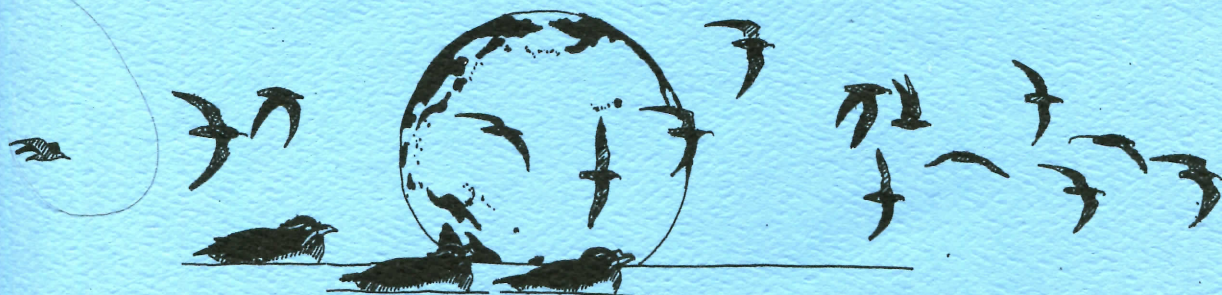


S. G. Sealy

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP



BULLETIN

Vol. 2

Fall 1975

No. 2

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-Treasurer (address on back cover). Members receive the PSG Bulletin.

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP BULLETIN

The Pacific Seabird Group Bulletin is issued in the spring 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 Secretary-Treasurer. Back issues of the Bulletin (starting with spring 1974) are available from the Secretary-Treasurer for \$2.50 each.

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PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP BULLETIN

Volume 2

Fall 1975

Number 2

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THE CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

The recent increase in interest in seabirds and their environment is largely a result of the threat posed by offshore oil development and increased overwater transportation of petroleum products. Increased demands will continue to be placed on marine ecosystems as a result of the above factors as well as mineral development, urbanization of coastal areas, increased recreation, and exploitation of marine fishery resources (fish, crustaceans and molluscs). All of these have the potential for conflict with seabirds and their needs.

The recent decline of seabird populations in Peru and the failure of the anchoveta fishery in that country have dramatically pointed out the potential for conflict between man and birds when we exploit the same resources. There exist a number of fisheries or potential fisheries worldwide where similar conflicts may exist.

Long-term management strategies for marine resources should identify the demands placed on the exploited resources by the "native consumers" and determine the maximum sustainable yield taking these figures into consideration. Such an evaluation was made for the Peruvian fishery, but it ignored the role of migrant species. Studies have shown that in the North Pacific migrant procellariiformes place the greatest energetic demands on prey resources.

Any attempt to evaluate the potential conflicts between human and avian uses of our marine environments needs to be based on information concerning the distribution (temporal and spatial), abundance, population dynamics, feeding ecology, vulnerability to disturbance and breeding ecology of seabirds. Some of this information is presently available, but more is needed and it is important that we begin to synthesize the available information and design and execute studies which allow us to define more explicitly the role of birds in the trophic dynamics of marine ecosystems. Two additional topics which come to mind are: the combined effects of various mortality agents on the population dynamics of seabirds and the importance of specific nesting, loafing and feeding areas to seabird populations. Such studies may allow us to anticipate, rather than react to, potential conflicts which arise in the future.

J. Michael Scott
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PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP NEWS

Apologies and Explanations

The Fall 1975 issue of the Bulletin is being issued in 1976 due to PSG being a victim of its own success. The response to the dues notice in the Spring 1975 Bulletin overworked the existing machinery of the Group. Steps have been taken to allocate workloads so that PSG can operate more smoothly in the future. Your patience is appreciated.

Executive Council Election Results

Six seats on the Executive Council were up for election for 1976-77. Only those people living in the regions listed below were sent ballots. The list of candidates with the winners underlined is given below:

British Columbia - Kees Vermeer, R. Wayne Campbell

Oregon - Wayne Hoffman

Southern California - Joseph R. Jehl, Jr.

