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November 20, 1963--(refer also to R. Sundell's notes)--Arrived Sand Island (Lat. 16-44-45, Long. 169-30-30) at 1300, secured quarters at U.S. Coast Guard LORAN Station. On hand to meet me were Robert Sundell of the Smithsonian and John Bushman of D. T. C., both of whom oriented me to the operations at this station. The later half of the afternoon was spent helping Mr. Bushman and the photographic team prepare a documentary movie on the project.

November 21--(refer also to R. Sundell's notes)--0930 radio transmission with Ludwig on Kure Island, discussion of tick preservation and preparation, and shipment there off to mainland from Kure. 1030 to 1500 movie production continued. 2100 to 0300 (22) spent in trapping and packing live birds for shipment to D. T. C. Shipment as follows:

32 Common Noddy Terns

10 Great Frigate-birds (two of which were banded)

November 22--(refer also to Sundell's notes)--received word of President's death 0932. Bushman and shipment depart at 1030. 1300 sighted two white terns flying over island.

November 23 (refer also to R. Sundell's notes)--Visual survey of avifauna on Sand and Johnston Island. Preparations were made for a study of territorial behavior in wintering Golden Plovers. No banding.

November 24 (refer also to R. Sundell's notes)--A complete survey of island, Golden Plover population estimated at $\pm$ 50 (40 in colony and 10 around station). One Wandering Tattler noted, and Frigate-bird carrying nesting material. Recovered 7 bands (re: Sundell's notes). Rain precluded banding operations.

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November 25 (refer also to Sundell's notes)--1430 discovered a Golden Plover aggressively attacking the remains of another Plover. There is no doubt that his activities were territorial and not cannibalistic. Photos were taken. Corpse was removed and placed in the territory of another Plover--no reaction. Later it was replaced and "displacement" actively continued well after 2100 when it became too dark to make observations. 2300 till 0130 (26) spent banding. An unsuccessful attempt was made to snare frigates from "wires" with 20 foot pole with pull loop. It was noted that it has become increasingly more difficult to distinguish adults from immature Shearwaters since the latter has almost attained adult plumage--a little down on underparts.

November 26 (-The morning was spent in taking inventory of gear and compiling list of bands on hand at Station. A report came to us that a "sparrow-like bird" was seen on Johnston Island. From description and comments it was surmised that the bird might well be a Longspur. Regular banding operations were carried out this evening.

November 27 (refer also to Sundell's notes)--A survey of Johnston Island (0730-1130) was taken in hopes that the bird reported yesterday might be found. WE recorded the following species:

50-60 Golden Plovers

5 Wandering Tattlers

50 Turnstones (2 banded and tagged)

8 Fairy Terns

1 Sanderling

At 1900 a Black-bellied Plover was sighted on Sand Island--unsuccessful attempts were made to collect it. Regular banding operations took place between 2100 and

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2400. Full moon greatly hindered banding operations. A fresh Frigatebird egg was located--believed to be the first of the season. Nest and egg were marked.

November 28 (refer also to R. Sundell's notes)--A survey of the island was made between 1000 and 1200:

Red-footed Booby 200+

Great Frigatebird 200+

Brown Booby 15

Golden Plover 35

Wandering Tattler 1

Ruddy Turnstone 25+

Noddy Tern 1000+

Hawaiian Noddy 1

A radio transmission with Amerman on Kure at 1400. Regular banding operations were carried out between 2100 and 2400.

November 29 (refer also to R. Sundell's notes)--A survey of the island was conducted between 0900 and 1000. The following species were recorded:

Red-footed Booby 400+15 (actual count)

Brown Booby 12

Great Frigatebird 150 + 25

Golden Plover 30+

Ruddy Turnstone 20+

Wandering Tattler 2

Noddy Tern 800 +

An adult Red-tailed Tropicbird was observed circling over barracks at 1200.

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The bird then flew above causeway to the bird colony.

The skeleton of a Bristle-thighed Curlew (no field number was assigned) was collected (refer to Sundell's notes of Sept 28, 1963). A full moon prevented banding operations.

November 30 (refer also to R. Sundell's notes)--A survey of the island was conducted between 1130 and 1230.

Red-footed Booby 100+

Brown Booby 8

Frigatebird 100+ (20 birds flushed from colony) (a second fresh egg was noted a few feet from the first one)

Common Noddy 600+

Golden Plover 30+

Ruddy Turnstone 20+

Red-tailed Tropicbird 2 adults landed close to marked site E of transmitter building (refer to Sundell's notes of Nov. 9, 1963). A radio transmission with Amerman and Ludwig on Kure Island at 1400, discussion of personnel replacement. A full moon prevented banding operations.

December 1 (refer also to R. Sundell's notes)--The morning was spent catching up on field notes. A survey was made between 1430 and 1530. An immature Red-footed Booby with a badly broken wing was found close to the barracks along the causeway. The bird was dispatched and feather lice were collected. The following birds were recorded in survey:

Red-footed Booby 40 ± 3

Brown Booby 8

Great Frigatebird 150 ± 5

Noddy Tern 60 ± 5

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Golden Plover 35 $\pm$ 5

Ruddy Turnstone 25 $\pm$ 5

Wandering Tattler 1

It should be noted that loss of Frigatebirds on wire is about one every other night. At 2100 one of the crew (who was shooting target at East end of island) caught a Red-footed Booby adult that had fallen to the ground stunned after a collision with a guywire. The bird was banded and released (re: Sundell's notes). Banding operations were continued from 2300 to 2400. 5 Shearwaters were banded; there are less than 50 Shearwaters present and none could be positively identified as adults. 4 or 5 sooty terns were heard.

