Sighting of the Short-tailed Albatross Over the Bering Sea.

Haruo Ogi*, Yasujiro Hattori**, Takeshi Yoshino**, Toshihiro Yamahara**,
Narihiko Sawada**, and Toshihiro Furukawa**

Keywords: *Short-tailed Albatross, Bering Sea, juvenile albatross, sighting records*

During the Pacific salmon driftnet research cruise by the TS/RV *Wakatake Maru*, June to August, 1989, in the northern part of the central Bering Sea, a Short-tailed Albatross (*Diomedea albatrus*) was seen late afternoon on 12 July at 58°30' N, 179°30' E. It flew around the ship once the driftnet was set (Figs. 1 and 2), and stayed nearby for about two hours. It was a calm day and the sea-surface and air temperatures were 9.1°C and 9.8°C, respectively.

Judging from Harrison's illustration (1988), the bird was a juvenile in its first year, having a massive pink bill and pale legs, but lacking any white at the base of the bill. The narrow white line below the eye is not clearly visible in Fig. 1. Short-tailed Albatrosses with this plumage pattern have never been found at the nesting site on Torishima (Hasegawa and DeGange 1982). The age at first breeding of the Short-tailed Albatross is reported to be eight to nine years, with a few exceptions of five to seven year birds (Hasegawa and DeGange 1982). A specimen of a four year old Short-tailed Albatross, which was recovered near Torishima as a banded bird and preserved in the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology, has a large massive pale bill, with white at the base of the bill and dusky white on the breast. The remainder of the body parts are entirely blackish brown, not having any white patch on the upper or under-wing surfaces. Fujusawa (1967) also reported a four year old bird which returned to Torishima as a pre-breeder. The plumage pattern of the bird reported by Fujisawa was almost the same as the above skin specimen, suggesting the bird reported here from the Bering Sea was from one to three years old after hatching.

Interestingly, a Short-tailed Albatross was also observed over the Bering Sea at 57°30' N, 177°00' W on 21 July, 1979 (Ogi 1982)(Fig. 2). Photographs of the albatross taken by an officer of the TS/RV *Oshoro Maru*, Hokkaido University, show that the bird was in the juvenile or sub-adult stage. This location is close to the area where the Short-tailed Albatross was observed in the present study. Furthermore, the first author observed a subadult or adult Short-tailed Albatross at 55°53' N, 175°01' E over the Bering Sea on August 1985 during the Dall's Porpoise research cruise of the RV *Hoyo Maru No. 12* of the Japanese Fisheries Agency (Fig. 2).

Based on the above sighting records, the summer dispersal of the juvenile and

---

Received 26 August 1992, Revised 18 December 1992, Accepted 28 December 1992.

* Research Institute of North Pacific Fisheries, Faculty of Fisheries, Hokkaido University, Hakodate, Hokkaido, 041 Japan

** TS/RV *Wakatake Maru*, Hokkaido High School Training Ship Management Office, 1-8 Shinonome-cho, Hakodate, Hokkaido, 040 Japan

Fig. 1. The Short-tailed Albatross observed at $58^{\circ}30' \text{ N}$, $179^{\circ}30' \text{ E}$ over the Bering Sea on 12 July, 1989. Photographs by T. Yoshino.

Fig. 2. Sighting locations of the Short-tailed Albatross over the Bering Sea.

Closed circle: $58^{\circ}30' \text{ N}$, $179^{\circ}30' \text{ E}$,

Closed square: $55^{\circ}53' \text{ N}$, $175^{\circ}01' \text{ E}$,

Closed triangle: $57^{\circ}30' \text{ N}$, $177^{\circ}00' \text{ W}$ (Ogi 1982)

sub-adult Short-tailed Albatrosses may extend as far as the central pelagic area of the Bering Sea.

We thank Dr. J. Thompson and Mr. H. Hasegawa for providing criticism on an earlier draft of this manuscript.

This study was supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research in Priority Areas (From Asia to America: Prehistoric Mongoloid Dispersals) donated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Japan.

Contribution No. 265 of the Research Institute of North Pacific Fisheries, Faculty of Fisheries, Hokkaido University.

References

- Ogi, H. 1982. Identification guide of seabirds in the subarctic North Pacific. Japanese Fisheries Agency, 102pp. (in Japanese)
- Fujisawa, I. 1967. Ahodori, *Diomedea albatrus*. Tokyo Shoin, Tokyo. (in Japanese)
- Harrison, P. 1988. Seabirds: an identification guide. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.
- Hasegawa, H. and DeGange, A. R. 1982. The Short-tailed Albatross, *Diomedea albatrus*, its status, distribution and natural history. *American Birds* 36: 806-814.

ベーリング海におけるアホウドリの観察記録

練習調査船若竹丸のベーリング海におけるサケマス流し網調査期間中の 1989 年 7 月 12 日に、 $58^{\circ}30'N$, $179^{\circ}30'E$ でアホウドリの幼鳥が船の周囲で約 2 時間観察された。このアホウドリの外観は、薄桃色がかった大きくくちばしと脚部の他は全て黒褐色であった。また、翼の上部ばかりでなく下部も黒褐色であった。このような幼鳥は繁殖地である鳥島には出現しない (Hasegawa and DeGange 1982), そして山階鳥類研究所に保存されている 4 才鳥の剥製標本から判断して、今回観察されたアホウドリ幼鳥個体の年齢は 1~3 才であると考えられた。

その他のアホウドリの観察例では、幼鳥あるいは亜成鳥が 1979 年 7 月 21 日、 $57^{\circ}30'N$, $177^{\circ}00'W$ で 1 羽、そして成鳥ないし亜成鳥が 1985 年 8 月 30 日、 $55^{\circ}30'N$, $175^{\circ}01'E$ で 1 羽出現した。

これらの観察例から、ベーリング海におけるアホウドリ幼鳥および亜成鳥の夏季の分布域は、沿岸域ばかりでなく外洋域にもおよんでいる可能性がある。

小城春雄: 北海道大学水産学部, 北洋水産研究施設, 海洋生態学部門

〒041 北海道函館市港町 3-1-1

服部保次郎, 吉野 威, 山原利弘, 沢田成彦, 古川敏広:

練習調査船若竹丸, 北海道教育庁実習船管理局, 〒040 北海道函館市東雲町 1-8