Non-regional (three seats open) - William H. Drury, C. Eugene Knoder,
Harou Ogi, R. G. B. Brown, Paul A. Buckley, Harvey I. Fisher,
Patrick J. Gould, Warren B. King, Ralph W. Schreiber

We thank the Point Reyes Bird Observatory for supplying postage for the ballots. Helen C. Strong helped to prepare, send and count the ballots. David G. Ainley, Election Committee Chairman.

LGL Donates \$250 to PSG

LGL Ltd., a Canadian environmental consulting firm, donated \$250 to PSG in February 1975. The money allowed the Group to issue the Spring 1975 Bulletin without going into debt. PSG expresses its appreciation to William Gunn and the other directors of LGL for this generous gift.

International Symposium on Northern North American Seabirds

A major seabird symposium was held in Seattle on 13-15 May 1975. Entitled "Conservation of Marine Birds of Northern North America," the symposium had paper sessions on the marine environment of birds, the status of marine bird populations, the biology and ecology of marine birds in the north, conflicts between the conservation of marine birds and the uses of other resources, programs and authorities related to marine bird conservation, and the conservation of marine birds in other lands.

The symposium was a sign of how far seabirds have come in the last few years. Funding for the event was lavish. Foreign seabird experts were flown to Seattle and the cost of the cocktail party on the first night of the symposium could have paid for two or three master's research projects. Sponsors included the Natural Resource Council of America, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Audubon Society, and the National Wildlife Federation. PSG aided in the planning stages.

The symposium consisted of invited papers given by authorities in the categories given above. The papers will be published by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Persons wishing to order a copy of the proceedings should contact James C. Bartonek, USFWS, 800 A Street, Anchorage, Alaska, 99701.

PSG Annual Meeting at Asilomar, 7-9 January 1977

Make plans now to attend the next meeting of PSG at Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California. Paper sessions will be on the 7th and 8th of January with field trips on the 9th. Details will be announced in the next Bulletin.

REGIONAL REPORTS

The following reports contain a summary of current research and conservation issues in each region. Persons knowing of additional research or conservation issues of note should contact the appropriate regional representative.

Alaska

Current Research

The proposed leasing of areas on the outer continental shelf has brought with it a major research program to obtain basic information on the marine system. The following projects are being funded as part of the Outer Continental Shelf Assessment Program being conducted by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Pelagic Studies - The largest study of birds at sea is being conducted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (800 A Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501). Calvin Lensink and James Bartonek are the principal investigators. Observers are being put aboard NOAA, Coast Guard, and other vessels throughout the year in an attempt to determine pelagic bird densities in waters off Alaska. Juan Guzman and M. T. Myres of the Department of Biology, University of Calgary, are studying the ecology and behavior of southern hemisphere shearwaters and other seabirds over the outer continental shelf of the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska during the northern summer. John A. Wiens of the Department of Zoology, Oregon State University, is studying community structure, distribution and interrelationship of marine birds in the Gulf of Alaska. The distribution, abundance and feeding ecology of birds associated with the Bering, Chukchi and Beaufort Sea pack ice are being studied by George J. Divoky of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (1300 College Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701).

Breeding Colony Studies - Lensink and Bartonek of USFWS are heading a statewide program which will have crews at a number of colonies. Joseph J. Hickey and Lance Craighead of the University of Wisconsin are conducting a census of birds breeding on St. George Island in the Pribilof Islands. Baseline studies of Pribilof Island seabirds are being conducted by George Hunt of the Department of Population and Environmental Biology, University of California, Irvine. Samuel Patten of the Department of Biology, Johns Hopkins University, is studying evolution and pathobiology of the Gulf of Alaska Herring Gull group (Larus argentatus x Larus glaucescens).