December 2 (refer also to R. Sundell's notes)--A visual survey was made of the island between 1000 and 1100, recorded:

Red-tailed Tropicbird ; in prolonged aerial display--near sighting of

Nov. 2--presumable mate was on ground but not seen.

Red-footed Booby 150 + 25

Great Frigatebird 200 + 25

Golden Plover 30 + 10

Ruddy Turnstone 25 + 5

Noddy Tern 450 + 25

Set up mist net to SE of transmitter building in preparation for color banding Golden Plovers. It is planned only to have net open during the evening and dawn hours. AT 2100 two Golden Plovers were obtained, they were banded with F and W.S. band plus two color bands, the significance of these bands was entered in a banding notebook. No regular banding operations were scheduled for the evening.

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December 3 (refer also to Sundell's notes)--At 0800 I rechecked mist net, banded one plover, plus one repeat. The day was spent in planning plover study and selecting possible mist net site. The net was opened in evening but there was no catch. Regular banding operations were carried out between 2100 and 2400 which was observed to be the best hour for this operation since the moon has not risen by this hour. 15 Noddies were banded and 12 Shearwaters.

December 4--Departed for Johnston Island at 0730 to take a visual survey. The tide was high which explains in part why we did not pick up a greater number of shorebirds. We recorded within our 2 hour visit the following:

2 Sanderlings

2 Wandering Tattlers

5 Turnstones

30 Plovers

40 Ruddy Turnstones

At 1800 net was relocated but not opened until 2400. No regular banding operation was carried out this evening.

December 5 (refer also to R. Sundell's notes)--At 0730 4 Golden Plovers plus a repeat were captured at mist. All 4 were color banded, one suffered some wing damage in net. A sooty tern was discovered suspected of either visual disease or dying of old age. There were no apparent broken bones. The bird was released but sighted later at the place released. A Red-tailed Tropicbird was sighted in afternoon both on Johnston Island and at colony. At 1830 a radio transmission was set up with Kure and a request was made that they send color bands (no. 3) for Golden Plovers. There appears to be an increase in

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the numbers of Sooty Terns--we estimate that during the banding operation 2200 to 2400 there were about 100 wheeling overhead. 29 Noddy terns and 2 Shearwaters banded.

December 6 (refer also to R. Sundell's notes)--0800 removed and banded Golden Plover from mist net. Closed net because of high winds--the strongest since I have been on Island. Also closed them on advice of Amerman who stated in radio conversation that he had only limited success netting Plovers and was of the impression that Plovers readily adjust themselves to the nets and learn to masterfully avoid them. Hence forth nets will be closed daily and moved nightly from one site to another. Later in day checked on Frigate nesting area--discovered both eggs broken--cause unknown. Regular banding operations carried out in evening. Mist net not opened.

December 7 (refer to R. Sundell's notes)--The day was spent in writing up field notes and reports. Mist net opened at 1900. One plover caught, banded at 2200, net left open. Continued regular banding between 2200 and 2400, 4 Sooty Terns noted with broken wings.

December 8--(refer also to R. Sundell's notes)--Removed and banded 4 Golden Plovers from net. A survey was made of the banded Plovers, 9 of 16 banded on island were sighted. It was also observed that although Frigates loaf on gun-implacement to SE of main island colony they have not yet nested there.

December 9--A survey of island was taken at 0930 the results being as follows:

Brown Booby 5

Red-footed Booby 500

Great Frigatebird 300

Golden Plover 30

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Ruddy Turnstone 15

Noddy Tern 300

Mist net was checked and proved empty. A new net was put up to replace old one.

It was not opened on report that there might be high winds in the evening.

15 noddies were banded in evening. A check on the nesting Frigatebirds proved that the third egg has been destroyed as were the two previous ones.

December 10--A survey was taken at 0900 with the following results:

Brown Booby 10

Red-footed Booby 50 $\pm$ 10

Great Frigatebird 175

Golden Plover 40

Ruddy Turnstone 20

Noddy Tern 350 $\pm$ 20

Band count was also taken of Noddy Tern and it was estimated that 1 out of every 10 is banded. Later in the day 3 red-tailed Tropicbirds were noted over station, one of them in aerial display. The latter part of afternoon was spent in photographing plants in island. Two new eggs were recorded in Frigate colony.

December 11--0730 two Golden Plovers and a Black-bellied Plover were secured in mist net. Goldens were color banded and released (black bill was collected) (no field number was assigned). One Tropicbird was sighted over station. A survey of the entire island was made at 1030 and the following species were recorded:

Red-tailed Tropicbird 2

Brown Booby 7

Red-footed Booby 180

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Great Frigatebird 300

Golden Plover 40

Ruddy Turnstone 20

Noddy Tern 350 $\pm$ 20

A collection of marine crabs and snails was made and three birds in freezer were made into skins. The net was opened up at 2100. No regular banding was scheduled.

December 12--0730 one plover was secured in mist net. It was color banded and released. Helped Sundell in preparation to depart on 1330 plane for Hawaii.

He is taking with him all scientific specimens collected in the last 3 months.

7 Fairy Terns noted in Johnston Island 1300. The afternoon was spent in organizing equipment and preparation of field notes. No banding operations were scheduled for this evening.

