

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Short-tailed Albatross Sighted off the Oregon Coast.—During an otter trawl tow on the research vessel "Acona," an immature Short-tailed Albatross (*Diomedea albatrus*) was observed and photographed. The sighting occurred at 3 p.m., Pacific Standard Time, on December 11, 1961, at latitude 44° 21.6' N and longitude 124° 50.0' W, approximately 32 miles west of Yachats, Oregon.

Kodachrome transparencies of this Short-tailed Albatross were examined by Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy and the identification was confirmed. The bird was dark without distinctive markings except for its large pink bill, which was mottled with brown or black near the distal end. This albatross was noticeably larger than the Black-footed Albatrosses (*Diomedea nigripes*) it accompanied. It was observed aggressively feeding among 15 to 25 Black-footed Albatrosses and numerous gulls, located approximately 75 feet from the vessel. The Short-tailed Albatross appeared to stay in or around groups of Black-footed Albatrosses accompanying the vessel from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on December 11. Although the Black-footed Albatrosses appeared to respect the presence of the Short-tailed Albatross, there seemed to be no great rivalry between the two species.

The Short-tailed Albatross was thought to be extinct until in recent years some 20 birds were observed returning to their breeding grounds near Yokohama (Pough, *Aubudon Western Bird Guide*, 1957). This sighting is apparently only the second for this species from the area between Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and southern California since 1898. The other observation was made in 1961 off Vancouver Island by Lane (*Canadian Field Nat.*, in press).—BRUCE WYATT, *Department of Oceanography, Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon, June 18, 1962.*

First Records for the Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher and Purple-crowned Fairy Hummingbird from México.—On November 4, 1961, near the Laguna Cobá, 8 miles southeast of Tenosique, Tabasco, I collected two species not heretofore recorded from México. Within a period of fifteen minutes, I obtained a pair of Ruddy-tailed Flycatchers (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*) and a female Purple-crowned Fairy Hummingbird (*Heliothryx barroti*). The Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher has previously been taken in Guatemala and British Honduras, from which areas it ranges southward to Brazil and Bolivia. The race of this species that reaches Tabasco is *T. e. fulvigularis*. The Purple-crowned Fairy Hummingbird has also been taken in Guatemala and British Honduras, and it ranges southward as far as Colombia and Ecuador. Laurence C. Binford, my field companion, and I subsequently saw the Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher on November 6, 7, 11, 13, and 14, 1961, at the same locality, and Binford collected an additional female on November 6. We subsequently saw the fairy hummer on November 5, 6, 12, and 13, 1961, and Binford obtained a male on November 6. The two species were found both within the rain forest and at its edge. These records were obtained while on an expedition sponsored by the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology, at which institution the specimens are now deposited.—DELWYN G. BERRETT, *Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 8, 1962.*

Census of Ring-billed and California Gull Colonies in Eastern Washington.—Two nesting colonies of Ring-billed (*Larus delawarensis*) and California (*L. californicus*) gulls located on the Columbia River islands within the Hanford Reservation, Washington, were censused in 1961. One nesting site is at Coyote Rapids and the other is about 20 miles downstream near Ringold. Both colonies became established on these islands first in 1956. They were probably displaced from downstream islands inundated that year by the development of Lake Wallula by McNary Dam. In 1954 a colony was reported near Pasco which is within the McNary impoundment area (Hudson and Yocom, *Research Studies State College of Washington*, 22, 1954:23). Another new nesting colony of Ring-billed Gulls was reported in 1961 on a Columbia River island downstream from McNary Dam near Boardman, Oregon (Broadbrooks, Murrelet, 42, 1961:7).

On both islands the California Gulls nested on the higher ground near the center of the islands and the Ring-billed Gulls nested on the periphery of the colony. Most birds nested in areas where lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*) and eriogonum (*Eriogonum compositum*) served as nesting cover. Ring-billed Gull nests were estimated to have comprised 90 to 95 per cent of all nests at the Ringold colony and 75 to 90 per cent at the Coyote Rapids colony.