Coastal and Shorebird Studies - Peter Connors of Bodega Marine Laboratory, University of California, is studying shorebird dependence on Arctic littoral habitats. Stan Senner of the Alaska Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Alaska, is studying the food habits of migrating Dunlins and Western Sandpipers in the Copper River Delta. Douglas Schamel, Institute of Marine Science, University of Alaska, obtained information on the avifaunal utilization of an offshore island near Prudhoe Bay during the summer of 1972 while he was studying breeding eiders. As part of the OCS program

he will be writing up his information. Birds of the coastal habitats on the south shore of the Seward Peninsula are being studied by William H. Drury of College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine. Paul Arneson and George Divoky of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are heading a project on the identification, documentation and delineation of coastal migratory bird habitat in Alaska.

Other OCS Studies - Ecosystem dynamics of marine birds and mammals are being studied by Michael Tillman, National Marine Fisheries Service, Seattle. The USFWS program has studies on population dynamics, trophic relationships, migration and colony censusing being funded outside OCS.

A number of studies are being conducted in the Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Range. Duff Wehle and Bob Day are studying the feeding ecology of Horned and Tufted Puffins. G. Vernon Byrd is studying the breeding biology of the Aleutian Canada Goose on Buldir Island. Leach's and Fork-tailed Petrels, Red and Black-legged Kittiwakes and Red-Faced Cormorants are being studied by G. Vernon Byrd and John Trapp. All studies are being conducted through the Aleutian Island National Wildlife Refuge (Box 5251, Adak).

Conservation Notes

The U. S. Department of the Interior has announced it will hold an oil and gas lease in the Gulf of Alaska. The Environmental Protection Agency and the President's Council on Environmental Quality have both objected to the lease and the State of Alaska plans to sue the Federal government in order to delay the lease. The harsh climate in the Gulf and the frequency of seismic activity have been major factors cited by those urging postponement of the lease. 1.1 million acres in the north-east section of the Gulf will be leased.

Regional representative for Alaska - George J. Divoky.

British Columbia

No report received.

Washington

Current Research

University of Puget Sound - (Department of Biology, Tacoma, Washington 98416). Biology of an endangered population of Caspian Tern in Grays Harbor, Washington. Investigator: Steven Penland.

The first year of a two year study has been completed. Important aspects being investigated include colony movements within Grays Harbor, reproductive biology and gull-tern interactions during the breeding season. Apparently Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls are increasing rapidly at the Caspian Tern nesting stations.

University of Washington - (Wildlife Science Group, College of Forest Resources, Seattle, Washington 98195). Major emphasis is on the comparative biology of alcids, the Rhinoceros Auklet and Cassin's Auklet in particular. The following account summarizes the progress of these studies.

1. Breeding biology of the Rhinoceros Auklet on Destruction Island, Washington. Investigator: Lora L. Leschner.

The field work phase of this study has now been completed. Ms. Leschner is in the process of writing a Master's thesis on this study. Important aspects of the study include timing and synchrony of egg-laying, growth rates, diet composition, predation and activity cycles.

2. Ecology and competitive relationships of the Black Oystercatcher on Destruction Island. Investigator: David Nysewander.

This study has also been completed and a thesis is in preparation. Major aspects of this study are: activity cycles, foraging strategies, predation and reproductive biology.

3. Population ecology of the Rhinoceros Auklet on Smith Island National Wildlife Refuge. Investigator: David A. Manuwal.

This investigation was temporarily terminated because of lack of funds and other commitments on the part of the investigator.

4. Baseline survey of marine birds in Puget Sound. Investigator: David A. Manuwal.

This study was initiated in 1973 with the objective of assessing the abundance, distribution, species composition and habitat preferences of marine birds in the Puget Sound area. The large scope of the study necessitated using volunteers to make twice monthly censuses along ferry routes and terrestrial observation points. The study is being continued in 1975-76.

Conservation Notes

The undeveloped portion of Protection Island recently purchased by the Washington State Game Department was dedicated May 30, 1975 as the Zella Schultz Seabird Sanctuary. Zella Schultz was a well-known local bird artist and active member of the Seattle Audubon Society. She spent many years banding Glaucous-winged Gulls on Protection Island and other localities in Washington.