December 13--A list of partially used strings of bands used prior to December 1 was made and sent to Sundell. A skeleton of a Bristle-thighed Curlew was packed and sent to Sundell. Majority of the day was spent removing weather data for the months July through November 1963 from the station log book. A survey was made of the island and the 2 Frigatebird eggs remain. Regular Noddy Tern banding program between 2100 and 2300.

December 14--Morning spent finishing weather data, from now on Chief Sharp will give daily weather sheets, eliminating need for use of station log. The afternoon was spent taking a visual survey.

Red-tailed Tropicbird 2

Brown Booby 10

Red-footed Booby 190

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Great Frigatebird 300

Golden Plover 35

Ruddy Turnstone 20

Wandering Tattler 1

Noddy Tern 475

Mist net was opened in evening, regular Noddy banding cont. between 1400 and 2100.

December 15--One Golden Plover was trapped and banded from net. The morning was spent in following movements of marked report. Afternoon was spent in following movements of marked plovers. Regular Noddy banding was scheduled for the evening. It was noted that there has been a slight build up in the sooty population--an estimated 200 and that at least one a night is being trapped in guywire. 2 Fairy Terns were sighted in morning flying over colony.

December 16--A visual survey was taken of the entire island and the following species were recorded:

Red-tailed Tropicbird 2

Brown Booby 13

Red-footed Booby 275

Great Frigatebird 350

Golden Plover 40

Ruddy Turnstone 19

Noddy Tern 500+

It should be noted that Wandering Tattler at low tide can Almost always be found on coral head with whip antenna north of causeway. It was also noted during this survey that 2 out of 15 Noddies are banded. A fresh Frigate egg was noted in nest no. 2 some 9 days after the last one was destroyed. Regular

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banding operations were carried out this evening though from henceforth banding of Noddies will be limited to point, so as not to disturb nesting Frigatebirds, and frigate nesting data will be kept separate from regular field notes.

December 18--Received letter from S.I. informing me that Bratley will arrive on the 22nd. Morning spent relocating mist net and observing plovers in beach. Regular but limited banding was carried out in evening. And it was noted that the Sooty population is now in the neighborhood of 400+ this count was made in quarter moon and may be presumed accurate. 4 individuals were seen roosting on island.

December 19--A visual survey recorded:

Brown Booby 131

Red-footed Booby 690

Great Frigatebird 245

Noddy Tern 700

Two fairy terns were also spotted over colony later in day. One Plover was recaptured in net. Afternoon spent in correspondence and field notes. Evening survey taken of Sooties and it was determined tht the population now may be well above 250 and increasing. It was noted that they first appear wheeling at great height to SE of island almost one half hour before sunset. It was also noted that when they arrive at island they linger mostly in the NE corner. Regular Sooty banding in evening.

December 20--A survey was taken of the entire island. It was noted that with the sudden increase in Sooties there has also been a remarkable increase in , 4 or more a night. 7 Fairy Terns were flying over island. The afternoon was spent working in Plover study area. It was decided to mark the area off in a to facilitate observations. This will be done in the next few days. Regular

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banding scheduled for evening. It was noted that 5-10 Sooties had landed and could be banded, and from henceforth they will be banded.

December 21--The morning was spent working up field notes and the afternoon relocating mist and adding one more net in location E. The net was opened at 1900.

Evening survey recorded:

Red-footed Booby 1450

Great Frigate 660

Noddy Tern 100

These numbers indicate the value of evening surveys. Regular banding was scheduled for evening. It was intended to band both Noddies and Sooties. At arrival in colony 500+ Sooties were both roosting and flying. Also some 15 were caught in net-banded and released. Net closed thereafter.

December 22--Today marks the highest tides and strongest winds (EES). I have ever witnessed on island. The early morning was spent in preparation for Bratley's arrival from Hawaii, flight 432 at 1100. He brought with him a gallon of 100 per cent formaline and a gallon of 100 per cent alcohol, and a wealth of knowledge of the other aspect of the Project. After a short review of the present status of island avifauna I showed him around colony. It was observed that one of the Frigatebirds had just laid a premature and broken egg. Neither survey nor banding were carried out this evening due to rain.

December 23--A survey was taken of entire island in morning:

Brown Booby 26

Red-footed Booby 500

Great Frigatebird 137

Noddy Tern 500 (one out of 12 banded)

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Hawaiian Noddy 8

Fairy Tern 3

The Hawaiian Noddy although not reported for some weeks were probably present but not identified. In quarters I showed Bratley gear stored in powerhouse and we mixed formalin to solution 10 per cent in preparation for collecting stomach contents this evening. The afternoon was spent counting plovers and in the evening another survey of the island was taken with the following results:

Noddy Tern 80

Brown Booby 14

Red-footed Booby 1070

Great Frigatebird 186

Sooty Tern 6000

Of these 6000 a handful landed on island later in evening and only one could be banded. The moon was at quarter which slowed Noddy banding down to 5 and one stomach content.

December 24--A visual survey taken at 0900:

Brown Booby 8

Red-footed Booby 424

Great Frigatebird 234

Golden Plover 54 (one out of 24 banded)

Wandering Tattler 1

Noddy Tern 420

Fairy Tern 3

It should be noted that in the last week I have seen Frigatebirds carrying nesting material even way out to sea. It was also noted that there are about

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60 to 80 Frigatebirds roosting in nesting area. Also about 10 Boobies were spotted roosting almost in conjunction with those Frigates. In evening another visual survey taken of entire island:

Frigatebirds 407

Red-footed Booby 1027

Hawaiian Noddy 1

No banding carried out due to half moon.

