論 説 (Articles)

伊豆諸島からの鳥類の新記録

Some new records from the Izu Islands

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モイヤー氏は長く日本に滞在し特に伊豆七島の鳥類の研究及び保護に貢献し、今年夏帰国された(本誌 73 号 150 頁参照)

抄 録

三宅島に渡り英語教師を勤めて既に2年となり、その間ミシガン大学の補助も受けて八丈島、八丈小島、神津島、オンパセ岩、祇苗岩(蛇島)、式根島、新島、地内岩、鶴渡根島及び大島を訪ねて得た鳥類の記録である。

オジロワシ 三宅島阿古村、1957年1月(坪田村のミハルホテル所蔵標本)

オオワシ (4 標本) 1) 坪田村、1937年冬(坪田小学校、幼鳥本製)、2) 坪田村屠殺場、1957年3月17日筆者採、幼鳥。3) 同上、1958年2月12日採、幼鳥。4) 阿古村屠殺場、1959年1月22日採、幼鳥。2)~4)の標本骨格はミシガン大学所蔵。

ミサゴ 所々に巢を発見、3 雛に脚輪を施した。

クロサギ 1957-8 は冬季も見たが 1958-9 冬には見ず、又他の島での観察を記す。

グンカンドリ 1958年5月4日新島に出現。

オーストンウミツバメ 1958年4月16日神津島に近いオンパセ岩に3巢(雛共)を発見、20日に祇苗岩(蛇島)に全島を蔽うオオミヅナギドリ及び本種の巢穴を発見した。島にはシマヘビが夥しく巢穴を占領し且被害を与え、又神津からカラスが雛を食べに来る(その行動を記述)。この落殖期は鳥島や硫黄島より少くも1カ月は遅い〔黒田久附記：この蛇島のウミツバメについては毎日グラフ(昭和25年4月20日号)に写真報道された〕。

ウミネコ 八丈小島附近のコジネ岩に約50羽、祇苗岩に約300羽のコロニーを新たに発見した。

Two years have passed since I became an English teacher on Miyake-jima, and in that time I have had the opportunity to make a number of rather interesting ornithological observations on Miyake as well as on several other of the Izu Islands. It is not the purpose of

this paper to make a detailed report of my ornithological records since coming to Miyake, but rather to list only those records which seem to me to be of the most interest to the students of the status and distribution of Japanese birds.

I am indebted to the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, U.S.A., for a generous grant which made it possible for me to spend six weeks from March to May, 1958, in field work on several of the isles and reefs in the Izu Islands. Islands visited at the time included Hachijo-jima, Hachijo-Kojima, Kozu-jima, Onbase Reef, Tadanae Reef (Hebi-jima), Shikine-jima, Nijima, Jinai Reef, Udone-jima, and Oshima. Observations made during that period as well as during the period I have lived on Miyake-jima are included in this paper.

Haliaeetus albicilla albicilla. White-tailed Sea Eagle. There is a specimen of this species in the Miharu Hotel in Tsubota Village, Miyake-jima. It was shot by a hunter in Ako Village in January 1957.

Haliaeetus pelagicus pelagicus. Steller's Sea Eagle. An immature mounted specimen of this species in Tsubota Village Primary School. It was shot by a hunter in the vicinity of the slaughter-house in Tsubota, Miyake-jima, in the late winter of 1937. An immature male appeared in Tsubota Village on 13 March 1957. It was seen daily in the vicinity of the slaughter-house where it shared the scraps of butchered pigs with hordes of crows and kites. I shot it on 17 March. Another immature male was observed on 8 February 1958 again near the slaughter-house. It was later wounded by a hunter and finally, on 12 February, it was caught, nearly dead from starvation and wounds, by a wood-cutter who gave it to me. A fourth immature bird appeared in the vicinity of the Ako Village slaughter-house, Miyake-jima, on 2 January 1959, remaining until it was shot on January 22nd. Skins and skeletons of the latter three birds are presently in the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, U.S.A.

Pandion haliaetus. Osprey. Although this species has been frequently observed in the Izu Islands, there has been no evidence of nesting. In the spring of 1957 I found a nest on a nearly inaccessible

pinnacle of rock under a cliff in Shinmyo Pondo, Miyake Jima. This nest could only be reached after swimming the entire width of the pond. Three young were successfully reared on a diet of flying fish from the ocean and carp from the pond. The young were banded with Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry bands 282302, 282303 and 282304.

In 1958 the ospreys again nested at Shinmyo, this time in a large pine tree; however the three young were stolen by a cow-herder.

Another nest was found in June 1958 in the dead branches of a large live oak overhanging a dangerous cliff far above Tairo Pond, Miyake-jima. Three young were in the nest when it was discovered, but two were later taken by school boys. The third successfully left the nest.

