



# General Field Notes

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## Leach's Petrel in North Carolina

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Although Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) is irregularly observed during migration along the eastern coast of the United States, we know of no specimens from North Carolina. The following is therefore of interest. After a northeast storm during the first week of November 1969, an individual of this species was found alive on the beach at Kill Devil Hill, N.C., by Thornton Staples. The bird died, and because it came into our possession in a partly decomposed condition, was preserved by freeze-drying. It is now on deposit at the United States National Museum (USNM 564835). Measurements (mm) for the bird are: wing (flat) 165, tail 85, and exposed culmen 16. The identity of the specimen was confirmed to be *O. leucorhoa* by the USNM staff and by Eugene Eisenmann. The sex of this individual is unknown due to the method of preservation.

On the Atlantic side of North America, Leach's Petrel breeds from Greenland south to Massachusetts and wanders widely during the winter. It is seen irregularly since it seldom follows ships as do other petrels. Although the present record is apparently the first specimen of Leach's Petrel from North Carolina, it is also one of the latest recorded occurrences of this species in eastern North America. Therefore it probably is not representative of the time when Leach's Petrel usually occurs in North Carolina.

[Dept. Ed.—With the publication of this report and the deposition of the specimen in the U.S. National Museum, Leach's Petrel can now be added to the official North Carolina Bird List.]