December 25--Visual survey taken of entire island at 7 p.m.:

Red-footed Booby 875

Great Frigatebird 322

Noddy Tern 75

Telegram received carrying information of departure date--January 23, 1964, and request for the wiring of population counts for January on the first. It was also requested that I remove mist nets from antenna field in that the steel poles might interfere with LORAN antenna (request made by C.O.). No banding carried out this evening due to full moon.

December 26--In the morning air force photo team took picture of nesting Frigates for a documentary movie on islands. Their disturbance of birds was not great as most of the photography was done with a telephoto. It was planned that we could band before sunrise to avoid almost full moon but heavy rainfall precluded this. A sooty with broken wing was collected and parasites were removed (via no.1). Also an artificial Frigate nest was made to see if Frigates might show a preference for it. A survey of entire island taken in evening:

Red-footed Booby 265

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Great Frigatebird 325

Noddy Tern 49 (8 with tags)

No banding carried on due to full moon.

December 27--Banding commenced at 4 a.m. but the Sooties had departed island

by that hour. A few Noddies were banded (re: banding records) and one

Hawaiian Noddy was banded. Later that day a survey was made of Johnston Island. v

Tropicbirds 5

Black-billed Plover 1

Sanderling 3

Fairy Tern 4

Tattlers 2

Plovers 16

Turnstone 32 (two with bands)

Noted that both a plover and a Turnstone were seen in molt--the first seen (re: Plover notes). Full moon prevented banding operations.

December 28--Full moon prevented early morning banding operations. In mid-morning a survey of entire island made:

Red-footed Booby 145

Brown Booby 9

Frigatebird 50

Noddy 500

Collected: Frigatebird with broken wing; no ticks found on it.

Noted: 2 male adult Frigates incubating eggs (banded but no. not yet discerned).

In evening another survey of entire island made:

Red-footed Booby 1603 (est.)

Frigates 483 (count)

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Sooties 200(est.)

Full moon prevented evening banding operations.

December 29--Full moon prevented early morning banding operations. Noted:

(1) In morning, 4 Fairy Terns in colony; (2) Frigates continue to carry nesting material; (3) Banded Plover began to molt-first one seen on island.

Collected: (1) 3 Sooty Terns and parasites removed (^{Vials}~~vials~~ 2,3,4,).

In evening a survey taken of entire island:

Noddy 40

Sooty 4000 to 6000

Hawaiian 1

Plover 40

Tattler 2

Red-footed 1403

Brown Booby 17

Frigatebird 378

Banding operations carried out during full eclipse occurring between 2300 and 0100 (30). Only Sooties banded (54) and it was estimated that some 300 to 400 were roosting on island.

December 30--Comments: In early morning one of the coast guard seamen reported sighting a white tern-like bird larger than a fairy tern flying over colony. He was sure it was neither a red-tailed Tropicbird nor a fairy tern. A search was immediately made for it but it could not be found. It is my impression that it might be either a white-tailed tropicbirds or a red-tailed tropicbird missing tail feathers. One tropicbird sighted over Johnston Island had no tail feathers. In early afternoon a trip was made to Johnston Island to determine what was

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available in the way of weather data. The weather bureau will make available to the project all its data for the past 3 years. They are taking hourly records and only recording surface weather, no high air data is available.

Noted:

(1) 5 Tropicbirds on Johnston Island.

(2) Appears to be a great deal more? on part of Turnstones. Perhaps they will soon depart.

Survey in evening:

Noddy 30

Hawaiian 1

Frigatebirds 184

Red-footed Booby 714

Brown Booby 7

Turnstone 48

December 31--Comments: The morning was spent preparing the records for the progress report on the second half of December.

Collected: Sooty Tern (1) and checked for parasites (vial 5).

Noted: An adult Frigatebird swooped down on an unattended nest (no. 16) in the Frigatebird nesting area, and destroyed an egg. He made a second pass at the egg and appeared to be "gulfing" it up; which fostered the impression that his objective was purely predatory. Hereafter not only will the nests be marked but also the eggs for they tend to move around quite a bit.

Banding operations were carried out in the early evening hours before the moon rose:

Noddy 7

Sooty 19

Survey in evening:

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Sooties 600

Hawaiian Noddy 2

Noddy 25

Frigatebird 195

Red-footed Booby 195

January 1, 1964--

Comments: The day was spent working up report and working on records.

Noted: A lone? Booby sighted on one of the pilings for the antenna guy wire.

First sighted in many months.

Banding in evening: 72 Sooty before moon rose.

Survey in evening:

Frigatebird 175

Red-footed Booby 538

January 2

Collected: (1) Crippled banded Sooty Tern (723-44009) believed to have been banded by Dr. Ashmole, collected for ectoparasites (vial 10) and determined to be a ♂

(2) Four other Sooties (vials 6,7,8,9) collected for parasites.

Noted: 10 Frigatebird eggs discovered on island bunker South of colony, 1 they were duly marked and henceforth will be checked every other day.

Banding in evening: 81 Sooties

Survey in morning:

31 Gray banded Terns

Frigatebirds 125

Fairy Terns 4

Noddy 440

Brown Booby 9

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Red-footed Booby 578

Survey in evening:

2 Masked Booby

Red-footed Booby 190

Frigatebirds 120

January 3--Banding in evening: 89 Sooties

Survey on Johnston Island in morning:

Ruddy Turnstones 51

Golden Plovers 24 (molt)

Black-Bellied Plover 1

Wandering tattler 2 (molting)

Sanderling 4

Red-tailed Tropicbird 1

White-tailed Tropicbird 1

Survey on Sand Island in evening:

Masked Booby 2

Sooty 6000

Frigatebird 190

Hawaiian Noddy 1

January 4

Comments: today marked particularly high winds (re:weather data).