On 16 April 1958 I found an osprey nest with an incubating adult on an inaccessible pinnacle of rock near Kinnaga, Kozu-shima. Returning to the location on 20 April, I again found one adult incubating either eggs or young, and the other adult sitting at the edge of the nest. I was unable to scale the perpendicular cliff below the nest.

Still another nest was discovered on 28 April 1958 at Taibusa Rock, a completely inaccessible reef which rises 55 meters out of the water directly off Motokata Point, Shikine-jima. One adult was clearly visible from my observation point on the cliffs on Shikine, but I could not determine whether it was incubating eggs or very young birds. I watched the nest for two hours, during which time the other adult made three short visits. The incubating adult did not leave the nest during my observations.

Demigretta sacra. Eastern Reef Heron. Eight birds spent the winter of 1957-58 on Miyake-jima, and at least one pair was observed regularly from March 1957 to June 1958. I was unable to find any evidence of nesting, although the fact that I observed the pair throughout the year and on two occasions witnessed courtship displays suggests that they may have bred here in 1957. At this writing there are to my knowledge, no Reef Herons on Miyake-jima, and their absence in the winter of 1958-59 after being such a regular and conspicuous sight in

the winter of 1957-58 presents an interesting problem for students of bird distribution.

In addition to the Miyake records, I observed single Reef Herons at Onbase Reef, near Kozu-shima, 16 April 1958; Kozu Harbor, Kozu-shima, 25 April 1958; and Aoike, Shikine-jima, 28 April 1958. A pair of Reef Herons was observed at Mikawa Point, Shikine-jima, 28 April 1958. All of my records are of the dark phase.

Fregata ariel. Lesser Frigate Bird. On 4 May 1958 I was treated to an excellent look at this spectacular sea bird at Mamashita, Niijima. The bird flew in from the direction of Shikine-jima on slow, strong wing beats. It circled low over the large reef at Mamashita for twelve minutes, only occasionally flapping its powerful wings. Finally it moved off in the direction of Toshima, but not before attracting quite a crowd of fishermen and school boys.

Oceanodroma tristrami. Stejneger's (Fork-tailed) Petrel. I found three nests of this species, each with a single young bird, on Onbase Reef, near Kozu-shima, 16 April 1958. On April 20th I found a large, successful colony at Tadanae Reef (Hebi-jima), also near Kozu. Burrows of this and the Streaked Shearwater, *Puffinus leucomelas*, covered the entire surface of the reef so that an estimate of the exact size of

Fig. 1. Nestling Stejneger's (Fork-tailed) Petrel.
Tadanae Reef (Hebi-jima), 20 April 1958.

Fig. 2 Tadanae Reef (Hebi-jima), location of breeding colonies of Stejneger's (Fork-tailed) Petrel, Streaked Shearwater, and Black-tailed Gull.

the colony would be very difficult, however 2000 fresh petrel burrows seems like a conservative figure. The petrels suffer a great loss of eggs and young to snakes which are abundant on the reef and are frequently found in the petrel burrows. (It is a strong-hearted ornithologist, indeed, who can control his surprise when upon reaching, unknowingly,

Fig. 3. Burrows of Stejneger's (Fork-tailed) Petrel and Streaked Shearwater at Tadanae Reef (Hebi-jima). 20 April 1958.

into a petrel burrow, his fingers close around the fat, cool body of *Elaphe quadribirgata*!) Crows from nearby Kozu-shima also cause severe damage to the petrel population. Pin feathers and blood from crow-victims were a common sight near the entrance of numerous burrows. I observed one such murder. The crow (*Corvus leuallantii*) sat motionless on a rock until it heard the cry of one of the young from a nearby burrow (young petrels called frequently during my short stay on the reef). The crow then flew unerringly to the exact burrow from which the sound had come and dug through the soft earth with its tremendous bill, seizing the helpless victim.

As this species was known to nest only on Kita-Iwo-jima and Torishima, the colonies on Onbase and Tadanae, within easy reach of Honshu via either Shimoda or Oshima, offer Japanese ornithologists an excellent opportunity to study a little-known species.

My four specimens (three from Onbase and one from Tadanae) are presently in the collection of the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, U.S.A. All are nestling birds, but two are nearly completely feathered. Judging from what literature is available, the Kozu birds appear to nest at least a month later than those on Torishima and the Volcano Islands.

Larus crassirostris. Black-tailed Gull. Although this is a rather common bird in the Izu Islands, especially in winter, it has never been reported as breeding here. During my recent survey of the Izu Islands, I discovered two colonies. The first was found in late March at Koji-ne, a very small reef off the rocky coast of tiny Kojima, near Hachijo-jima. The birds were not yet nesting, but I observed more than fifty adults in very high plumage at the reef. The residents of Kojima make their egg-raids in the rainy season.

When I visited Tadanae Reef, 20 April 1958, I found a small colony of Black-tailed Gulls already nesting on ledges along the cliffs at the west side of the larger of the two isles which make up the reef. There are probably no more than 300 birds in this colony.

(Miyake-jima, 29 Jan. 1959)