

lost to the view of those dispatched along the beach to attempt his rescue should opportunity offer.

Shortly before this sailor fell, a surferman from the Dam Neck Mills station arrived (the service telephone wires being down) with a message asking the keeper to come with his crew to the assistance of a vessel about to strand midway between the station named and the Little Island station.

The man still on the mast had thus far made no effort to cooperate with the Coast Guard crews, and as nothing more could be done, owing to the darkness, to further his rescue, the Little Island crew responded to the call for aid from upcoast, leaving the False Cape crew to stand by the *Luckenbach*.

Upon coming abreast of the vessel reported to be endangered the Little Island crew found her anchored and apparently safe. The keeper, therefore, proceeded on up the beach to the Dam Neck Mills station, from which place he was able to get in line communication with the Weather Bureau station at Cape Henry and advise headquarters of the fate of the *Edward Luckenbach*.

It appears that becoming satisfied, some time after the Little Island crew departed from the scene of the *Luckenbach* wreck, that the man out on the steamer's mast was dead, the keeper of False Cape and his crew returned to their station. A short time after their arrival they were called to the assistance of a barge ashore within the patrol limits of the Wash Woods station, to the southward, and helped land her entire crew, four persons, by means of the breeches buoy. This vessel proved to be the *William H. Macy*, one of the *Edward Luckenbach's* tow of barges. Returning to his station in the early morning of the 4th the keeper sent a surferman back to the *Luckenbach*, and when the man returned with the information that the sailor left on the mast was still in his position and apparently alive no time was lost in taking crew and surfboat to the wreck and in summoning the Little Island crew to the scene.

The surf was still very high, the tide was running flood, and the current was still sweeping strong to the southward between the vessel and shore, making it absolutely impossible to launch off the beach. The boat was, nevertheless, hauled up to windward of the steamer and taken from its carriage and placed near the water's edge, in the hope that such action would hearten the imperiled man.

When the tide turned, shortly after noon, with a slight moderation of wind and sea, the long-looked-for chance to get away came. Once past the inshore surf the work before the Coast Guard men, though attended by no little danger, was soon accomplished. The surfboat, manned by the two keepers and members of both crews, ran in under the projecting mast and the sailor cast off his lashings and dropped into the arms of a surferman. The drogue was then thrown out and a successful run made for the beach.

REPORT OF DESTRUCTION OF BIRD LIFE ON LAYSAN ISLAND, PACIFIC OCEAN.

COAST GUARD CUTTER "THETIS,"

At Sea (Lat. 24° 23' 47" N., Long. 165° 31' 23" W.), April 5, 1915.

SIR: In obedience to your verbal order of this date, the following report is submitted relative to the conditions found on the several

islands visited by me during the cruise of this vessel in March and April, 1915:

Leaving Honolulu the evening of March 16, 1915, and after a pleasant run of 266 miles, during which northerly winds with moderate seas were encountered, the *Thetis* arrived at Bird or Nihoa Island at 8 a. m. March 18.

1. *Bird Island*.—Birds were seen everywhere—in the air, on the steep slopes of Bird Island, and resting on the water. At least half a million birds use this bit of land in the mid-Pacific Ocean for breeding purposes. At 8.30 o'clock a party went ashore through the surf, landing on a bit of sandy beach on the south side of the island near the western end. The party consisted of yourself, Lieuts. Parker, Eberly, Daniels, Surg. Hooper, and Lieut. Donaldson, United States Army, guests of the wardroom officers, and myself.

The sea was not bad on landing, but it grew worse toward 11 o'clock, so that the crew could not control the boat, as the larger breakers swept up the beach. In trying to keep the boat end to the surf, one man was injured severely by getting one of his legs caught under the boat. Meanwhile, the officers were up the slopes of the island, noting the kinds of birds and estimating the number of each kind seen and taking photographs of nesting birds.

From the landing place the island rose at an angle of 45 degrees or more. The slope was rocky and covered with a thick growth of low-growing bushes and plants. Higher up grass in large tufts or bunches predominated. Occasionally high cliffs arose which were weatherworn and honeycombed, affording excellent nesting sites. The north shore and also the east and west ends of the island are sheer walls or palis, offering no foothold, and therefore inaccessible to man except by ropes lowered down from the top of the cliffs. Here in these cliffs, however, thousands of birds hold sway, resting at dizzy heights in the cracks, crevices, and ledges of these walls, the highest rising 700 feet or more above the sea.

Climbing the slopes was rough work, and required careful treading to prevent stepping on the birds, which hid under the thick brush growth, in shallow holes, and under the lee of rocks. They refused to move out of the way. These birds are known as the Wedge-tailed Shearwater, and were found at all altitudes of the island. They made peculiar moaning noises and cat-like calls and were seen usually in pairs. They are of a gray coloring. We saw none nesting. They were very common and exceeded any other kind in number.

We had gone but a few feet up the slope of the island when a red-footed booby was discovered on its nest. The nest was placed on the top of a low bush, a very simple affair consisting of a platform of small stems or sticks and leaves. There was a single white egg. A little later we saw them in large numbers. Some preferred the little stunted palms peculiar to the island for nesting purposes. There were about 800 of these birds.