Collected: Sooties for ectoparasites (vials 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17)

Banding in evening: 3 Hawaiian Noddy, 94 Sooty, 13?. And two bands read of last year's birds (re: band reading)

Noted: When checking area "A" Frigatebird nesting area egg no. 18 was destroyed accidentally by bird departing nest.

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Survey in evening:

Masked Booby 1

Noddy 500

Hawaiian Noddy 1

Frigatebird 150

Red-footed Booby 400

January 5--Noted: In an effort to find out in what direction birds depart the island in morning we stood watching colony from 0600 to 0800. Results recorded in Bratley's notes. Generally observed that majority which depart reef area do so to the windward in a NE direction in small flocks.

(2) 30 Brown Boobies observed at this occasion.

(3) The Brown Booby roosts at night on wire and in early morning hours (before dawn) gather in pairs on East slope of colony and remain there until disturbed. This has been observed on several occasions.

(4) One Masked Booby observed.

Collected: 4 Sooties (vials 19, 20, 21, and 23), one Red-footed Booby (vial 22) were collected for ectoparasites.

Banded in evening: Masked Booby 1, Sooty 101 and one recovery

January 6

Comments: At 0630 an attempt was again made to discover the direction in which the birds depart the island daily in search of food (re: Bratley's notes) It has been decided that henceforth the daily survey will be taken at this hour as most of the bird populations are at their highest then.

Survey at 0630:

Noddy 350

Red-footed Booby 2200

Masked Booby 1

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Collected: 5 Sooties (vials 24,25,26,27) and 1 Noddy (vial 28) were collected for ectoparasites.

Noted: 3 Red-tailed Tropicbirds over colony. Reliable report that 3 White-tailed Tropicbirds were on Johnston Island.

Banded in evening: 180 Sooties.

January 7--Survey at 0630:

Red-footed Booby 2900

Noddy 700

Gray-backed Tern 2

Collected: 4 Sooties (vials 29,30,31,32) and 1 Noddy (vial 33) were collected for parasites.

Comments: Afternoon spent in picking up dead and crippled birds in hopes that they might be incorporated into movie.

Noted: At 1500 first Sooties may be seen on horizon though they do not arrive here in any great numbers until after 5:30 p.m. It is known estimated that the population is around 10,000 to 15,000 and ever rising. 3 Red-tailed Tropicbirds seen hovering over island in late afternoon. Plover population estimated at 40-50, 7 of which are banded. In evening 2 Masked Boobies sighted.

Banded between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.: 202 Sooties.

January 8--Survey at 0630: 2800 Red-footed Booby, 1 Gray-backed Tern

Noted: The brown booby are beginning to court (on east slope) and nest building is beginning to progress. In afternoon 8 Fairy Terns observed hovering over island.

Collected: 5 Sooty Terns (vials 34 to 38) for ectoparasites,

Banded: 28 Noddies, 5 Hawaiian Noddies, 1 Gray-backed Tern, 200 Sooties--total 234

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January 9--Survey: In the early morning survey 510 Boobies reported

Noted: This seems like a remarkably low no. of Boobies, and has led us to wonder if the population comes to roost here every night or stay at sea and comes only when the weather conditions are adverse. In all events it is a population which has a large daily fluctuation.

Noddy Terns are molting--the third species in two weeks in such a condition.

1 Adult Frigatebirds are still to be seen feeding young of last year. There are in the neighborhood of 40 young Frigatebirds on or around the island each of which has a particular roost; many of which are on pilings in the tidal zones of the island. Each is being fed by its respective parent.

Egg 26 (area A) was collected and the albumen frozen at Roger Clapp's request.

Banded: In evening 199 Sooties.

Collected: 3 Sooty Terns (vials 39,40,41) 1 Noddy Tern (vial 43) and 1 Frigatebird for ectoparasites.

January 10--Survey in morning (Johnston Island):

Red-tailed Tropicbirds 2

White-tailed Tropicbirds 2

Sanderling 6

Wandering Tattler 3 (first indication of molt)

Golden Plover 40 (well into molt)

Ruddy Turnstone 35 (well into molt)

Collected: 4 Sooties (vials 44,45,46,47) deparasitised

Noted: No more than 200 boobies collected on guy wires before dark.

Banded: evening, 200 Sooties with no recoveries

January 11--Banded: between 0130 and 0230, 100 Sooties

Edna D. ...

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Noted: In morning 7 Fairy Terns were wheeling over island. In evening 1 Masked Booby (perhaps banded) and one Tattler were sighted.

The Sooty population can now be estimated, safely, at 30,000 individuals.

While banding this evening the whole population of Sooties roosting on the island departed, as the winds.

January 12--Noted: On this date the study areas were disturbed again, this time by the spraying of Milothiodin, a phosphate base pesticide mixed in a bulk emulsifying oil. The reason for this spraying was officially to keep the house flies in check; it is to be noted that there are scarcely any on the island. Photos were taken of the entire spraying. The effect on the Golden Plover population will be observed in the next few days.

Banded: In the evening, 200 Sooties and one recovery from last year's banding.

January 13--Survey in morning: at 0630 estimated 1900 Red-footed Boobies roosting on wires. 2 Red-tailed Tropicbirds sighted flying over colony.