Regional representative for Washington - David A. Manuwal.

Oregon

No report received.

Northern California

Current Research

Offshore Surveys - Bruce Elliott and Robert Gill (California Department of Fish and Game, Felton) in cooperation with G. V. Morejohn (California State University, San Jose) are conducting regular surveys along a fixed transect in Monterey Bay, central California. Point Reyes Bird Observatory censuses birds weekly along a 30 mile transect in the Gulf of the Farallones, northcentral California. Stanley Harris and Ron LeValley (California State University, Humboldt) are conducting regular surveys out of Eureka, in extreme northern California. Observations on seabirds are made by California Department of Fish and Game incidentally on oceanographic vessels monitoring the California Current as part of the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations.

Coastal and Estuarine Surveys - Point Reyes Bird Observatory censuses at frequent regular intervals several large estuaries and coastal bays of central California. Paul Springer (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arcata) censuses birds in coastal bays and estuaries, particularly Humboldt Bay, in extreme northern California. California Department of Fish and Game (H. Leach, Sacramento) has conducted a census of seabirds nesting on offshore rocks along the entire coast of California.

Beached Bird Surveys - Point Reyes Bird Observatory samples about 20 beaches regularly between Morro Bay in southcentral California and Cape Mendocino in northern California. Several beaches are also being censused in southern California. G. V. Morejohn and students have been conducting a survey of a beach near Moss Landing in central California.

Pollutants in Marine Ecosystems - Robert Risebrough (University of California, Bodega Marine Laboratories) is monitoring levels of hydrocarbon, organochlorine and heavy metal pollutants in marine organisms and communities. Dan Anderson's (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Davis) work on pesticide effects in Brown Pelicans brings him on surveys to northern California.

Food Studies - Don Baltz (California State University, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories) is determining diets of marine birds, particularly non-breeding offshore species, in Monterey Bay. Point Reyes Bird Observatory is gathering information on diets of marine birds breeding at the Farallon Islands; emphasis in the alcid phase of the project includes the amount of food required to successfully rear young. In cooperation with D. W. Anderson (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Davis) PRBO is also analyzing the diets of cormorants throughout their marine range in California and Mexico. PRBO is defining shorebird habitat in terms of food availability, food exploitation by the birds, and physical habitat characteristics (for birds and prey) for 12 shorebird species wintering in coastal central California.

Behavior - Ray Pierotti (California State University, Sacramento) is finishing work on the behavioral ecology of Western Gulls. Judith Hand (University of California, Los Angeles) is well into a study of

Western Gull vocalizations. Malcolm Coulter (University of California, Davis) has been studying clutch and brood sizes, incubation behavior and dispersal in Western Gulls. All three of these people have been centering their work in northern California at the Farallon Islands, in cooperation with Point Reyes Bird Observatory and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Point Reyes Bird Observatory has completed a study on the effects of research on the breeding success of Western Gulls. D. Ainley (PRBO) has finished observations on communication in Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants.

Taxonomy and Morphology - Ron LeValley (California State University, Humboldt) is finishing a study on the taxonomic relationships of the Yellowfooted Western Gull. Joseph Jehl (San Diego Natural History Museum) has finished work on the taxonomic relationships of Endomychura, species that become part of the northern California avifauna only during the fall and winter. G. V. Morejohn (California State University, San Jose) is studying the fossil marine avifauna of central California, with special emphasis so far on sulids. M. D. F. Udvardy (California State University, Sacramento) is working on functional anatomy of marine birds. D. Ainley (PRBO) has been working on seabird morphology as it relates to feeding.

