

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**A Western Gull with Symmetrical White Wing Patches.**—On January 20, 1965, we were watching a mixed flock of gulls that was following the Oregon State University research vessel "Yaquina" as it left the harbor at Newport, Lincoln County, Oregon. Among these gulls was an adult Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) which had large white patches in each wing. This bird followed the ship for about four hours and was observed repeatedly at close range during that time. The wing patches were symmetrically arranged and of almost the same size and shape. In appearance and location (fig. 1) they were very similar to those reported



Fig. 1. Western Gull showing symmetrical white wing patches.

earlier for the Heermann Gull, *Larus heermanni* (Hubbs and Bartholomew, Condor, 53, 1951:221-227) and distinctly different from those earlier reported for the Western Gull (Hubbs, Condor, 56, 1954:228). Although we were not able to determine if the white patches were confined to primary coverts as Hubbs and Bartholomew (*op. cit.*) found in many Heermann Gulls, their shape would indicate that they probably were. Although we have observed many individuals of this species on the Oregon coast for the last five years, we have never seen another individual marked in this fashion. Since the papers referred to above indicate that numerous individuals of Heermann and Western gulls with aberrant wing patches have been found along the coast of southern California, it is surprising that birds of this nature have not previously been reported from the Oregon coast.

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**The Curve-billed Thrasher in California.**—On November 1, 1964, we saw a Curve-billed Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*) at the headquarters of the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, located about 5.5 miles west and 3.0 miles north of Calipatria, Imperial County, California. The bird remained in the immediate vicinity of the headquarters until January 25, 1965. Colored photographs of the bird were obtained which verify the identification. The bird was easily dis-