hawks (*Falco columbarius*) and four young were successfully raised.—E. KUYT, *Canadian Wildlife Service, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, March 6, 1962*.

**Frequency of Occurrence of Some Seabirds in Uruguay.**—The status of certain seabirds is little known for Uruguay and the eastern coast of South America. The following records which I have obtained may therefore have value in showing the frequency of occurrence of such birds in this country. Where the collector's or observer's name is not mentioned, the records are those of the author.

*Diomedea melanophrys*. Black-browed Albatross. Numbers of these birds spend the winter on the Atlantic coast of Uruguay. At Punta Ballena, Departamento de Maldonado, on July 22, 1959, a dead bird was on the beach and on August 21, another was on the shore. At Punta del Este, Departamento de Maldonado, these albatrosses were seen flying and sitting on the water within 50 to 400 meters of the coast on the following dates: May 21, 1961, 1 bird; July 5, 1; July 7, 7; July 8, 12; July 12, 25; July 17, 3.

*Procellaria aequinoctialis*. White-chinned Petrel. On each date mentioned above for *Diomedea melanophrys* at Punta del Este I could see birds of this species gliding low near the waves. Greater concentrations were recorded along 10 kilometers of the coast west of the mouth of Arroyo Carrasco, Departamento de Canelones, on July 20, 1958; groups of 4 to 6 petrels were sitting on the water every 100 meters along the shore and 200 meters off the coast. Some of them took flight, scaling swiftly and flapping with quick wing strokes over the waves. Temperatures were unusually high (30° instead of 13° C.), and there was a soft warm wind from the north; the water was clear. At the same locality on May 21, 1961, a female was collected; the skin is in my personal collection.

*Puffinus gravis*. Greater Shearwater. At Punta del Este on July 13, 1961, a bird was sitting on clear and still water, 40 meters off the rocky coast. This is the second record of the species for Uruguay. The first one was reported by Wetmore for January, 1921 (U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 133, 1926:51) on the basis of a dried specimen collected on the beach.

*Daption capensis*. Cape Pigeon. At Punta Ballena on July 22, 1959, a dead specimen was taken on the beach. Measurements: Wing 275 mm., tail 120, culmen 32, tarsus 45, middle toe without claw 53.

*Fregata magnificens*. Magnificent Frigate-bird. At Cabo Polonio, Departamento de Rocha, on May 1, 1955, a male frigate-bird was seen on the wing. At Punta del Este on January 20, 1959, a male and two females were seen sailing high over the rocks and houses. I could detect the black throats and white bellies that are the female's typical field marks. This bird must be considered as a regular

summer resident. Observations reported by laymen indicate occurrence at Playa Carrasco (Montevideo) in the summers of 1960 and 1961.

*Catharacta skua*. Skua. At Punta del Este on May 18, 1961, a bird was seen high overhead on the line of the breakwater. At Punta Ballena on July 17 a Skua was persecuting South American Terns (*Sterna hirundinacea*) 100 meters off the coast.

*Larus belcheri*. Belcher Gull. The several records of this gull indicate it is winter resident. It has been recorded along 200 kilometers of the coast of Uruguay. This species was first reported by Zorrilla de San Martín (Bol. Soc. Taguató, 1(2), 1959:55-60). I collected an unsexed subadult bird at Playa Penino, Departamento de San José, on November 18, 1960. This gull was with two others of the same species and its gullet was full of crabs (*Cyrtograpsus* sp.). The skin was added to my personal collection. Sight records are as follows: Laguna José Ignacio, Departamento Maldonado, July 17, 1961, two birds sitting on the beach; Barra Arroyo Maldonado, same date, one sitting on the shore and another on the wing.

*Thalasseus maximus*. Royal Tern. This tern is a regular and common summer resident. Skins in my collection pertain to wintering individuals as follows: Coronilla, Departamento Rocha, March 18, 1957, one female, collector Enrique Gómez Haedo; Barra Laguna del Sauce, Departamento Maldonado, January 27, 1959, one female. Murphy (Oceanic Birds of South America, 2, 1936:1140) states that food of these terns consists "almost wholly of small fishes"; however the terns mentioned above had in their gullets fishes (Pejerreyes = Silverside, Atherinidae) about 17 centimeters long. Some individuals spend the southern winter in this country: Arroyo Maldonado, July 7, 1961, two on the wing; Punta Ballena, same date, three fishing. Sight records for late in the fall, as flocks migrate northward, are: Arroyo Pando, Departamento de Canelones, May 29, 24 individuals sitting together at the mouth of the river; Arroyo Carrasco, Departamento de Montevideo, June 22, 1961, 18 sitting on a bank of this brook.

*Thalasseus sandvicensis eurygnathus*. Cayenne Tern. Hellmayr and Conover (Cat. Birds Amer., 1, No. 3, 1948:326, footnote 1) suggested the possibility that *T. eurygnathus* is conspecific with *T. elegans*. Junge and Voous (Ardea, 43, 1955:226-248) conclude that *eurygnathus* is a race of *sandvicensis*. This point of view is also held by D. Amadon (*in litt.*).

The first report for Uruguay for *eurygnathus* was given by the author on the basis of four specimens seen in full nuptial dress at Carrasco in August of 1953 (Condor, 61, 1959:158). Recent records indicate the frequency of this bird in Uruguay. At Laguna José Ignacio, Departamento de Maldonado, on March 4, 1961, four birds were collected. As they were shot, they disgorged an amazing number of little fishes (Pejerreyes = Silverside, Atherinidae); one of them disgorged 17 which were 3 to 10 cms. long. Many of these terns were seen returning in the afternoon from the fishing areas near Isla de Lobos 12 miles off shore. The birds on the wing were easily counted because they all moved from the sea to the shore. Along two kilometers of coast and during two hours I estimated that about 2000 of these terns were seen. I also saw groups of them on March 7 and a few on July 7, 1961, at the same locality.