Collected: 4 Sooties for ectoparasites (vials 48, 49, 50, 51)

Comments: Photographer under the command of Lt. Jacobs took 400 ft. of 35 mm color film of nesting Frigatebirds. While doing this an adult male Frigate swooped down over an unattended nest and broke egg (this particular egg rotten). This is the third occasion on which this has been witnessed.

Banded: 200 Sooties in evening.

15 DAYS

Location SAND ISLAND

Observer W. J. B. Smith

Date 20th 1/1958 Time to

Weather

[illegible]

15 DAYS

Location ESBND ISLAND

Observer F. S. WISLOCKI

Date JAN 15 69

Time to

Weather

[illegible]

I just put
this in
envelope I know
where it goes

2
—

1964

- 4/22 departed Washington, D.C.; arrived Honolulu
- 4/23 to 4/28 Honolulu
- 4/28 arrived Midway via MATS flight
- 4/29 surveyed shorebirds
- 4/30 collected 4 ducks
- 5/1 departed Midway for Kure via S.A.R. flight
- 5/2 checked growth and reproductive areas--Brown Booby, Blue-faced Booby,
Black-footed Albatross, Laysan Albatross and Red-tailed Tropicbird. Banded
300 Sooty Tern in evening.
- 5/03 checked growth and reproductive areas. Marked and tagged and weighed
two seal pups.
- 5/04 checked growth and reproductive areas. Fleet returned, Wirtz left on S.A.R.
flight.
- 5/05 checked booby and Laysan Albatross reproductive area, banded 100 Laysan
Albatross chicks, checked Wedge-tailed Shearwaters burrows.
- 5/06 checked booby and Laysan Albatross reproductive area, checked plant succession
areas--cleaned out pellets, field number 20227
- 5/07 checked booby and Laysan Albatross reproductive area, checked plant succession
area--did daily activity study from N. tower in morning.
- 5/08 checked booby and Laysan Albatross reproductive area. Banded 100 Laysan
Albatross.
- 5/09 Checked booby and Laysan Albatross reproductive area, walked outer beach on
shore bird count and tagged and weighed seal pups.
- 5/10 banded 130 Sooty Terns at end of runway, checked booby and Laysan Albatross
reproductive area. Collected dead petrel on outer beach, tentatively
identified as a Harcourt's Storm Petrel, Oceanodroma castro, field number
20228.

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- 5/11 checked booby and Laysan reproductive area, opened traps.
- 5/12 checked traps, checked booby and Laysan reproductive area.
- 5/13 checked traps, checked booby and Laysan reproductive area, banded 100 Sooty terns after nightfall.
- 5/14 checked traps, checked booby and Laysan reproductive area.
- 5/15 checked traps, heavy rain precluded day check on booby and Laysan reproductive area
- 5/16 checked booby and Laysan reproductive area, banded 200 Laysan chicks, tagged and weighed seals
- 5/17 checked booby and Laysan reproductive area
- 5/18 ran activity study from North Tower, checked booby and Laysan reproductive area, banded 86 Sooty Terns
- 5/19 checked booby and Laysan reproductive area
- 5/20 checked Booby and Laysan reproductive area, banded 16 Laysan Albatross, checked Booby control area and 4 Sooty Terns
- 5/21 checked booby and Laysan⁵ reproductive area, banded Laysan chicks
- 5/22 checked booby and Laysan reproductive area
- 5/23 checked booby and Laysan reproductive area, banded Red-tailed Tropicbirds.
- 5/24 checked booby and Laysan reproductive area
- 5/25 checked Laysan and booby reproductive area, banded Laysan Albatross and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters.
- 5/26 checked Laysan and booby reproductive area
- 5/27 checked Laysan and booby reproductive area, ran activity study
- 5/28 checked Laysan and booby reproductive area, made shorebird count
- 5/29 surveyed Sand island for seals and birds, tagged one turtle B26 and three seals.
- 5/30 Checked booby and Laysan reproductive area

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- 5/31 checked booby and Laysan reproductive area
- 6/01 checked booby and Laysan reproductive area
- 6/02 checked booby and Laysan reproductive area, ran activity study.
- 6/03 checked booby and Laysan and Red-tailed Tropicbird reproductive areas
- 6/04 checked booby, Laysan, and Red-tailed Tropicbird reproductive areas
- 6/05 checked booby, Laysan and Red-tailed Tropicbird reproductive area
- 6/06 checked booby, Laysan and Red-tailed Tropicbird reproductive area and tagged seals.
- 6/07 checked booby and Laysan reproductive area, Robert Sundell replaced Robert Fleet on this day.

Midway, Sand Island, 4/29/64

Surveyed area at end of runway, near S.A.R. hanger. Pot holes generally dried up. Estimated at least 2000 Golden Plover gathered here in mixed plumage. There is no question that this is a migratory flock. It is interesting to note, that many appeared to be feeding and that they were all facing in the windward direction. Also saw many Ruddy Turnstones and a few Wandering Tattler, plus 7 or 8 Sanderlings. There were also two snipes which were either Wilson's or Pintail, which I could not collect as the only available shot is number 9.

Midway, Sand Island, 4/30/64

Collected 4 ducks in pot holes in air strip run-off near S.A.R. hanger. These four specimens (presently in B.O.Q. freezer) do not have field numbers nor have measurements been taken. I have written Charles Ely to assign them field numbers on their arrival in Honolulu. They have not been tentatively identified as I do

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not have a field guide. They comprise total duck population which I observed. These ducks were later tentatively identified as a ♂ and ♀ Pintail and as ♂ and ♀ Shoveler.

