

R. H. DAY

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP



BULLETIN

Vol. 3

Summer 1976

No. 1

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) was formed in 1972 out of a need for better communication among Pacific seabird researchers. The Group acts to coordinate and stimulate the field activities of its members and to inform its membership and the general public of conservation issues relating to Pacific seabirds and the marine environment. Current activities include the development of standard techniques and reporting forms for colony censusing, pelagic observations, and beached bird surveys. Policy statements are issued on conservation issues of critical importance. While the PSG's primary area of interest is the West Coast of North America and adjacent areas of the Pacific, it is hoped that seabird enthusiasts in other parts of the world will join and participate in the Group. Annual dues for membership in the Group are \$5.00 and are payable to the Secretary or Treasurer (addresses on back cover). Members receive the PSG Bulletin.

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP BULLETIN

The Pacific Seabird Group Bulletin is issued in the spring or summer and fall of each year and contains news of interest to PSG members. Regional reports include a listing of current research and information on seabird conservation. The Bulletin does not act as an outlet for the results of scientific research but welcomes articles on seabird conservation, seabird research, or other topics that relate to the objectives of the Group. Articles should be submitted to the Editor. Back issues of the Bulletin (starting with spring 1974) are available from the Secretary for \$2.50 each.

COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

Pelagic observations:

Gerald A. Sanger
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
800 A Street, No. 110
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Beached bird surveys:

David G. Ainley
Box 8, Alder Road
Bolinas, California 94924

Colony Censusing:

David A. Manuwal
College of Forest Resources
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195



Double-crested Cormorant

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THE CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

Three years ago when PSG was first organized, W. R. P. Bourne told me that if our organization followed the same path as the British Seabird Group, there would be two distinct periods in our early years. There would be an initial period of intense interest when people would be surprised at the number of others with common interests in seabirds. Once the contacts between these people had been made, the group would then need to have well defined goals and programs in order to remain a viable organization. PSG has gone through the first stage and is now entering the period when we will have to guard against becoming stagnant.

I am sorry to say that there are already signs of stagnation! The most serious is the failure of many of our original members to continue to support PSG, now that we are collecting dues. A strong and viable organization depends upon both support through dues payments as well as membership participation.

Much of PSG's success has been due to the growing interest in the marine environment caused by the increase in offshore drilling and tanker traffic resulting from the "energy crisis." (Our timing was so good that our first organizational meeting was held on the first "gasless Sunday" in December of 1973.) The recent wave of funding from the Outer Continental Shelf Energy Program has brought a large number of people into seabird research, and many of them have turned to the PSG to find out what studies on Pacific seabirds are in progress. The group cannot hope to have such good luck in the future. We will have to depend instead on a dedicated and active membership. I urge you to help the PSG by informing your regional representative of any new research or conservation issues in your area so that these can be put into the regional reports. I also urge you to inform me or any council member of ways in which the PSG can better meet its goals and your needs. I urge all of you to encourage others to become members of PSG, and I urge current members to keep their memberships up-to-date.

The 1977 meeting of the group will include a full-day symposium on shorebirds. In the past, PSG meetings have been dominated by papers on gulls and alcids, and it is hoped that this symposium will bring shorebird researchers into the group.

George J. Divoky



Northern Phalarope

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP NEWS

I. Business Proceedings of the Second Annual Meeting.

The 1975 meeting of the PSG Executive Council was held at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, California on 11 December 1975. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by chairman J. Michael Scott. The general membership participated in this meeting and is invited to continue to do so. The following matters were discussed.

POLICY STATEMENTS - A number of Council members wondered if policy statements were receiving adequate circulation, and it was decided to circulate all distribution lists to each Council member for additions.

Methods of increasing press coverage were also discussed. One member suggested releasing policy statements at annual meetings. This would allow the statements to be released at press conferences, where questions could be fielded by the authors of the statements. Photographs might also enhance the chances of a statement being picked-up by the press.

The Council approved the following procedure for the generation of policy statements:

- (1) Possible topics for policy statements should be brought to the attention of a Council member.
- (2) The person suggesting the topic, or another appropriate person, will write an informative background statement outlining the issue. If it's a potential problem (such as a proposed lease) the date of possible impact should be included. Every background statement will include the name(s) of those who have agreed to participate in writing the statement, if the Council votes to proceed.
- (3) All newly proposed and pending background statements will be sent to members of the Council. Each Council member will rank the statements or state which issues are inappropriate.
- (4) Rankings will be sent to the chairman, who will compile the results for the Council. Issues not clearly ranked will be further voted upon by the Council, and the two most pressing issues determined.
- (5) The chairman will contact the persons who have offered to write the two statements selected. When the rough draft is completed, it will be forwarded by the chairman to all Council members for review.
- (6) When the statement is approved by a majority of the Council members, it will be distributed to all persons and organizations involved, and it will be included in the next issue of the PSG Bulletin.

Possible topics for future policy statements include: (1) OCS and oil development, (2) 200-mile limit, (3) Hawaii bombing range, (4) Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, (5) Development in Puget Sound, (6) Aquaculture, (7) Beaufort Sea Oil Development, and (8) log rafts in Southeast Alaska. Persons willing to write statements on these and other issues will be contacted, or are urged to contact Chairman Divoky. Policy statements should offer constructive criticism and/or alternatives rather than just pointing out problems. They should include: (1) a statement of the problem, (2) data to show the severity of the problem, and (3) suggested alternatives.

WORKING COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS. Reports were given by committee coordinators:

Pelagic Censusing - Gerald Sanger reported that little progress has been made, but a booklet will be issued in the future.

Colony Censusing - David Manuwal reported that a booklet on techniques will be issued in 1976.

