

The following analysis of the 1927 repeats by the young of the species in the preceding table, considered in fifteen-day periods, indicates that the average length of stay is scarcely more than two weeks. The number of days between the banding and the last repeat for many birds, was only one, two, three, four, or five. For a few birds the number of days was about fifty. One bird repeated seventy days after being banded. The averages made up from so widely differing lengths of stay may have very little value, but I have thought it worth while recording them.

1927 Banding dates	Average number of days intervening between the banding and the last repeat	Days
June 17-30		15
July 1-15		17
" 16-31		18
Aug. 1-15		13
" 16-31		11
Sept. 1-17		3

We have been surprised to find that the young birds coming to the sanctuary for the first time are very tame and behave generally as though perfectly at home there. We have also wondered that in the two summers we have taken no bird banded at any other station. It has been suggested that the inexperience of young birds probably explains the first of these two facts, and that the remoteness of other stations and their small number explain the other fact.

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BIRDS SEEN IN A TRANSATLANTIC VOYAGE

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ON ocean voyages bird-lovers may always find something of interest. In a dozen separate voyages in a recent journey around the world it was rare for a day to pass without some birds being in sight. Occasionally a bird would alight on the deck or in the rigging of the vessel, and some of these might have been caught and banded, but the majority of ocean wanderers seem beyond the reach of the bird-bander, although a knowledge of these birds gained by banding would be of great interest. Possibly the ingenious bird-bander will some

day devise a humane method for catching and banding these birds.

As is well known, sea-birds following a vessel are sometimes caught by a line with a baited hook trailing astern, or by hooks attached to a line which become entangled in the wings of the bird. These methods are too cruel and destructive to bird-life to be used by the bird-bander. Occasionally birds poise on motionless wings so near the ship, or pass so closely under the stern, that they might be sprayed with a dye which would serve to identify individuals and show how long they followed the same ship.

On the homeward trip from Liverpool to Boston, July 13-23, 1927, I found the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) abundant about the great Liverpool docks. With it were a small number of Lesser Black-backed Gulls (*Larus fuscus*) and a few Black-headed Gulls (*Larus ridibundus*). The next day we steamed along within sight of the south coast of Ireland, and birds were very abundant. The Herring Gull in all plumages took first place in numbers, but both Great Black-backs (*Larus marinus*) and Lesser Black-backs were not uncommon, and there were a few Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*). The Gulls took advantage of the strong up-currents on the windward side of the ship, and at times there were scores gliding on motionless wings within a few yards of the rail on the upper deck. Murres (*Uria troille*) or Guillemots as they are called in England, were abundant, and family parties consisting of one parent and the single young were common. Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*) were also common, and it was amusing to watch them on the approach of the steamer, flapping along the surface, and continuing to use their wings as they dove and swam under water. As is well known, all the Auk Family habitually use their wings and not their feet in diving.

Another bird I was glad to see was the Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*), considerably smaller than the Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*) and, except for quicker vibrations of its wings, similar in flight and habit of "shearing" the water. It is dark above and white below. In April I had seen many hundreds if not thousands of a closely allied subspecies, the Levantine Shearwater (*P. puffinus yelkouan*) in the Bosphorus. Here flocks of these birds were restlessly and continually flying back and forth along this beautiful waterway between the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmora. They are poetically called by the Turks "lost souls."

Three Gannets (*Sula bassana*) and one Shag (*Phalacrocorax graculus*) were seen on this day, the former exactly the same

as our bird, the latter a rather small Cormorant, while a small passerine bird made us a hasty visit and disappeared before its identity was established.

The next day none of these birds was to be seen with the exception of an immature Kittiwake which accompanied the ship for half a day and then disappeared. It was evident the water-birds had plenty of food around the Irish coast and were not tempted to stray far afield. Perhaps it was too soon after the breeding-period for them to wander.

Several birds were seen that day which at first sight looked like small gulls with white heads and breasts and blue-gray backs. Their long pointed wings and their flight, characteristic of Shearwaters, showed them to be Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis*). It was my first sight of this bird of the North Atlantic, and, as I had missed seeing some observed by a companion in Labrador over twenty years before, I realized that a long-felt wish had been filled.

The only other bird seen that day, and one that was seen every day after this until we entered Boston Harbor was Wilson's Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*). I expected to find, before we had steamed too far from the Irish coast, the Stormy Petrel (*Thalassidroma pelagica*), a bird I had seen in the Mediterranean, but these were plainly Wilson's Petrels. The Stormy Petrel is black with a white rump like Wilson's, but it is considerably smaller and has a short, square tail. Wilson's Petrel became particularly abundant on July 19th and 20th, when we were in the Gulf Stream. Over two hundred could often be seen ceaselessly flying back and forth over our wake, pattering along the water with wings held up and fluttering, or skimming around so close under the stern that I could look down on them and see their webbed feet stretched out behind, beyond their tails. These birds breed in the Antarctic regions in the southern summer and come north for the northern summer. Whether the same birds followed the ship all the way across the ocean, or whether a new group took up the chase daily, it is, of course, impossible to say. Some black dye dropped or sprayed on their white rumps might have given an answer to this question.

Dr. Glover M. Allen¹ on June 12, 1926, about one hundred miles from New York, met with Wilson's Petrels, but "no more of them were seen during the entire voyage across to England." On June 25th he saw them again in the Bay of

¹ "Birds of an Ocean Voyage." *Bull. Essex County Ornithological Club*, 1926, p. 6.

Biscay. He asks, "Is there a vast area in mid-Atlantic from which they are absent?" My experience gives a decided negative to this question.

On the 17th, 18th, and 19th of July from a couple to a score of Greater Shearwaters (*Puffinus gravis*) played about the steamer, but the thrill of the voyage was experienced on the 16th, when, at eight in the morning and at noon, two Great Skuas (*Megalestris skua*)—"Seahens" the sailors call them—appeared about the ship for a few minutes each time. These great birds are dark brown, almost black, in color and marked with white patches on the extended wings.

We entered Boston Harbor on July 23d in a fog and were greeted by American Herring (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*)* and Laughing Gulls (*L. atricilla*) and Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*).

SOME TRANS-ATLANTIC RETURNS OF BANDED BIRDS†

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AMONG the most interesting problems upon which the bird banders are at work, are those which lead toward the solution of some of the mysteries of bird migration. Much has already been learned of the travels of certain species, but there is still a great deal to learn before we can accurately map out the migration routes followed by some of our best known birds.

Young herons of several species have been noted, during their first fall, at points north of their supposed breeding range, but it was not until we had recorded the recoveries of some seventy Black-crowned Night Herons, banded at the heronry at Barnstable, that we had real proof of the striking northward dispersal of these birds. Almost exactly half of the recoveries of these herons were from points north of Cape Cod, some of them being from points approximately four hundred miles due north of the birds' birthplace.¹

Many of our seabirds breed near or within the Arctic Circle, making a long migration to the Southern Hemisphere, but in

* Dr. Townsend follows Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., in believing that the American Herring Gull is sub-specifically distinct from the European Herring Gull—Editors.

† Read at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association at Boston, January 19, 1928.

¹ May, John B., *Bul. N. E. B. A.*, Vol. II, April, 1926, pp. 25-28.