Breeding Biology and Ecology - Stanley Harris (California State University, Humboldt) recently completed work on Leach's and Fork-tailed Storm-petrels breeding on offshore rocks in extreme northern California. PRBO has been determining the basic biology and ecology of the 12 seabird species breeding at the Farallon Islands in central California (two storm-petrels, three cormorants, oystercatcher, Western Gull, five alcids). PRBO has begun a study on age-related factors in the behavior and breeding of Brandt's Cormorants.

Conservation Notes

A deep water tanker port will not be built at Morro Bay, as had been proposed. PRBO beached bird survey results indicate for the length of California a steady increase in the incidence of oiled seabirds found on beaches from 1 percent in 1971 to 19 percent in 1974.

Regional representative - David G. Ainley.

Southern California

Current Research

The major additions to current research are the many baseline studies now underway off southern California administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Since these studies, as well as the overall BLM program, will be reviewed in the proceedings of the 1975 annual meeting, I will not outline them here. I am not aware of any new studies off southern California since my last report, and I urge that any new information be brought to the attention of the regional editor.

Conservation Notes

European Rabbits on San Martin Island - On 5 August 1975, I was able to positively confirm the presence of domestic rabbits (but now feral) on San Martin. I also received several additional reports from earlier in the season. In August, I observed at least four individual rabbits on the island, and all rabbits were wary and wild. Action is needed to eliminate these animals as soon as possible, before damage is done to the vegetation of the island.

Oil Spills in the Gulf of California - In December of 1973, as reported by J. O. Keith, two truck tankers on a barge sank into the sea near Santa Rosalia, Baja California. In the spring of 1974, oil was evident on the beaches of Rancho Barril and at Isla las Animas, 140 and 170 km north, respectively. Keith and I again observed increased oil deposition on the beaches of Animas in May of 1975--and we suspect another, more recent oil spill. Six years ago, when we began studies of brown pelicans on Animas, neither of us imagined that oil pollution was possible in that remote wilderness area. Some beached-bird surveys near Santa Rosalia that I conducted in conjunction with other studies during the spring and fall periods of 1974 and 1975 revealed a high incidence of oiled carcasses, suggesting that even these minor oil spills did not occur without adverse effects.

Concern for the Gulf of California Environment - On 15 July 1975, a meeting sponsored by the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and California Academy of Sciences was held to begin to bring together persons and agencies interested in and concerned with the conservation of the Gulf of California environment. The Desert Museum will prepare a document on the threats to the Gulf and offshore areas of Baja California, present this to the Mexican authorities, and hopefully, in the near future, conduct an international symposium on the conservation needs of that area. More of this will be reported in subsequent issues.

Tourism Threats to Isla Isabela - Dr. Tom Howell reports that the nesting seabirds on Isla Isabela, off the coast of Nayarit, Mexico are threatened by tourists as well as local feather collectors. He recommends in a report to the Costeau Society that the proper authorities be encouraged to establish the island as a sanctuary with limited access and full protection of the nesting seabirds there. Isabela is just one example of many islands that need protection. The large geographical separation of areas already known to be areas of concern by many different people in the field illustrate the immensity of the seabird conservation problems in and near the Gulf of California.

Regional representative for Southern California - Daniel W. Anderson.

Mexico

No report received.

Hawaii

Current Research

Environmental Consultants Inc. of Dallas, Texas, under contract to U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is conducting a survey of Rose Atoll. Of particular interest is a study on the impact of Polynesian Rat predation on turtles and marine birds.

Regional representative for Hawaii - Robert Shallenberger.

SEABIRD CONSERVATION ISSUES ON THE EAST COAST OF NORTH AMERICA

by
William H. Drury
College of the Atlantic
Bar Harbor, Maine

I will consider the central part of the East Coast in this note, and the southern part of the East Coast of the United States in a future Bulletin.

Fulmers and Manx Shearwaters which were very rare on the New England fishing banks a few decades ago are now seen every year. The upward trend of numbers may reflect an increase in the numbers of alert observers. Both species have been recently recorded nesting on the western Atlantic shore. The numbers of Leach's Storm-Petrels nesting in New England are much larger now than they were in the 1930's but population changes during the last two decades are not clear. The species is exposed to predation by the increasing numbers of the large gulls on their nesting islands.