Conservation - Kenton Wohl asked that this committee be abolished since he believed the committee's duties were being accomplished elsewhere in the PSG.

Seabird Journal - James Bartonek suggested a yearly seabird publication containing scientific papers. W. R. P. Bourne has suggested such a publication, and has stated that he believes that with the growing number of seabird groups and interest in seabirds, it would be well-received. The Council approved the idea, but expressed reservations regarding quality control, publication lag time, and financial feasibility. More specifics are needed.

Field Guide Project - Ronald LeValley has approached Council members concerning PSG participation in the publishing of a field guide to eastern Pacific Seabirds. The Council voted not to become involved because of the magnitude of such a project and the chances of a poor-quality end-product without adequate funding.

J. R. Jehl suggested an alternative development of a series of species accounts, written by persons most closely associated with each species. These accounts can be mailed with the PSG Bulletin. Jehl will coordinate the early phases of the project.

DUTIES OF OFFICE HOLDERS - A list of duties had been circulated in October of 1975 to Council members for consideration. These were discussed, amended, and approved. This list is as follows:

Chairman

- (1) Oversee all activities of the Group.
- (2) Play a central role in the initiation, editing and distribution of PSG policy statements.
- (3) Act as official spokesman for the Group.
- (4) Designate people to carry out certain tasks not covered by the duties listed for other officers.
- (5) Chair the meeting of the Executive Council.
- (6) Inform the Executive Council of PSG activities.
- (7) Keep abreast of conservation issues and inform council members when appropriate.
- (8) Write a Chairman's Page for each PSG Bulletin.

Vice-Chairman

- (1) Carry out duties assigned to him by the Chairman.
- (2) Act as program chairman for the annual meeting by receiving and editing abstracts and sending abstracts to the Coordinator of Local Committee for inclusion in the program.
- (3) Investigate locations for future annual meetings. The Vice-Chairman should come to the council meeting with information on the location for the next meeting and a choice of two or three sites for the meeting to be held in two years.

Secretary

- (1) Receive membership applications, requests for Bulletins, etc.
- (2) Keep listing of current members on address labels.
- (3) Prepare bulk mailings of Bulletins, meeting announcements, etc.
- (4) Take minutes at annual council meeting.
- (5) Maintain a list of publications and organizations to receive notice of PSG meetings and other activities.
- (6) Serve as liaison to Coordinator of Local Committee.

Treasurer

- (1) Maintain PSG funds in a financial institution.
- (2) Receive receipts from persons authorized to spend PSG money and reimburse them by check.
- (3) Complete income tax statement and perform other duties relating to PSG's status as a tax-exempt group.
- (4) Prepare a treasurer's report for the annual meeting and Bulletin.
- (5) Receive income from dues and sale of Bulletin.

Regional Representatives

- (1) Contact seabird researchers in their region at least once a year and report all current research in the regional report.
- (2) Keep abreast of marine conservation issues in the region and report at least one of the issues in each regional report. Send newspaper clippings on important conservation issues to the Chairman.
- (3) Establish and maintain contact with local conservation groups so that PSG is aware of their activities and they are aware of PSG's.
- (4) Keep copies of all correspondence with seabird researchers and conservation groups.

Editor

- (1) Contact individuals and organizations concerning potential articles for the Bulletin.
- (2) Receive and edit regional reports, articles, bulletin board items, etc.
- (3) Produce text for Bulletin, staple in covers and send to Secretary for bulk mailing.

Non-Regional Representatives

- (1) Represent the PSG in areas away from the west coast of North America.
- (2) Report to the Chairman and the Council on conservation issues and research away from the west coast of North America.

Coordinator of Local Committee

- (1) Make arrangements for use of meeting facilities.
- (2) Produce a meeting announcement, pre-registration form and call for papers and send to Secretary for mailing.
- (3) Form and coordinate Local Committee.
- (4) Carry out activities outlined in PSG meeting instructions.
- (5) Keep records of all money spent and received and generate a budget statement after meeting.

Working Committee Coordinators

- (1) Report to the council the activities and accomplishments of the working group.

Election Committee Coordinator

- (1) Receive nominations for council seats.
- (2) Mail ballots.
- (3) Tabulate ballots and inform council members and the Editor.

MEETINGS - The Council agreed that more question-time was needed after papers at PSG meetings, and that symposia should have narrower topics when possible.

The timing of annual meetings was found to be unsatisfactory to a number of members, and some requested that meetings not always be held in December. The Council recommended that the registration fee for annual meetings be higher in order to bring funds into the treasury. A fee of \$5.00 will be the minimum charged. A number of locations for future (after 1976) meetings were discussed, and included LaPaz, Baja, California; San Diego, California; and the Alaska ferry. The 1976 meeting will be held again at Asilomar (see announcement below). Wayne Hoffman will explore these and other possible sites.

TREASURER'S REPORT, 1975

Receipts

Dues	\$1548.00
Grant-in-aid from National Audubon	250.00
Contribution from LGL Ltd.	250.00
	<u>\$2048.00</u>

Disbursements

Annual meeting expenses	\$1030.22
<u>PSG Bulletin</u>	474.46
Office Supplies	77.76
Chairman's expenses	7.80
Miscellaneous	37.60
	<u>\$1627.84</u>
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	420.16
Fund balance at beginning of year	<u>114.02</u>
Fund balance at end of year	\$534.18

George J. Divoky

NEW OFFICERS - The following officers were elected for 1976:

Chairman	George J. Divoky
Vice-Chairman	Wayne Hoffman
Secretary	David A. Manuwal
Treasurer	Kees Vermeer

A full list of new Council members is included on the back cover of this issue.

