Notes on Calonectris leucomelas and other sea birds
seen from S. S. “CATHAY” between Taiwan and Yokohama
20—22 August 1963

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20 August

1123—1256 hrs. During this period Agincourt Is. was passed and the following
birds seen: 7 Calonectris leucomelas 6 Small dark shearwaters (presumably Puffinus
tenuirostris) Various terns (Sterna sp., these were probably S. bergii) Sula lecogaster
Phalaropus lobatus

1620—1838 hrs. A complete log was kept on all birds seen during this
period. Pinnacle Is. passed: 224 C. leucomelas “32 P. tenuirostris” 2 Very
small black petrels, possibly Bulweria bulwerii, as their flight was unlike that of
Storm-petrels, and their wing shape was long and thin as in Puffinus. 64 Sula
leucogaster. Singly, or in groups of up to 19. 139+Sterna fuscata. It was not
always possible to distinguish this species from the next, and uncertain birds have
been assigned to this species as it was very much more common in mixed flocks.
6 Sterna anaetheta 61+Anous stolidus

21 August

0942—1021 hrs. No birds.

1103—1155 hrs. No birds. At 1200 hrs. the ship passed Takarasima (an
extinct volcano). 20 C. leucomelas flying individually, plus a settled flock of 100+.
6 “P. tenuirostris”

1605—1805 hrs. 56 C. leucomelas 15 “P. tenuirostris” 4 “B. bulwerii”

22 August

0940—1010 hrs. No birds.

1245—1255 hrs. 5 C. leucomelas 1422—1442 hrs. 3 C. leucomelas

1527—1545 hrs. 22 C. leucomelas During this time the coast of Honshiu
was visible.

1750—1823 hrs. Three large flocks of C. leucomelas were seen totalling about
800 birds. Between flocks there were many birds and over 1000 may have been in
view during this half hour.

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This brief cross-section would seem to indicate that *Calonectris leucomelas* is fairly evenly distributed between Taiwan and Japan, along the chain of island which joins them. South of Taiwan only one of these shearwaters was seen: 23°N 117°15' E, 1658 hrs., 19. 8. 63.

The shearwaters I have taken to be *Puffinus tenuirostris* were seen only between Northern Taiwan and the islands off Southern Kiushiu, and not at all in Japanese waters. It seems rather early for this species to be returning to its breeding areas. The possibility of the dark shearwaters being *P. nativitatis* cannot, I think, be ruled out. The bill on the birds seen always appeared short and stout, whereas in *P. tenuirostris* it is slender. The nearest breeding place of *P. nativitatis*, the Phoenix Islands, is several thousand kilometres away, but non-breeders could stray to the China Sea, although they would be unlikely to do so in such numbers.

The small dark petrels must remain a mystery: Although the most likely bird of that size to be seen in the area covered is *Oceanodroma markhami*, the shape and flight behaviour of the birds seen was that of a shearwater and not that of a storm-petrel. Thus I conclude that they were probably *Bulweria bulwerii*.

(57)
Tropical sea-birds, the Booby (Sula leucogaster) and the terns (Sterna fuscata, S. anaetheta, and Anous stolidus) all vanished, as might be expected, with the crossing of the Tropic of Cancer. However, if the subsequent 300 kilometres had been in daylight these species would probably have faded out slowly, instead of suddenly disappearing.

1963年8月20-22日S.S.“CATHAY”号台湾-横浜
間航海で見られたオオミズナギドリその他の海鳥
アントニー・エス・チーク

オオミズナギドリは8月に台湾以北日本までかなり優秀に分布していた。台湾以南では僅か1羽をみたに過ぎない。その他、サンボソミズナギドリ、ミズナギドリ、アナドリと思われるもの、アジサシ類、カソオドリを熱帯海域でみた。（筆者は英国公使令兵ケンブリッジ大学から休暇で訪日された）（編者）