



Fig. 2. A White-tailed Tropic-bird at Newport Beach, California, June 20, 1964.

and neck along the fuselage. When the glider was finally removed, the bird flew off directly toward the open ocean.

According to the members of the Harbor Slope Soaring Society, who were flying the gliders, the bird was first seen on May 24, when it was somewhat wary and only flew with the gliders well up in the air. The bird became less wary each week, and by June 20 it actually allowed such close approach that McCaskie was able to touch it. The bird was last seen flying with the gliders on June 23.

The main distinguishing marks of the White-tailed Tropic-bird are well shown in figure 2. The bird had a definite rosy wash on the underparts, and the tail appeared quite pink in the field. The bill was yellowish-green merging to black at the tip; the tarsus was blue-gray, and the feet were black.

This appears to be the first recorded occurrence of the White-tailed Tropic-bird in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (Palmer, Handbook of North American Birds, 1961:262), and it is certainly the first recorded occurrence in California. The closest to California that the species had been noted previously was in the Hawaiian Islands where it breeds. It is known to wander widely over the tropical waters of the world, however, and it certainly is capable of reaching the west shore of North America without the aid of man. Now that the White-tailed Tropic-bird has been proved capable of reaching the waters around southern California, observers are cautioned to take extra care in distinguishing it from the Red-billed Tropic-bird (*P. aethereus*), which occasionally wanders to these waters, for the immatures of both species look very much alike.—WES HETRICK, *Santa Ana, California*, and GUY MCCASKIE, *Tahoe City, California, July 26, 1964*.

Longevity Record of a Black-footed Albatross.—On September 5, 1945, I placed a Fish and Wildlife Service band no. 44-711603 on a Black-footed Albatross (*Diomedea nigripes*) at latitude 43° 29' N, longitude 136° 30' W, a location about 515 nautical miles west of the closest land at Point Blanco, Oregon. On February 27, 1963, this albatross was recovered at Pearl and Hermes Reef, Southeast Islands, Hawaii. The old band, which required acid etching to be read, was replaced with band no. 737-31376. This bird was at least 18 years old when recovered.

Robert W. McFarlane (*in litt.*) stated that this was one of 14 recoveries of Black-footed Albatrosses taken in a mass banding project conducted primarily at Midway. He mentioned that this bird at Pearl and Hermes Reef was in a breeding colony, but its status was not definitely determined.—CHARLES F. YOCOM, *Division of Natural Resources, Humboldt State College, Arcata, California, July 20, 1964.*

Louisiana Waterthrush in Baja California.—Although Northern Waterthrushes (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) have frequently been reported from southern Baja California (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 33, 1957:257), the Louisiana Waterthrush (*S. motacilla*) is unknown from the peninsula. Indeed, Grinnell (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., 32, 1928:202–203) noted that no waterthrushes had been observed in what is now the state of Baja California. On April 27, 1964, while the senior author was collecting along a tributary of the San Simón River at Rancho Rosarito, at about 2500 feet in the foothill region 34 miles east of San Quintin, Baja California, he was surprised to see a waterthrush feeding by the water at an open drinking spot for cattle. The stream was otherwise bordered by willows and cottonwoods, beyond which upland desert stretched in all directions. The bird was collected and proved to be a Louisiana Waterthrush, the first record of that species from the Baja Californian peninsula. It was observed hobbing its tail as it fed and it emitted no vocalizations. The bird was a male with enlarged (8×5 mm.) testes, and it weighed 21.6 gm.; no fat was noted. The specimen is now in the national collection (integrated United States National Museum—Fish and Wildlife Service collection), and bears USNM no. 480452.

We wish to thank Dr. Rodolfo Hernandez Corzo of the Mexican Dirección General de Caza for permission to collect in Baja California.—LESTER L. SHORT, JR., *Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, United States National Museum, Washington, D. C.*, and RICHARD C. BANKS, *Natural History Museum, San Diego, California, August 24, 1964.*

Notes on the Behavior of the Rufous-winged Sparrow.—On December 15, 1946, Anne Anderson and I discovered a small number of Rufous-winged Sparrows (*Aimophila carpalis*) on the mesa between Pantano Wash and the eastern border of Tucson, Arizona. They were in a strip of land about 100 yards wide and one-half mile in length that lay somewhat lower than the surrounding desert of creosote bush and cholla cacti. In and among the several shallow channels eroded by the summer rains were scattered mesquites (*Prosopis juliflora*), paloverdes (*Cercidium floridum* and *C. microphyllum*) and hackberry (*Celtis pallida*), with a sprinkling of smaller shrubs, including cholla cacti. Dry grass of several species covered considerable portions of the ground, but there were also many bare areas of sand and brown soil.

In the course of the next two years about 35 weekend trips were made to the area in the hope of learning something of the unusual nesting behavior of this species. Unfortunately, lack of time in the important summer months prevented regular visits. We did not observe any nest building. On July 20, 1947, both of us searched every bush in the area. Anne Anderson found the first nest, containing two eggs on that day. I found another nest with three eggs on August 23. The nesting attempt of July 20 may have failed, for it was not until September 7 that I saw the first fledgling. In 1952 the land was cleared for a rapidly expanding subdivision and the Rufous-wings disappeared.

Despite the frustrating outcome of the task, considerable data were obtained on other behavior; and in view of the paucity of detailed information on song and call notes, it seems worthwhile to report what took place in the spring and early summer.

Each song of the Rufous-winged Sparrow was brief, lasting only two or three seconds, after which came a three second pause. The frequency was twelve to fourteen songs per minute. Both Bendire (Ornith. and Ool., 7, 1882:122) and Pitelka (Wilson Bull., 63, 1951:48) have described the song as weak and monotonous. Actually it appears weak only in comparison with that of larger birds. The volume of sound is probably as great as that of other Arizona fringillids whose songs in June can at times be all but obliterated by the shrill noise of cicadas. It can be termed monotonous chiefly in the sense that each variation is repeated over and over, before another is begun. The song can be divided into a variable first part of one, two, or three notes, uttered with relative deliberation, and a second part consisting of a uniform series of high-pitched,