RESOLUTIONS - Four resolutions were adopted at the 1975 meeting:

Appreciation to the Local Committee

Whereas, the Pacific Seabird Groups Second Annual Meeting has to a large measure been a success because of the efforts of the Local Committee.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Pacific Seabird Group extends its appreciation to Paul Kelly, Chairman, Stephen Bailey, Alice Berkner, Ted Chandick, Thomas Harvey, Marilyn Kelly, John Luther, David Smith, Vern Yadon, Bob Yutzy, Carol Yutzy, and others for this effort which has reaped benefits to us all.

Marine Sanctuaries

Recognizing that the most critical requirement for the conservation and management of marine birds is the preservation of habitat for breeding, feeding, and resting during migration and,

Recognizing the existing requirements to conserve and manage marine bird resources under the

- (1) Convention for the Protection of Nature in the Western Hemisphere
- (2) International bilateral agreements and
- (3) National Legislation on marine sanctuaries and estuarine protection and,

Recognizing the delays that have occurred in the implementation of measures for habitat protection envisioned by these agreements and laws, the Pacific Seabird Group resolves that;

- (1) National governments and their respective sub-jurisdictions should take immediate steps to identify areas presently in need of protection and that
- (2) Particular attention should be given to the protection of breeding islands and estuarine feeding areas.
- (3) National governments implement the required management to protect identified areas and that
- (4) Protection should include control of visitation to protect breeding areas and control of man's activities including waste disposal, recreational activities, and shoreline development.

The 200-mile Limit

Recognizing the need to control the impact of man's activities on the ocean environment and

Recognizing the need for a coordinated approach to the conservation and management of the marine ecosystem and its living resources and

Recognizing the high probability of an extension of national jurisdictions to 200 nautical miles and

Recognizing the past and present focus of national governments individually and through the law of the Sea Conference on fisheries resources,

The Pacific Seabird Group resolves that national governments and the Law of the Sea Conference should recognize that

- (1) Seabirds are a resource of national and international value

- (2) This resource can be significantly impacted by man's activities on the ocean environment
- (3) This resource should be conserved and managed and
- (4) This conservation and management should entail both national action for resident species and international actions for highly migratory species

Therefore, the Pacific Seabird Group recommends to the respective national governments of its members Canada, Japan, Mexico, and the United States and to the Law of the Sea Conference that;

- (1) Living resource conservation and management in any expanded national jurisdiction explicitly include marine birds
- (2) Marine birds in international waters be explicitly recognized as an international resource to be conserved and managed
- (3) The Single Negotiating Text of the Law of the Sea Conference be modified to reflect these recommendations.

Alaskan Coastal Management

Whereas, the millions of seabirds inhabiting coastal Alaska are of high esthetic, scientific, subsistence, cultural and ecological value to people of the state, nation, and other countries.

Whereas, many of the coastal habitats of these marine birds are not under permanent protection.

Whereas, human impacts on these habitats are expected to accelerate as a result of resource development and human settlement along Alaska's coast.

Whereas, the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 provides an opportunity for the State to develop a coastal management program and implement a State coastal zone management act.

Whereas, such a coastal management act will establish a process whereby Alaskans can effectively influence decisions affecting the outstanding resource values along their coasts.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Pacific Seabird Group urges the State of Alaska to continue to strengthen its coastal management program and to adopt a coastal management plan at the earliest possible time.

Be it further resolved that the Pacific Seabird Group urges the State of Alaska to identify critical seabird habitats in such a plan and to develop the means by which long term protection is provided to these habitats.

II. Items of Interest.

NEXT PSG ANNUAL MEETING - The Pacific Seabird Group will hold its next annual meeting on 6-9 January 1977, at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, California. Members are urged to attend and to participate in the presentation of papers. Meeting announcements and calls for papers will be mailed out to members in early fall. A tentative program will hopefully be published in the next PSG Bulletin.

SHOREBIRD SYMPOSIUM - The next annual meeting of the PSG will include a symposium on shorebirds in marine environments, to be held all day Friday, January 7. It will emphasize shorebird research in marine environments along the Pacific Coast and in Alaska, but reports of studies elsewhere concerned with basic aspects of the biology and conservation of shorebirds will be included. Several contributions already in prospect will deal with the ecology and distribution of migrating and wintering populations. Breeding season information will also be offered if the habitats are littoral or tidal. The program will include several reports on conservation and management of coastal wetland habitats important to shorebirds. We hope to have some review papers, also. One on orientation mechanisms in shorebirds is already in prospect. Arrangements for publication of the symposium are being explored.

The program is being arranged by Frank A. Pitelka, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720. For additional information, or if you have any suggestions, write to him. An advisory committee for program and publication appointed by Chairman Divoky consists of James Bartonek, Joseph Jehl, Frank Pitelka, and himself ex officio.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN SEABIRD GROUP - Another seabird group has been formed in South Africa. PSG members are urged to support this new group, as they are anxious to have overseas members. This group has been stimulated by similar, successful groups such as the British, Pacific, and Australian Seabird Groups. At first, major interest will be devoted to those seabirds (coastal and pelagic) on the southern Africa list. It is not intended to include waders. Four broad fields of work will be emphasized in the early stages: (1) beached-bird census, (2) breeding colony censuses, (3) ocean observations, and (4) awareness. Further information can be had by writing John Cooper, University of Cape Town, c/o Southern African Seabird Group, Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology, Rondebosch, SOUTH AFRICA, 7700.