These palm trees noted above were found in two of the valleys in small groves. They do not attain a greater height than 12 to 15 feet. The leaf is of the broad fanlike type, with fruit the size and shape of olives and having a highly polished skin covering.

Similar to the red-footed booby, large numbers of the blue-faced booby were seen nesting on the slopes higher up. Their nests were

located on the bare ground and made saucerlike by years of guano deposits from the birds occupying them. The eggs, usually two in number, are of a pale blue ground color, which is nearly obscured by a heaving coating of white lime deposit. Some of the eggs are soiled by the birds after being laid. There were estimated to be about 5,000 of these birds on the island.

The next bird to attract attention on our way up the slope was the Frigate Bird. A female was found on her nest. She allowed us to approach close enough to touch her with our hands. The nest, like that of the red-footed booby, was placed on the top of a low bush. It consisted of a platform of sticks, crudely made. Later we noticed where one egg had fallen through the nest and had caught in the thick network of branches of the bush some 4 or 5 inches below the platform of the nest. The bird had simply laid another egg to take the place of the one thus lost. These birds were nesting by the thousands, and were very conspicuous on the steep slopes of the island, with the green foliage for a background, not only because of their size but also on account of the flaming turkey red bladderlike appendage at the necks of the males. These bladders can be inflated at will and resemble, when so extended, a toy balloon. No doubt a person was expected to show fright and keep away at this demonstration of their excitement and anger. There were probably 50,000 of these birds on the island.

Soon after sighting the first nesting Frigate Bird, loud squawking, harsh cries and angry mutterings were heard proceeding from the thickly bush-covered ground close at hand. These noises came from a very beautiful bird having pale pink satiny plumage, a strong curved red bill and two red feathers in its tail. This bird is known as the Boatswain or Red-Tailed Tropic Bird. It was the only one we saw nesting, although several had been seen on the wing during our approach to the island.

As we climbed higher the Frigate Birds became less numerous, owing, no doubt, to the change in vegetation from bushes to grass. However, Sooty Terns were found in ever increasing numbers as we ascended. These birds would hover in swarms over our heads as we disturbed them from their nesting sites, and make loud cries. Each pair of birds had but a single egg, usually on the bare ground in the lee of a tuft of grass. There must have been 20,000 of these birds on the island.

It was at this level, perhaps 500 feet up, that we encountered the first albatross nest—the Laysan Albatross. There was a half grown young bird in the nest. Going over the ridge near the highest part of the island we came upon a plateau several acres in extent where was located a colony of the Black-Footed Albatross. The young, still in their pin feathers, were very sturdy looking, standing upright on their legs. Here and there, scattered through the colony were seen the White or Laysan Albatross. Of the Black-Footed variety there were perhaps 500 birds on the island, and of the Laysan Albatross about 50 birds.

We noticed quite a number of yellow finch-like birds, which we found to be the Laysan Finch. They were yellow breasted, the shade being of a greenish hue. They were about the size of the common sparrow, a little larger, perhaps. They were quite fearless and very

inquisitive, following us about everywhere we went. There must have been 1,000 or more of these birds on the island.

A tern, similar in size to the Sooty Tern, but having gray plumage above, was seen in scattered pairs. Two only were flushed from eggs. They are known as the Gray-Backed Tern. We estimated them to number 10,000.

Another and very beautiful tern was seen clinging to the cliffs. They are the Love Birds, or White Tern, are smaller than the Sooty Tern, and have snow-white plumage with black bills and feet. They were seen perched on the tiny shelves and pockets in the precipitous cliffs, usually in pairs. Close to 50,000 of these birds must have made the island their home.

The Noddy was seen in one large flock. They were on the beach when we landed, but flew away on our near approach. They were seen again on the beach at the time of our departure. There were probably 500 of these birds on the island.

Several birds of the tern species which were of a mouse-gray color and small in size were seen. There were also two young birds found in the hollows of the rocky cliffs. We took these to be the Necker Island Tern.

A species of plover was noticed on the plateau. Several of them were seen dodging behind tufts of grass. They were rather shy. Their distinguishing mark seemed to be a long yellow streak, which ran over the eye and down the neck a short distance. They had dark-colored breasts.

As to the approximate number of birds that make this island their home during the breeding season it is difficult to give an estimate. However, taking into consideration that thousands of birds were continually away searching for food or hovering over the island, it is safe to give the total as being half a million birds.

Bird Island seems to be an ideal nesting site for sea and land birds, because the island slopes to the south, thus bringing the sun's rays to play on it continually during the day; because the bushes, coarse grass, and the cliffs afford innumerable sites for nesting; and, finally, because a landing by man can be made only when the sea is very calm.

There is no sign of fresh water on the island, so that a long stay could not be easily made by poachers. Rain water, if caught, would probably be poisoned by the accumulations from the birds.

One thing noticed was the small amount of trouble taken by sea birds in the building of their nests. In fact, except for the assembling of a few twigs, leaves, or a feather or two, no other evidence of a nest was discovered. