

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Notes on the Occurrence of the Laysan Albatross Near the California Coast.**—The Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*), except when breeding, ranges widely over the high seas of the North Pacific (Palmer, Handbook of North American Birds, 1962). However, records of this species close to the North American shore are rare. Between February 4 and March 29, 1958, while participating in a pelagic fur seal investigation, I spent 35 days at sea studying pelagic birds in waters adjacent to the central California coast (area outlined in fig. 1). In this period, the Laysan Albatross was often observed. These observations, in combination with reports from the literature, suggest that this species is more common along the California coast in late winter and early spring than was previously recognized.

Eleven sightings of the Laysan Albatross were made within 45 miles of shore (fig. 1); each was of a single bird. The positions and dates of observation of each individual are given in table 1. There is a possibility that the same bird was seen more than once in the course of the study, especially when two were seen on the same day. However, the Laysan Albatross, unlike the Black-footed Albatross (*Diomedea nigripes*), with which it is often associated, did not follow the ship nor respond to baiting. Thus, the chance of encountering the same individual more than once seems remote.

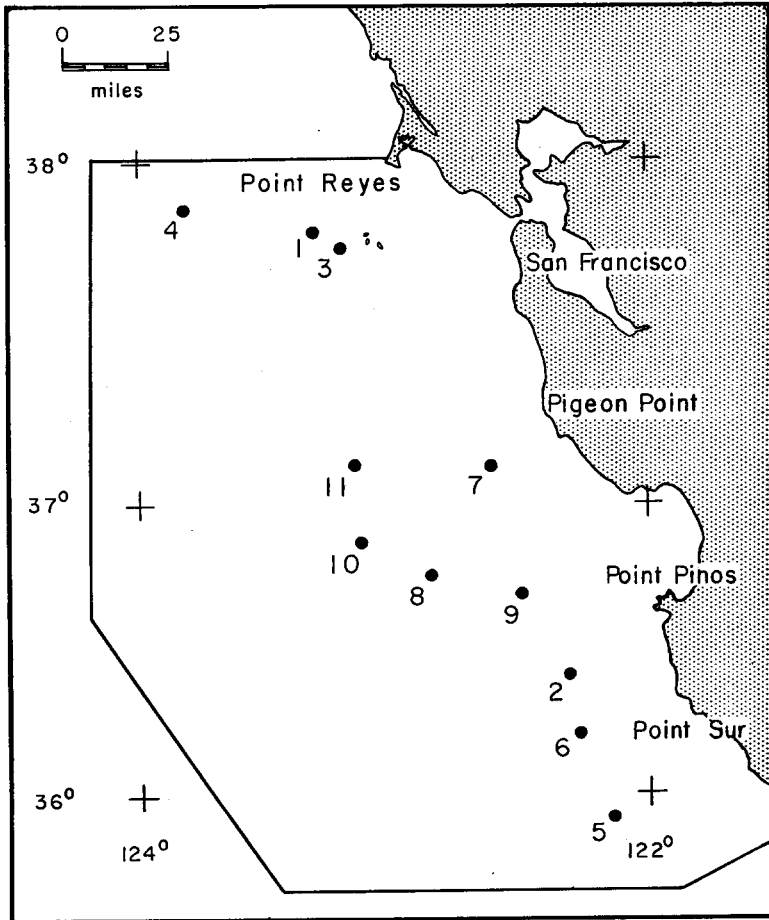


Fig. 1. Positions of 11 sightings of the Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*) near the coast of central California.

There have been three specimens of the Laysan Albatross collected within 100 miles of the California coast. These are cited by Stager (Condor, 60, 1958:404) and were taken on April 5, 1909, December 6, 1949, and February 6, 1958. In addition, McHugh (Condor, 52, 1950:154) reported the observation of two birds on March 15, 1949, several miles west of San Miguel Island; he also cites other records from spring at greater distances from shore and mentions, without documentation, the presence of this species off northern Baja California, and off southern and northern California and Oregon.

These occurrences of Laysan Albatrosses are difficult to relate to changes in ocean currents, food supply or other environmental factors. However, with respect to the new observations reported here, it is worth noting that in 1957-58 there was a warming of the ocean waters along the California coast which resulted in the northward movement of certain fish species (Radovich, Calif. Dept. Fish and Game, Fish Bull. No. 112, 1961). This may have influenced the distribution of the albatross in 1958. However, no suggestive correlation of this kind is possible for 1949, a year in which several records of this species were obtained.

Despite the possible change in environmental conditions and the fact that the absence of reports from other months may be a result of inadequate observations, it seems significant that all existing records of the Laysan Albatross close to the California shore have been obtained between December and April. Therefore, from the data available at this time, it is suggested that the Laysan Albatross may be a regular visitor in pelagic waters near the California coast in late winter and early spring.

TABLE 1  
OBSERVATIONS OF LAYSAN ALBATROSS OFF CALIFORNIA COAST

Date	Position of ship		Date	Position of ship	
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
Feb. 8	37° 47' N,	123° 18' W	Mar. 3	37° 02' N,	122° 36' W
13	36° 24' N,	122° 18' W	24	36° 42' N,	122° 50' W
15	37° 44' N,	123° 12' W	25	36° 39' N,	122° 30' W
16	37° 53' N,	123° 49' W	29	36° 48' N,	123° 07' W
27	35° 55' N,	122° 09' W	29	39° 03' N,	123° 09' W
27	36° 11' N,	122° 16' W			

Acknowledgments are made to C. Fiscus and F. Wilke of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, whose help and encouragement in making the field observations is greatly appreciated.—RICHARD T. HOLMES, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 30, 1963.*

**Chestnut-sided Warbler in Southern California.**—In the early evening of October 2, 1962, I observed and collected an unusual warbler at Old Mission San Luis Rey, located four miles east of Oceanside, California. I prepared the specimen and tentatively labeled it a Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pensylvanica*. The specimen was a female, the ovary measuring  $2.0 \times 4.2$  mm. Incomplete skull ossification indicated it was a bird of the year. The warbler weighed 10.2 gm., having a very heavy deposit of subcutaneous fat. It had been feeding on leafhoppers of the family Jassidae. The skin was sent to Alden H. Miller, who confirmed my initial identification. It is now deposited in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (specimen no. 150003).

An examination of published material (Bowman, Condor, 63, 1961:410) indicates this is the fifth record for California and the second for the southern part of the state. Another female, of unknown age, was taken in Imperial County (Cardiff and Cardiff, Condor, 55, 1953:217).—FR. AMADEO MICHAEL REA, *San Luis Rey College, San Luis Rey, California, October 8, 1963.*

**Nesting of the Crane Hawk in Surinam.**—The Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*) inhabits the mangrove forests along the coast of Surinam. It is found near water in light forests and in cultivated areas about the coffee plantations. Very little is known of its breeding habits and the only description of its nest and eggs has been that of Hewitt (Oologists' Record, 17, 1937:12), who reported a nest found on March 13, 1936, in the Río Orinoco district of Venezuela, which contained a single, white, unmarked egg measuring  $47.5 \times 38.5$  mm. Sutton (Wilson Bull., 66, 1954:241) has described four nests of the Black Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza nigra*) which were found in Sonora,