Kure Island, 5/7/64

Observed two Fairy Terns that had blue bases to bill which indicates that they may be breeding. There has been no report of this species breeding on this island for some years, no doubt because of the lack of adequate breeding sites. There are only 7 Caesarina trees, and the higher vegetation is Scaevola. Note: discovered egg 5/21/64 in Scaevola.

Kure Island, 5/16/64

Spotted Sooty Tern with orange streamer (yellow with age) fly over island in mid-afternoon--coast guardsman reports having seen one in loafing flock on island about a week ago.

Kure Island, 5/25/64

Spotted on this day a Greater Frigatebird with an orange streamer, confirmed record with Robert Fleet--this is a record I believe.

October 10, 1964

After eight days on board the Shearwater we arrived at Taongi Atoll later on the afternoon of the 10th of Oct. 1964. The voyage was both dull and lonesome. My days were uninterrupted except for bird observations; the most notable were Palefooted Shearwaters and Cookes Petrels both of which I have never seen. Though I sighted the Atoll at dawn it was not until midday that a channel was found deep enough for our two rubber rafts and it was not until flood tide that the current through this passage had abated enough to allow us through. On landing we made camp on the lee shore of Sibylla Island facing the lagoon. After dark I banded Red-footed Boobies which were nesting high in the Scavola, I returned to camp well after midnight.

October 11, 1964

It was not until dawn that I really saw this Island and it is truly magnificent, A long arc of sandy-coral beach backed by dense Scavola. The Atoll has but one mile of land area although there are some twenty six miles of beach, thus the islands are nothing more than a strip of sand curving inward on the lagoon. Here, by the way, were sharks most of which were no more than four feet in length though from the raft passing through the swift current of the Atoll they looked much larger. Also it is the home of the killer clam one of the most beautiful mollusks I have ever seen although their shells are dull, their mantles maybe observed in beautiful green s and blues, and even delicate reds.

The outer beach which I walked that morning in hopes of collecting some new shore birds presented a new picture. Here the wild desolate sea rushed against the rough coral beach. Its ferocity was attested to by the hulls of three ships whose sad graves must have been perpetrated by faulty navigation. All three were Japanese fishing vessels, one of which was not recorded on the chart. Also along the beach were various huts erected by the sailors of these wrecks as they

awaited rescue. I returned from this walk with an empty bag, while others had collected Bristle-thighed Curlews, Wandering Tattlers during their surveys of other beaches. None of these being new records I couldn't get excited. I also observed nesting Crested Terns and many Bridled Terns both of these were birds that I had not seen before. All in all the bird populations on this island seem relatively small when compared with the leeward islands which I visited earlier this year. No Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were observed on the island although I did note some burrows, in a clearing in the center of the island. One reason for the absence of ground and burrow nesters might be the density of undergrowth, here the scavola grows to 8 or 10 feet. This vegetation is the nesting sight for the Lesser Frigatebird and the Red-footed Booby, both of which we observed nesting, the Frigatebird having both eggs and chicks and the Red-footed Booby only chicks well fledged. Blue-faced Boobies were observed in pairs, but only two were seen to have eggs. Other than these birds wandering Tattlers, Ruddy Turnstones, Golden plovers and Bristle-thighed Curlews were observed in fair numbers. Of the mammals; one or more species of rat is present on the island, though only one specimen was collected. Trapping on this island was extremely difficult due to land crabs which fouled the traps, they are cursed beasts.

It was hoped to band this evening but rain precluded these ambitions.

October 12,13, 1964

In the morning a small collection of plants was made also several skinks were collected. In the afternoon it was decided to depart this island for Breje Island about a mile to the north of this island. Here we expected to find Sooty Terns having glassed the island from the north end of this island. We could have attained this island by foot as all the islands of this atoll at low tide are connected by a coral reef. Nonetheless, for convenience we chose rubber rafts. Breje Island differs from Sibylla Island in that there is less vegetation and large areas with only sparse grasses. Here we found at least 50,000 nesting Sooty Terns and a great number of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, both dark and light phased, though light phased predominates. Also in the trees on the windward side Fairy Terns were nesting, both

eggs and chicks were observed. Also Reef Herons (dark, light and intermediate phases) and a Christmas Island Shearwater were collected, the latter being the first record for the Atoll though not surprising. It was planned (or rather ill-planned) that we band from dusk til dawn, the other alternative being the hard comfort of sleeping on a coral beach without sleeping bags or tent since all our gear was left at the other island. As predicted it began to rain shortly after midnight and did not abate until late the following afternoon. Nonetheless I succeeded in banding until about 3 a.m. having banded a thousand Sooty Terns along the inner beach. On returning to camp I was joined by the others around a fire to weather out the rain til dawn-perhaps the worst night on the trip. At daybreak we returned to the main island and the ^{hope} of dry clothing only to find our camp ravaged by the storm, thus it was decided to pull stakes and depart for the ship. We got under way for Bikar Atoll late in the afternoon.

October 14, 1964

Woke to a sunny sky, it was hard to believe there was any sun left after yesterday. We are in the last days of rainy season for this area, which I guess must serve as a justification for all that's past.

Sighted Atoll around 10 a.m. steamed off reef until noon looking for a good passage for our raft. Again three wrecks, one right in the passage through the reef. In looking for this passage we steamed around the reef it being no more than two hundred feet from the ship, yet there is 600 fathoms of water beneath us which is hard to believe.