The four terns collected displayed extensive black areas on the bill and considerable variation in plumages and measurements. Accordingly two were sent to Dean Amadon who verified their identity as *eurygnathus*. His help and suggestions are gratefully acknowledged.

*Phaetusa simplex*. Large-billed Tern. This bird is seen in small numbers, usually one or two pairs, near the mouths of rivers and lagoons. It is widespread all along the coast of Uruguay on the La Plata River and the Atlantic Ocean and also northward in this country. This manner of occurrence is supported by my records in spite of Teague's opinion (Com. Zool. Mus. Hist. Nat. Montevideo, 4(72), 1955:19-20) that this tern is seen only near the Brazilian boundary. Skins in my collection are as follows: Laguna Guacha, Departamento de Treinta y Tres, May 1, 1956, one female, collector E. Gómez Haedo; Barra Laguna del Sauce, Departamento de Maldonado, January 6, 1959, four birds were seen and one female collected. Sight records: Playa Penino, Departamento de San José, 30 kilometers west of Montevideo, October 2, 1958, four birds; November 28 and December 11, 1960, two birds were seen on each date; Laguna José Ignacio, Departamento de Maldonado, December 25, 1960, and July 16, 1961, two individuals on each date.

*Gelochelidon nilotica*. Gull-billed Tern. This bird is widespread along 400 kilometers of the coast

of Uruguay on the Río de la Plata and the Atlantic Ocean. Specimens in my collection are: Coronilla, Departamento de Rocha, July 1, 1956, one adult female, and September 30, 1957, one male; Playa Penino, Departamento de San José, November 28, 1960, one male. Sight record: Laguna José Ignacio, Departamento de Maldonado, March 6, 1961, 10 terns picking up insects on dunes near the lagoon.—RODOLFO ESCALANTE, *Montevideo, Uruguay, February 5, 1962.*

**Starlings between Hawaii and California.**—The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) is known to disperse widely. Even so, I was surprised to observe an individual of this species alight on a ship sailing the high seas from Hawaii to California. I sighted the first Starling of this voyage of the Matson freighter S.S. Hawaiian Farmer at 9:54 a.m. ship time, November 13, 1961. One of the freighter's navigational officers subsequently kindly calculated that our position at 9:54 a.m. was latitude 31° 37' N, longitude 139° 43' W, or 1160 nautical miles from Honolulu and 920 nautical miles to the San Francisco light vessel. He further stated that we had passed the last ship sailing from the American mainland (which possibly could have brought land birds to this area) at 7:40 p.m. the previous day.

The Starling was in normal winter plumage; the long acute bill was dusky and the white speckles over its dark body were conspicuous. This individual disappeared after a few minutes, but at 11:21 a.m. I observed three Starlings flying beside the Farmer near her stern. The last Starling disappeared for the remainder of the voyage at 12:19 p.m. This time is close to that of the official noon deck report, wherein our position was given as latitude 31° 52' N, longitude 139° 07' W, 1193 miles from Honolulu and 887 miles to San Francisco.

Just before and somewhat after the Starling episode, Red-tailed Tropic Birds (*Phaethon rubricauda*) appeared over the nearby ocean: two at 9:52 a.m. and one at 2:16 p.m.

Despite a recent statement to the contrary in Austin's *Birds of the World* (1961:273-274), *Sturnus vulgaris* has not yet occurred in the Hawaiian Islands. I know of no unpublished reports of Starlings from Hawaii.—EDGAR B. KINCAID, JR., *Austin, Texas, April 2, 1962.*

**A New Miocene Locality Record for *Puffinus diatomicus* and *Sula willetti*.**—In reporting the occurrence of *Osteodontornis orri* in a Miocene deposit at the end of Del Gado Drive, on the north slope of the Santa Monica Mountains, Sherman Oaks, California (Howard and White, *Los Angeles County Mus. Contrib. Sci.*, 52, 1962), a shearwater and a sulid were noted as occurring in the same deposit. These have now been studied and are referred to the Miocene species *Puffinus diatomicus* and *Sula willetti*, respectively. Both specimens consist of associated skeletal elements impressed on slabs of diatomaceous shale.

The incomplete skeleton of *Puffinus* lacks the coracoid, humerus and femur. The skull lacks the posterior portion of the cranium. The specimen was compared with three representatives of *P. diatomicus* from the type locality at Lompoc, California; a cast of the type was also available. Both in length of individual elements and relative lengths of one element to another the Sherman Oaks skeleton falls within the Lompoc series.

The skeleton of *Sula* is represented by the leg bones only. Each of these bones is approximately 10 per cent longer than the measurement given by Miller (*Carnegie Inst. Wash.*, 349, 1925:114) for the corresponding element of the type specimen of *Sula willetti*: femur 57.3 mm. (52.0 mm. in type); tibiotarsus 80.5 mm. (71.0 mm. in type); tarsometatarsus 45.3 mm. (41 mm. in type). The differential, however, is no greater than between specimens of Recent Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster brewsteri*, in the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum. Proportions of length of one element to another are nearly identical to those of the type of *S. willetti*: tarsometatarsus to tibiotarsus, 56 per cent (57 per cent in the type); tarsometatarsus to femur, 79 per cent in both specimens; femur to tibiotarsus, 71 per cent (73 per cent in the type).

The Sherman Oaks occurrences are the fourth locality record for *Puffinus diatomicus* (see Wetmore, *Smithsonian Misc. Coll.*, 131 (5), 1956:11) and the third for *Sula willetti*, including the ten-