The population of Double-crested Cormorants nesting north of Massachusetts seems to be doing well despite harassment by commercial fishermen. I expect that Great Cormorants will colonize some of Maine's islands in the next few years. They are now nesting next door in Nova Scotia.

It would be very helpful to have published data on numbers of eiders, scoters and oldsquaw in wintering flocks. These species have been suffering from annual attrition by late winter oil slicks. Oldsquaws seem to be steadily decreasing.

There is increasing activity in censusing colonial waterfowl by the Audubon Societies, Fish and Wildlife Service and National Parks Service in the U. S., expanding on Sandy Sprunt's work. A project surveying heronries is being undertaken this year with the intent of assessing the use of herons to monitor industrial pollution. The so-called southern herons have continued to expand their breeding ranges to the north. Snowy Egret, Common Egret, Cattle Egret and Glossy Ibis are nesting in southern Maine. Yellow-crowned Night Herons and Tricolored Herons are nesting in southern New England.

Data on the distribution and numbers of gulls and terns has been steadily improved during the last half dozen years. Some data are available all along the East Coast and precision is good in many of the important areas. These data show a continuing decline in numbers of Common Terns, Black Skimmers and Laughing Gulls in the north. Surprisingly, Least Terns are doing rather well in some places.

The numbers of Ring-billed Gulls nesting on large inland lakes continues to increase. However, the most conspicuous increase has been that of Great Black-backed Gulls and Herring Gulls between New York to the Carolinas. These gulls, together with the increasing intrusion and disturbance by recreation seekers, are restricting nesting sites and feeding areas forcing the smaller seabirds to try to exist on submarginal

habitat. In a number of places terns have quickly occupied new islands created out of dredge spoil and it is encouraging to know that the U. S. Corps of Engineers is cooperating in studies and in experiments on the use of spoil islands by seabirds.

THE 1975 CONFERENCE ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF OIL POLLUTION

by
David C. Smith
International Bird Rescue Research Center
Berkeley, California

The Conference was held in late March and was co-sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency, the U. S. Coast Guard and the American Petroleum Institute. It was definitely first-class. For example: Over 1000 people registered, paying from \$30 for one day to \$75 for all three days. Example #2: It was held at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco, where Mayor Alioto welcomed the attendees. Example #3: Rogers Morton had to cancel out as one of the speakers at the last minute, but ex-Governor Tom McCall of Oregon took his place. Example #4: The basement of the Hyatt Regency was used for exhibitors, many of whom displayed operational oil cleanup equipment actually in the process of skimming, sucking, adsorbing, mopping and lifting real oil from huge tanks of water. The stench of oil became a mute messenger announcing to all that oil doesn't belong in certain places: lying on top of coastal waters for one, and in the basement of the Hyatt Regency for another.

Representatives from oil companies and governmental agencies were primarily there to acquaint themselves with the latest techniques and equipment for preventing and controlling oil spills. There was also considerable interest in methods and materials for training work crews and emergency teams to better cope with the problem of keeping oil out of the wrong places. An executive wishing training materials had his choice of videotapes (English or French), motion pictures with sound, slides with sound, printed programmed instructional material, or any combination of the above.

A number of lawyers presented papers to help explain the confused and confusing legal aspects of spilled oil; e.g., who is responsible to do how much in what manner. Biologists presented papers to explain what oil does to plants, soil, plankton and invertebrates. Computer programmers presented papers to explain how data processing can help combat oil spills. Chemists presented papers to explain what happens to oil and how chemistry can be used to combat oil spills. I presented a paper explaining what oil does to birds and how they can be cleaned and released with a fair degree of success. All in all, there were 92 papers presented in three concurrent sessions during the three day conference. These papers are contained in the "Proceedings: 1975 Conference on Prevention and Control of Oil Pollution." The Proceedings are soft-bound, contain over 600 pages of fine print, and extremely well produced. They are available from the American Petroleum Institute, 1801 K Street NW, Washington, D. C. 20006.

