

females is 890 g, compared with a mean weight of 670 g in a male and female of the Peruvian population (Murphy, *op. cit.*, 1053). Although the samples are very small, this suggests that the birds from Uruguay are 20 to 30 per cent heavier. Feeding behavior and diet differs between Atlantic and Peruvian birds; this may account for the discontinuous distribution on the Atlantic coast and for the fact that the Atlantic birds were overlooked for so long by ornithologists. Wing measurements of *L. belcheri* taken in Uruguay are smaller than those reported from Argentina. Olog (*op. cit.*) for 2 ♂♂ reports 420 and 428 mm, and for 2 ♀♀, 400 and 408 mm.

Belcher's Gull is in some sense a permanent resident in Buenos Aires province, for it has been collected in summer as well as in midwinter by Runnacles (Hellmayr and Conover, *Cat. Birds Amer., Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser. 13, Part 1 (3), 256-257, 1948*; Steullet and Deautier, *Obr. Cin. Mus. La Plata, p. 654, 1936-1946*). At present we do not know the breeding area of the birds that winter in Uruguay. Additional research is needed on the populations of Argentina, Uruguay, and perhaps also of Brazil.—RODOLFO ESCALANTE, *Montevideo, Uruguay, 11 October 1965*.

Wanderings of the Ancient Murrelet: Some Additional Comments.—A recent article (Munyer, *Wilson Bull.*, 77:235, 1965) concerning the inland wanderings of the Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquum*) has, in large part, rendered superfluous a similar report of my own that was accepted for publication in the *Condor* on 24 June 1965, but which I subsequently withdrew. My contribution was prompted by the first record for Montana (Rogers, *Audubon Field Notes*, 18:472, 1964). It is of interest that my hypothesis explaining the inland occurrence of the Ancient Murrelet was identical with that developed by Munyer and was reached completely independently, lending support to its validity. I suggested that during spring and fall migration some Ancient Murrelets drift inland as the result of off-shore storms coupled with conditions of poor visibility along the coast.

There are a few points from my manuscript that deserve attention. Two records have thus far escaped the ornithological literature. One immature bird was found alive at St. James, Manitoba, 8 October 1953 (The Manitoba Museum 2702, courtesy J. Baillie, Royal Ontario Museum, and R. W. Sutton, The Manitoba Museum). A second bird, a female, was found dead at Logan, Cache County, Utah, by Gregory Wagner 24 November 1962 (Utah State University, courtesy W. H. Behle, University of Utah, and K. L. Dixon and F. H. Wagner, Utah State University).

The inland distribution pattern (see Munyer) is roughly located between 40 and 50 degrees N latitude and falls within the shifting belt of the westerlies, roughly located between 35 and 65 degrees. In the total distribution pattern there appear to be two centers: one west of the Continental Divide and one around the Great Lakes. The seasonal distribution (fig. 1) shows that the

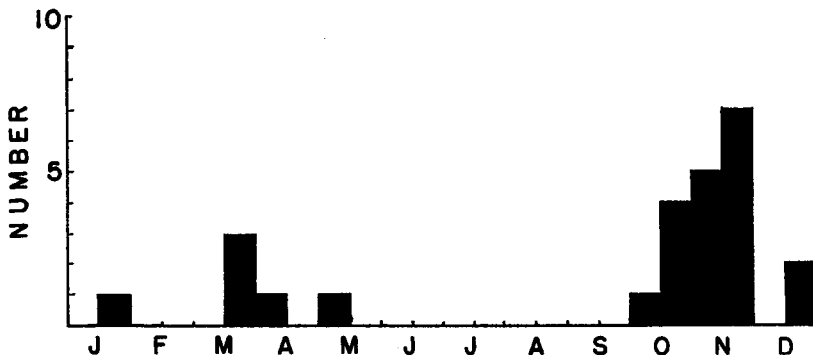


Figure 1. Seasonal inland distribution pattern of 25 Ancient Murrelets, in biweekly periods.

TABLE 1
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STORM CENTER AND DISTANCE FROM SHORE OF 19 INLAND RECORDS
OF THE ANCIENT MURRELET

Location of inland record	Center of rain storms along coast occurring		
	Below 55 N lat.	Above 55 N lat.	Above and below 55 N lat.
West of Continental Divide	9	0	3
East of Continental Divide	0	5	2

inland records fall in two periods with a peak in November and one in March. It must be remembered that we are dealing with living birds, which in many cases may have moved some distance away from their first landfall. However, the fact that most birds were found in March and November, the peaks coinciding with the off-shore migration of the species, lends support to the idea that those birds were actually discovered shortly after they drifted inland. Similar peaks were found by Williams (Auk, 82:19-25, 1965) in his analysis of records of three species of jaegers (*Stercorarius*) in the Gulf of Mexico.

To test the correlation between inland murrelet records and weather conditions, I analyzed U.S. surface weather maps for each day of occurrence and four to five days prior to this day. Not all records could be treated in this manner since the maps appropriate to earlier records showed little information about weather conditions along the Pacific coast. Also some birds were believed to have been inland for a longer period than five days (see also Munyer), such as the specimen from Lake Pontchartrain (Lowery, 1955: Louisiana Birds) and the specimen from Nebraska, which was shot while it flew down the Missouri (Swenk, Nebraska Bird Rev., 1:14-15, 1933). Furthermore, for some records the date of discovery is not given. In 14 records the inland occurrence coincided with low pressure areas over the Gulf of Alaska and over the Pacific Ocean to the south as far as Washington, one to five days prior to the day of discovery of the specimens. In five cases the low pressure areas were over the northwest Pacific states. Inland records were found to coincide with wind velocities of 30 to 40 knots per hour and precipitation in the form of rain or snow along the coast.

I agree with Munyer that the birds are not blown straight east but instead that their course of flight is the resultant of a west wind and the normal flight direction which I assume to be parallel to the coast. If one accepts this reasoning, then those birds found farther away from the coast (around the Great Lakes) have come from storms centered in the northern area of the distribution of this species, while those from nearer the coast (west of the Continental Divide) have come from storms centered farther south along the coast. The data (table 1), although scanty, show this trend.

I would like to thank R. S. Hoffmann, F. A. Pitelka, and M. D. F. Udvardy for their constructive criticism of the manuscript.—NICOLAAS A. M. VERBEEK, *Department of Zoology, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana. (Present address: Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California.) 17 February 1966.*

A Second Record of Ancient Murrelet from Nevada.—On 27 November 1965 Albert Taylor captured an Ancient Murrelet, *Synthliboramphus antiquum*, which he had observed floundering about on the main street of Carson City, Ormsby County, Nevada. Attempts to get the bird airborne proved futile, and during the next few hours it was observed to have several episodes of diarrhea.

The murrelet was set free overnight, but the following morning Taylor found it dead and frozen in a vacant lot near his home. He promptly presented the specimen to the Nevada State Museum where it was prepared as study skin NSM 866.

This specimen, a female with a 2.5×10 mm crescent-shaped ovary, measured 218 mm in