SIMPOSIO BINACIONAL: EL GOLFO DE CALIFORNIA - A symposium on the conservation of flora, fauna, and unique areas of the Gulf of California was held at Bahia de Kino, Sonora, Mexico on 5-6 March 1976. This was one of the first attempts to encourage international awareness for the Gulf of California, and the symposium was jointly sponsored by Instituto Mexicano "Matias Romero" de Estudios Diplomaticos, Universidad de Sonora, University of New Mexico Law School, and American Society of International Law. Political, legal, and biological aspects of Gulf resources were discussed. For those interested, the papers will appear in the July 1976 issue of Natural Resources Journal (Volume 16, Number 3).

ARIZONA SONORA DESERT MUSEUM, MEXICO UNIT - To promote conservation of the fauna and flora of the Sonoran Desert, the ASDM in Tucson, Arizona formed in 1974 a "Mexico Unit" under the direction of Carlos Nagel. Their program includes mostly international promotion of environmental interpretation and natural history education in the Sonora Desert Region. Seabirds of the Gulf of California are included in their interests.

STATUS OF THE SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS - In a letter to G. A. Sanger dated 16 January 1976, Y. Yamashina (Yamashina Institute for Ornithology, Japan) reports:

"For Torishima, the party from the N.H.K. (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) had landed on this Island on November 1973, and had counted the adults and subadults of the Short-tailed Albatrosses, the total of which were 62. Then in February 1974, the party from the N.H.K. again had landed on this Island and recorded 11 growing young in the colony. Therefore, it seems that there were 73 short-tailed Albatrosses on Torishima during the season from 1973 to 1974.

On Senkaku-Retto, Professor Sadao Ikehara had found 12 Short-tailed Albatrosses on April 1971, but since then, Taiwan has been asserting the property of these islands, and has been obstructing the approach of the ships of Japan, so we are unable to find out the present status.

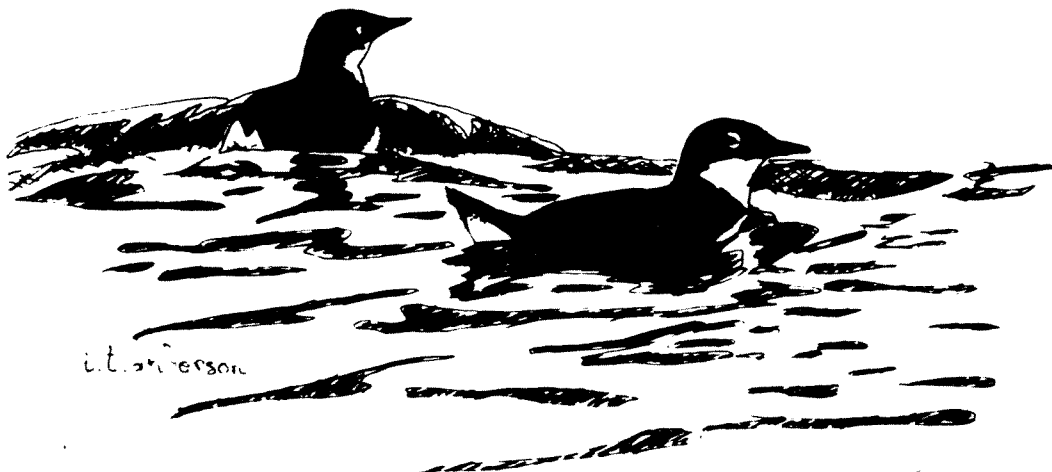
This is all I know about the current status of the Short-tailed Albatross. Please let me know if the Short-tailed Albatrosses are found in the North Pacific areas."

NEW DIRECTOR, POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY - Jane P. Church, formerly the Head Administrator from the Smithsonian's Pacific Project, was appointed the new Director of PRBO in California. She replaces John Smail.

NOMINATIONS FOR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES - Nominations are now open for Regional Representatives for Alaska, Washington, Northern California, Mexico, and Hawaii. Duties of these members of the PSG Executive Council are listed in this issue. Those interested in applying, or those knowing of some members willing to serve as representative should send nominations to David Ainley, Box 8, Alder Road, Bolinas, California 94924 before 15 October 1976. This is your chance to become involved.

PSG RESOLUTIONS - Proposed resolutions for each annual meeting should be brought by members to the meeting and presented to the Chairman for consideration by the Executive Council. If you will not be attending the meetings, your suggestions should be mailed to the Chairman beforehand.

NEW CENSUS TECHNIQUES MANUAL - The Canadian Wildlife Service has recently published a booklet entitled "Census Techniques for Seabirds of Arctic and Eastern Canada" (D. N. Nettleship, Occasional Paper No. 25, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, 1976). This excellent publication can be obtained by writing the author at CWS, Ontario Region, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0H3.



REGIONAL REPORTS

I. Alaska

The frenzy of field activity started by the Outer Continental Shelf Energy Program in 1975 is continuing into 1976. A number of new projects have been added to the program and Kotzebue and Norton Sounds are now receiving increased attention.

PELAGIC STUDIES - The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a large study of seabird distribution in all of the seas adjoining Alaska. Specific pelagic studies include a shearwater ecology and behavior study by Guzman and Myres of the University of Calgary; a study of community structure, distribution, and inter-relationships of marine birds in the Gulf of Alaska by Wiens at Oregon State University; Divoky of Alaska Fish and Game is studying the relationships of birds to the pack ice.

BREEDING COLONY STUDIES - USFWS has personnel at a number of colonies gathering information on breeding biology. Hickey and Craighead of the University of Wisconsin are censusing seabirds breeding on St. George Island. Hunt of UC, Irvine is conducting baseline studies of Pribilof Island seabirds. The evolution and pathobiology of the Gulf of Alaska Herring Gull group is being studied by Patten of The Johns Hopkins University. Drury of College of the Atlantic is studying the colonial seabirds on the south side of Seward Peninsula and King and St. Lawrence Islands. Roseneau of Renewable Resources is studying the bird colonies at Capes Thompson and Lisburne.

COASTAL AND SHOREBIRD STUDIES - Shields and Peyton of the University of Alaska are studying the birds on the south side of the Seward Peninsula. Michelson and Schamel are studying the waterfowl and shorebirds in the area of Cape Espenberg in Kotzebue Sound. Shorebirds in Arctic littoral habitats are being studied by Connors of Bodega Marine Laboratory. Senner of the Alaska Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Alaska is studying the food habits of migrating Dunlins and Western Sandpipers in the Copper River Delta. Arneson and Divoky of Alaska Fish and Game are mapping the coastal habitat throughout the state.

Studies are continuing in the Aleutian Island National Wildlife Refuge under Byrd. These include work on colonial species on Buldir Island as well as census work in other parts of the refuge.

George J. Divoky
Regional Representative
Alaska

II. British Columbia.

CURRENT RESEARCH - Various projects are listed below:

- (1) A Ph.D. study on Black Oystercatchers on Cleland Island, West Vancouver Island, British Columbia is in its third year of a four-year program. The study is undertaken by Sarah Groves.
- (2) A Master's study on crow predation of Pelagic Cormorants has been initiated this year by Robert Butler on Mittlenatch Island, Strait of Georgia, British Columbia.
- (3) Some aspects of the biology of Glaucous-winged Gulls, Strait of Georgia are being studied by a master's student under supervision of Jamie Smith.
- (4) A transmountain pipeline, to transport oil from Kitimat, British Columbia to Edmonton, Alberta has been proposed. A pipeline terminal may be built at Kitimat. The terminal will receive tankers from Valdez, Alaska. Oil will be transported to Juan de Fuca Strait, regardless whether oil will be transported to Kitimat. Because of the potential oil threat to seabirds nesting in the Queen Charlotte Islands and to birds at sea at the approaches of the proposed pipeline terminal at Kitimat, a pilot program is presently being initiated concerning itself with the collection of baseline information on seabird colonies along the west coast of the Queen Charlotte Islands. An inventory is also planned this fall and winter on numbers, species, and distribution of birds at sea in inlets and estuaries near Kitimat. Project leader of the above investigations is K. Vermeer, Canadian Wildlife Service.
- (5) A study has been initiated this summer on Rhinoceros Auklets and Tufted Puffins on Triangle Island, situated at the northwest end of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The study will concern itself with inventories on breeding numbers of those species, their breeding chronology, reproductive success and nesting habitat preferences. Triangle Island has the largest Tufted Puffin and Cassin Auklet breeding colonies in British Columbia. Project leader is K. Vermeer, Canadian Wildlife Service.
- (6) A cooperate inventory on Double-crested Cormorant colonies is being conducted in British Columbia and Washington State. D. A. Manuwal, J. B. Foster, R. W. Campbell, and G. Hocutt are some of the investigators.
- (7) A wall map of seabird colonies of Vancouver Island and vicinity will be published in September of 1976. The Compiler is R. W. Campbell.
- (8) The Canadian Environmental Protection Service produces an "oil counter measures map series" showing a. o. bird concentrations at sea along the British Columbia coast. The maps are valuable, as the title indicates, in determining where seabirds will be most at hazard from potential oil spills. Project leader is I. R. Robertson, Environmental Protection Service.

- (9) R. H. Drent, R. W. Campbell, and C. J. Guiguet are in the process of writing a book on the seabirds of British Columbia which will replace an older existing catalogue on the subject, entitled: "A catalogue of British Columbia seabird colonies" by R. H. Drent and C. J. Guiguet, British Columbia Provincial Museum, Occasional Papers 12:1-73, 1961. The new catalogue will also be published by the Museum in the Occasional Paper series and is expected to be published by September 1976.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- (1) A new region or division of the Canadian Wildlife Service has been established on the Canadian West Coast since April 1, 1976. The new region encompasses British Columbia and the Yukon. The regional Canadian Wildlife Service headquarters is at 5421 Robertson Road, Delta, British Columbia. The director is Mr. Gordon Staines.
- (2) An Institute of Ocean Sciences of the Canadian Department of the Environment is presently being built at Patricia Bay, a 25-minute automobile drive from Victoria, Vancouver Island. The new research centre for marine sciences is expected to be in full operation by late 1977.
- (3) Two coastal pelagic voyages, lasting two weeks each, were made on the west coast of Vancouver Island January and November, 1975. Michael Sheppard was in charge of those excursions.
- (4) A 3-week course dealing specifically with seabirds will be taught from August 16 to September 4, 1976 at Bamfield Marine Station, a new marine laboratory on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Instructors are S. C. Sealy and R. W. Campbell.
- (5) Canadian External Affairs Minister, A. MacEachen announced June 4, 1976, that Canada will unilaterally extend its fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles on January 1, 1977. The United States will extend its limits next March 1 and Mexico has already extended the limit.

Kees Vermeer
Regional Representative
British Columbia

III. Washington. No report received.

David A. Manuwal
Regional Representative
Washington

IV. Oregon. No report received.

Wayne Hoffman
Regional Representative
Oregon

V. Northern California.

CURRENT RESEARCH - Items of current research are listed below:

- (1) Offshore Surveys: Programs in central, northcentral and northern California (California Department of Fish and Game and California State University, San Jose; Point Reyes Bird Observatory; and California State University, Humboldt, respectively) remain as described in Bull. 2(2).
- (2) Coastal and Estuarine Surveys: Studies in central California (Point Reyes Bird Observatory) and Humboldt Bay (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service) continue, as described in the previous Bulletin. Morro Coast Audubon Society, in conjunction with California Department of Fish and Game, has been conducting regular censuses of birds in Estero Bay, southcentral California.
- (3) Beached Bird Surveys: The Point Reyes Bird Observatory project has continued to expand and now includes about 60 beaches, regularly censused, between Cape Mendocino and San Diego. With the help of Chevron Research, Incorporated, the data are now being computerized and programs for their analysis are being formed.
- (4) Pollutants in Marine Ecosystems: In addition to work described in the previous report (Bodega Marine Laboratories; Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Biology, U. C. Davis), Richard Grau and Tom Roudybush (Department of Avian Sciences, U. C. Davis) in cooperation with Point Reyes Bird Observatory are initiating work on the effects of oil ingestion on reproduction in seabirds.
- (5) Trophic Relationships: Work continues as described earlier (Moss Landing Marine Laboratories; Point Reyes Bird Observatory; Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Biology, U. C. Davis; California Department of Fish and Game).
- (6) Behavior: Douglas Nelson (University of Michigan) has begun a study of the behavioral taxonomy of alcids, working principally at the Farallon Islands. Point Reyes Bird Observatory has begun an analysis of Black Oystercatcher feeding behavior. Judith Hand (University of California, Los Angeles) has yet to finish her work on vocalizations of Western Gulls.
- (7) Taxonomy and Morphology: G. Victor Morejohn (California State University, San Jose) continues his work on the fossil marine avifauna of the central California region. Barbara Margolis (CSU, San Francisco) has been studying the musculature of alcids. Diane Mathieson (CSU, San Jose) is analyzing the bird material found in Indian middens of coastal central California.
- (8) Breeding Biology and Ecology: Point Reyes Bird Observatory continues their work on the twelve seabird species breeding at the Farallon Islands. Intensive observations on known-age populations of Brandt's Cormorants and Western Gulls have begun.

- (9) R. H. Drent, R. W. Campbell, and C. J. Guiguet are in the process of writing a book on the seabirds of British Columbia which will replace an older existing catalogue on the subject, entitled: "A catalogue of British Columbia seabird colonies" by R. H. Drent and C. J. Guiguet, British Columbia Provincial Museum, Occasional Papers 12:1-73, 1961. The new catalogue will also be published by the Museum in the Occasional Paper series and is expected to be published by September 1976.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- (1) A new region or division of the Canadian Wildlife Service has been established on the Canadian West Coast since April 1, 1976. The new region encompasses British Columbia and the Yukon. The regional Canadian Wildlife Service headquarters is at 5421 Robertson Road, Delta, British Columbia. The director is Mr. Gordon Staines.
- (2) An Institute of Ocean Sciences of the Canadian Department of the Environment is presently being built at Patricia Bay, a 25-minute automobile drive from Victoria, Vancouver Island. The new research centre for marine sciences is expected to be in full operation by late 1977.
- (3) Two coastal pelagic voyages, lasting two weeks each, were made on the west coast of Vancouver Island January and November, 1975. Michael Sheppard was in charge of those excursions.
- (4) A 3-week course dealing specifically with seabirds will be taught from August 16 to September 4, 1976 at Bamfield Marine Station, a new marine laboratory on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Instructors are S. C. Sealy and R. W. Campbell.
- (5) Canadian External Affairs Minister, A. MacEachen announced June 4, 1976, that Canada will unilaterally extend its fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles on January 1, 1977. The United States will extend its limits next March 1 and Mexico has already extended the limit.

Kees Vermeer
Regional Representative
British Columbia

III. Washington. No report received.

David A. Manuwal
Regional Representative
Washington

IV. Oregon. No report received.

Wayne Hoffman
Regional Representative
Oregon

V. Northern California.

CURRENT RESEARCH - Items of current research are listed below:

- (1) Offshore Surveys: Programs in central, northcentral and northern California (California Department of Fish and Game and California State University, San Jose; Point Reyes Bird Observatory; and California State University, Humboldt, respectively) remain as described in Bull. 2(2).
- (2) Coastal and Estuarine Surveys: Studies in central California (Point Reyes Bird Observatory) and Humboldt Bay (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service) continue, as described in the previous Bulletin. Morro Coast Audubon Society, in conjunction with California Department of Fish and Game, has been conducting regular censuses of birds in Estero Bay, southcentral California.
- (3) Beached Bird Surveys: The Point Reyes Bird Observatory project has continued to expand and now includes about 60 beaches, regularly censused, between Cape Mendocino and San Diego. With the help of Chevron Research, Incorporated, the data are now being computerized and programs for their analysis are being formed.
- (4) Pollutants in Marine Ecosystems: In addition to work described in the previous report (Bodega Marine Laboratories; Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Biology, U. C. Davis), Richard Grau and Tom Roudybush (Department of Avian Sciences, U. C. Davis) in cooperation with Point Reyes Bird Observatory are initiating work on the effects of oil ingestion on reproduction in seabirds.
- (5) Trophic Relationships: Work continues as described earlier (Moss Landing Marine Laboratories; Point Reyes Bird Observatory; Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Biology, U. C. Davis; California Department of Fish and Game).
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- (8) Breeding Biology and Ecology: Point Reyes Bird Observatory continues their work on the twelve seabird species breeding at the Farallon Islands. Intensive observations on known-age populations of Brandt's Cormorants and Western Gulls have begun.

CONSERVATION NOTES - The proportion of oiled seabirds found on California beaches in 1975 remained at the 18-19 percent level reported for 1974, but 1975 data did not include several hundred birds oiled in spills off San Mateo County (Point Reyes Bird Observatory).

David G. Ainley
Regional Representative
Northern California

VI. Southern California. No report received.

Joseph R. Jehl, Jr.
Regional Representative
Southern California

VII. Mexico. No report received.

Bernardo Villa-Ramirez
Regional Representative
Mexico

VIII. Hawaii.

CURRENT RESEARCH - Recent research on Hawaiian seabirds has been limited, for the most part, to long-standing projects, such as the National Park Service population studies in the Dark-rumped Petrel Colony in Halaeakala National Park. Fred Zeillemaker, of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has also been recording population data on several seabird species at the Kilauea Lighthouse on Kauai. The only permit issued for research on the offshore islands in recent months involves a study of influenza virus transmission in seabirds by Dr. Alan Granoff visiting professor at the University of Hawaii. The study originates from his home institution, Saint Jude Childrens Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. He and his staff sampled Sooty Terns, Noddies, Shearwaters, Boobies, and petrels in an attempt to identify as many different strains of virus as possible. He hypothesizes that frequent changes in human influenza that cannot be explained by mutation are possibly the result of new strains transmitted from birds, particularly migratory species. He hopes to identify several avian strains, and will probably sample albatrosses at Midway next year.

CONSERVATION NOTES - Three issues of significance to seabird conservation in Hawaii are now being debated. The state Division of Fish and Game has recently issued a proposed revised regulation (REG 7) for public comment that would establish the "Hawaii State Seabird Sanctuary." Several offshore islets in the Main Islands are nesting sites for as many as 15 species of seabirds, but only a few are currently well protected by law. This revised regulation would expand protection to 37 "State owned or controlled islands, islets and rocks." There are many restrictions in the proposed regulation, but the most controversial one is the prohibition of camping on these islets. A few have been used for years by fishermen and weekend campers, but the tremendous increase in use, and resultant disturbance to birds, has prompted this regulation change. The issue is now being debated at public hearings and will probably be decided during the summer.

As in the past, permit applications for scientific and educational use of the sanctuary islets will be reviewed by the Board of Land and Natural Resources. It appears that research work will be encouraged where compatible with the wildlife conservation objectives.

Another issue, still very much undecided, is the fate of the current boundary dispute in the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge (Leeward Isles). The congressional decision regarding wilderness designation for this area is still held up by the boundary dispute. State and Federal officials are still not in agreement regarding the advisability of commercial fishing within inshore waters of the Refuge. It now appears that the dispute will lead to a joint research program to investigate the potential for commercial fishing in the Refuge and the impact of fishing on other resources. It is expected that National Marine Fisheries will also be involved. A preliminary trip was taken into the Refuge during May 1976, to begin planning for a more comprehensive study.

An issue of indirect significance to Hawaiian seabirds involves current dispute regarding the return of Kahoolawe Island to the State. The island has been used as a military bombing target for many years, and military officials are protesting its return to the State on the grounds that targets such as Kahoolawe are critical to combat training. Kahoolawe itself is of little significance to seabirds, but Kaula Island, near Niihau, is very important as a nesting site. A portion of this island has also been utilized as a bombing site in recent years, and biologists are concerned that a return of Kahoolawe to the State under tremendous public pressure would then lead to intensified military use of Kaula Island, as an alternative. The impact of expanded bombing on Kaula could be serious, and the issue is being watched closely by conservationists in the State.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- (1) Members of the Hawaii Audubon Society are producing a cassette/record of Hawaiian birds, including seabirds, and would like to know of persons who have high quality sound recordings of these species, that would permit use of their tapes for this production. Wherever possible, we would like to have information about sound equipment, conditions of recording and bird behavior. Anyone interested in contributing to this endeavor, please contact Dr. Robert Shallenberger, c/o Ahuimanu Productions, P. O. Box 1166, Kailua, HI 96734.
- (2) A revised edition of the field guide, "Hawaii's Birds," prepared by the Hawaii Audubon Society, is now available for mail order sale. This full color guide has just been updated, and sells for \$3. Orders should be sent to the HAS, P. O. Box 5032, Honolulu, HI 96814.

Robert J. Shallenberger
Regional Representative
Hawaii

IX. Nonregional Reports

CURRENT RESEARCH (JAPAN) - All the studies listed below are being conducted through Hokkaido University in Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan:

- (1) Morphology and feeding ecology of alcids are being studied from 3 June to 10 August 1976 in the Bering Sea by the RV Habomai Maru No. 21. Principal Investigator: H. Ogi.
- (2) Heavy metal concentrations (Cd, Zn) in seabirds of the Bering Sea. Principal Investigator: T. Hamanaka.
- (3) Relationship between seabird distribution and neuston in the northern North Pacific. Principal Investigators: M. Kamba and H. Ogi.

Harou Ogi
Regional Representative
At-Large

CURRENT RESEARCH (CENTRAL-SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST) - An opportunity has developed to census the seabirds on the continental shelf waters in cooperation with oceanographic work of the National Marine Fisheries. This has grown out of the NOAA environmental assessment program for the Gulf of Maine. Hopefully these studies will bring our knowledge of the numbers distribution and movements of seabirds up to the level achieved by the Canadians.

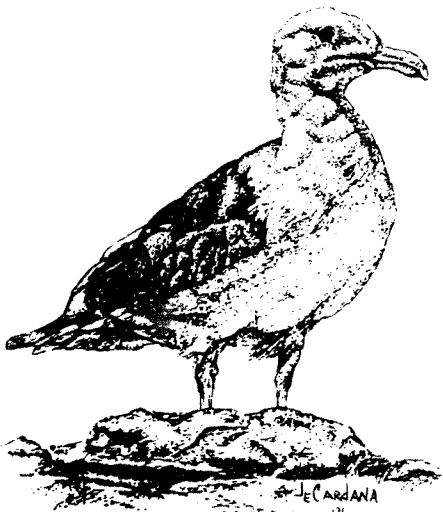
The Fish and Wildlife Service, cooperating with a number of local groups, is continuing the program begun in 1975 to define the distribution of and to census colonial wading birds from Maine to Florida. This year the program has been expanded to include censusing of colonial seabirds by personnel of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Units.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's Patuxent group is continuing detailed studies of colonial nesting wading birds as potential indicators of industrial pollution. This work includes cooperators from several conservation organizations, colleges, and universities.

The National Audubon Society Staff is continuing its long-term study of Wood Storks looking forward to formulating a management program.

The Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology is gathering data on present and historical distributions and numbers of wading species. These data will be entered into a computer archive - The Colonial Bird Register.

William H. Drury
Regional Representative
At-Large



Yellow-footed Western Gull

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS GIVEN: 1975 ANNUAL MEETING

- I. Symposium, Seabird Conservation Problems on the California Coasts; Daniel W. Anderson, Chairman; 8:10-12:00 am, 12 December.

OIL AND CALIFORNIA SEABIRDS: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

John Smail
Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Bolinas, California

Abstract: In recent years the California coast has witnessed at least three major oil pollution incidents resulting in damage to seabirds. This problem is at least 70 years old and the eyecatching drama of the larger episodes tends to obscure the constant attrition from day-to-day pollution.

This paper examines the loss to seabirds from major and minor incidents in California, draws a profile of the oil-vulnerable species, and evaluates the potential danger from future oil installations and tanker traffic along the California Coast. It draws from the experience of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory's Beached Bird Census which was begun after the 1971 San Francisco oilspill and has developed into a statewide operation.

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN: ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY TEAM APPROACH

Ronald Jurek
California Least Tern Recovery Team, California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California

Abstract: The Endangered Species Act of 1973 directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce, in cooperation with the United States and other Federal entities, to carry out a national program for the conservation of species of fish, wildlife and plants facing extinction. Regional directors within the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the lead agency in this conservation effort, have appointed recovery teams to prepare, coordinate, and implement plans for endangered species restoration programs.

The California Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons browni*) Recovery Team was formally appointed in April 1975. The team comprises seven biologists from Federal, State, County and academic affiliations. All members are experienced in Least Tern research and management. This team coordinated nest site enhancement and protection for the 1975 tern breeding season and coordinated a breeding population survey.

The team is charged with the task of preparing a California Least Tern Recovery Plan. This plan will serve as a guide for an orderly approach in preserving this endangered bird. A Recovery Plan is a formal presentation of the problem; it sets management goals and provides a list of necessary actions and a timetable for completing them. A recovery plan for the Least Tern will be maintained and updated yearly until complete recovery has been achieved and this subspecies is returned to nonendangered status.

BLM BASELINE STUDIES IN EVALUATING IMPACT OF OCS DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Herb Hyatt

Bureau of Land Management, Los Angeles, California

Abstract: The Bureau of Land Management's involvement in the marine environment has come about with the requirement to obtain information regarding the existing environment of the outer continental shelf (OCS). The need for this information has a high priority at the present time due to the increased emphasis on extraction of petroleum resources from the country's OCS areas. In general, the information collected fulfills three basic requirements: 1) it provides input data for the environmental assessment required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 2) it provides information that may modify the offshore leasing program in order to protect the environment, and 3) it provides information to be used in the decision-making processes with respect to tract selection, tract leasing, and special tract-use stipulations.

The Environmental Studies Program of BLM has been designed to insure that environmental studies are conducted to provide the information required before OCS development occurs. The Environmental Studies Program initiates up to four phases of data acquisition over the period of pre-drilling to oil-field depletion. The first phase consists of a summary of OCS environmental knowledge, which assembles all known and pertinent OCS information. This process allows a determination on existing data gaps to be made. The second phase is the baseline sampling which establishes an environmental benchmark, thus allowing detection of changes which may occur in the future. Primary emphasis is placed on the chemical indices (hydrocarbons and tract metals). The third phase is termed special studies, which includes study programs which are important to the program. Examples of special studies might include toxicity studies, or pollutant trajectory models. The fourth phase is the monitoring study which allows the detection of environmental changes relative to the benchmark data of phase two.

In southern California, phase one has been completed, and phase two is currently in progress. In addition, a special study (which augments the phase two data) is also being completed. The study is designed to determine the location and abundance of marine mammals and sea birds around the Channel Islands. Phases one and two are expected to begin off central and northern California, and Oregon and Washington within one year.

SEABIRD CONSERVATION PROBLEMS IN MEXICO, EMPHASIZING RASA ISLAND

Bernardo Villa-Ramirez

Universidad Nacional Autonoma,

Instituto Biologia, Laboratorio de Mastazologia,

Mexico City, Mexico

Abstract: None submitted.

HUMAN IMPACT ON SEABIRDS OFF BAJA, CALIFORNIA: AN INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION PROBLEM

Daniel W. Anderson
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Davis, California

Abstract: Judging mainly from studies on Brown Pelicans (Pelecanus occidentalis) and Heermann's Gulls (Larus heermanni), disturbances by tourists, fishermen, and scientists can be seriously disruptive to breeding seabirds in colonies off Baja, California. The problems of human disruptive are far from unique off Baja, California, and similar cases are documented throughout the world. The increasing human-seabird contacts in the waters of the Gulf of California and West Coast of Baja, California however, raise serious questions and immediate concern for the future preservation of nesting colonies in that area. The Pacific Seabird Group has already expressed a position of concern on this issue, and here I want to renew this concern by presenting more data on the problem and its potential effects.

California
Brown
Pelican