Do not bother with the Proceedings, however, if you wish to learn about the threat of oil to seabirds. Besides my paper (and I would be delighted to send you a reprint) there was a general survey paper on oiled bird research and rehabilitation efforts presented by Keith G. Hay of the American Petroleum Institute. Other than that, there were only seven

brief references to oiled birds. This is not particularly surprising since I do not know of any successful suits against oil companies for destruction to bird populations. In spite of this, quite a number of oil company executives have begun to make up contingency plans designed to cope with the problems of oiled bird rehabilitation. One of the exhibitors, M-H VIDEO, 481 University Avenue, Toronto, has committed itself to producing a videotape on the care of oiled birds for distribution to industry and governmental agencies. The American Petroleum Institute is funding our Center for further investigations on cleaning agents and also for the production of instructional material on the cleaning of oiled birds. Requests for information from oil companies and wildlife agencies flow into our Center at an increasing rate. These are encouraging signs but it is possible that public relations may often be more a motivating factor than concern for aquatic birds.

The next similar conference in the U. S. is scheduled for 1977. It will undoubtedly prove to be a trend indicator and I would not miss it for the world, reeking basement and all.

Field Guide on New Zealand Albatrosses and Petrels

New Zealand Albatrosses and Petrels, An Identification Guide by Peter C. Harper and F. C. Kinsky is now available from The Biological Society, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. The estimated price is \$2.50. The 80 page booklet describes 61 species and includes color and black and white photographs as well as a series of black and white plates. It is a well produced publication and well worth the price.

Atlas of Eastern Canadian Seabirds

This publication by R. G. B. Brown, D. N. Nettleship, P. Germain, C. E. Tull and T. Davis summarizes basic information on the ecology and pelagic and breeding distributions of seabirds of northeastern North America. The Atlas costs \$6.75 in Canada and \$8.10 in other countries. The book is available from Information Canada bookshops across Canada or by mail from Information Canada, Ottawa K1A 0S9. All mail orders must be prepaid by check or postal money order made payable to the Receiver General of Canada. Prices listed include postage and handling.

BULLETIN BOARD

Request for Sightings of Banded Black Oystercatchers

Details of sightings of any banded or color-banded black oystercatchers are sought in conjunction with a study of seasonal movements of these birds and dispersal of young birds. Birds (banded in B.C.) have been marked with various combinations of leg bands: numbered metal "high" bands, plastic color bands, and numbered U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands. High bands, 2.5 cm high, are engraved with a letter followed by 4 digits running vertically and repeated 3 times; these letters and numbers can be discerned at close range with binoculars. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands, about one-half the size of high bands with a number running around the circumference of the band, are rarely legible in the field, but their presence can be noted. Many of these banded birds are also wearing plastic color bands (dark blue, dark green, yellow, red, black) in addition to metal bands. The sequence of color bands identifies a bird as an individual even if the numbered band cannot be read. Color bands can usually be read from about 100 meters with binoculars. The order and leg on which bands appear are necessary to identify a bird (e.g. red above dark blue, left leg; high band, right leg).

Any reports of sightings of banded black oystercatchers along with details of location, habitat, date and presence or absence of other oystercatchers will be greatly appreciated. Sightings should be sent to:

Sarah Groves
Department of Zoology
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5
Canada.

Request for Sightings of Color Marked Gulls

As part of a study on Glaucous-winged Gulls in the Gulf of Alaska, adult birds were dyed yellow-orange and juveniles have been dyed purple-black on the tail, belly and underside of the wings. Reports of these gulls including date, location, description and behavior of the gull and band number, if possible, should be sent to:

Samuel Patten, Jr.
Department of Pathobiology
The Johns Hopkins University
615 N. Wolfe Street
Baltimore, MD 21205

PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

DEDICATED TO THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS
AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

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1975

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