The atoll contains four islands, one well to the south of the other three, and it is this one we made our first camp sight upon. Unlike Taonge Atoll the islands of this atoll have dense vegetation on the interior, Though I should add that none of the four islands are more than half a mile in circumference. When walking in the interior my first impression reminded me of the rain forests of Panama- damp, dark, lush and fertile. What with a miriade nesting birds high in the canopies of the trees and the absence of undergrowth yet on closer observation one realises that there are only nine or ten specie

of plants on this island. The main one being *Pissonia* trees which grow to fifty or sixty feet in height, there are also some introduced coconut palms, but the coconuts prove too bitter for my taste.

We found on the island no unrecorded species of bird and generally fewer birds than expected- and most of these were nesting too high in the trees to be banded. We also observed Polynesian rats in abundance, much larger than the ones I saw on Kure; a small series was collected. It is interesting to note that within the hull of one of these wrecks was small population of Norway rats that lived on the grain in its hold, but it has not yet been recorded on the island.

After dark I banded boobies for an hour or so.

October 15, 1964

Woke up to a light but steady rain which kept us near to camp until well past noon at which time it cleared enough to collect reef fish with the aid of rotenone. Unlike the plants of this Atoll the fish abound in all color, form and shape, such a collection I have never seen before and I would venture to say that the reef fish of the Marshall Islands might be included in the seven wonders of the world.

The evening was spent collecting blood samples and banding.

October 16, 1964

Once again we woke up to a light rain and hung around the tent until noon when the skies cleared and we departed via faif for the other islands in the atoll. Stopped briefly at Jaboero-to a mere wisp of sand, barren of all but ground cover and one sanderling which is a record, though all attempts to collect proved frustrating and embarrassing to the marksmen. On arriving at Arumeni and Jaboerukku-to (they are joined by coral reef) we set up camp on the later and surveyed the island. In character it is not unlike Jaboero-to only there are no palms. Discovered a nesting white-tailed Tropicbird and other members of the party discovered two pairs of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters nesting (with chicks) which constitute a new record. The island also has a small colony of Sooty Terns.

The evening was spent banding Boobies.

October 17-19, 1964

I have consolidated these three days because when one is on such small islands with such limited possibilities it does not really matter if something happens on Monday, Tues, or Wed- the fact that it happens is enough. One could survive for months, even years on an island of this kind, there is enough here to fulfill the basic requirements but the limits for the mind are so narrow that within days one might go mad for there is truly little here in the way of variety.

Nonetheless I kept my sanity long enough to collect a series of rats and to band 300 Sooty Terns. Here, by the way, I saw my first Crested Tern chick, big deal. And, swam for many hours amongst the wondering fish who must have envisaged me as a clumsy jelly fish from some foreign waters.

Departed the atoll on the morning of the 19th on route to Taka Atoll 55 miles to the south arriving late in the afternoon and having found a passage wide enough to accommodate the ship we anchored in the atoll one mile off Taka island. No shore party was planned until the following day.

October 20, 1964

Woke up to clear skies also heard that Krushkev was no premier of Russia, whether he was dead or dethroned I did not find out for several days. There is next to no news coverage here and it will take a month to catch up to the world.

Taka is a beautiful atoll and comprised of 6 or 7 islands which from a distance look lovely, cool and green. Here again there are coconut palms planted by the good natives of Uteric Atoll which lies only eight miles to the west. It was decided that since there are so many islands in this atoll that we form into two parties. One going to Boken and Eluk the other to (in which I was included) Taka, Lojiron and Wotourikku-to. Taka, the main island and the one which we finally chose as our base of operations is the most habitable of all the islands we have yet been to, here with its large grove of coconuts and ample well is the paradise sought after by so many. There is even that small grouping of grass huts which in their whimsical construction seemed perfectly suited for the tropics.

Here there were no natives to greet us but a sail could be observed. No doubt the natives had seen the lights of the ship and were sending a party to investigate. For as I latter found out a native of Uteric makes some claim to owning this atoll I was tempted to offer a price. So far as bird populations go the islands are inconspicuous. There were no Frigates observed and only an occassional Brown Booby, one of which had a red painted mark on its breast indicating that it was banded on Bikar by us a few days ago and another with an orange streamer indicating it had been banded at Johnston Atoll. There is also a large Sooty-Tern population on the island, 60,000 or more many of which had eggs and chicks though it was evident that there was some native predation of both eggs and adults. It was interesting that we found bones of both frigates and boobies near the campfire pits of the natives. I am convinced that the natives are responsible for the absence of Frigates and the sparcity of Boobies. The island also had an abundance of Fairy terns some common nd Hawaiiin Noddies. Shore birds were represented by Golden Plovers, Ruddy turnstones, Wandering Tattlers and Bristle-thighed Curlews. There were also some 20 Crested Terns nesting. The other two islands which I visited in the Atoll presented little else. They, unlike Paka Island, do not have cocnut palms and are considerably smaller. I did observe later on nesting Fairy Terns and Reef Herons on Wotourikku-to island. Members of the other party obsefved nesting Red-tailed Tropicbirds on Eluk and an interesting Hawaiiin Noddy of singular coloration was collected there.

In the afternoon we returned to the ship with the skies darkening for a storm.

October 21, 1964

Rain set in for the day thus I spent these hours aboard the ship working on records and making up skins. In the evening the natives whom I mentioned yesterday and who had spent the day camped on the island sailed over to the ship. I had observed them through out the day wandering along the beach and wondered why they ahd not come over to the ship earlier, the reason proved that they were collecting shells with which to trade for wares.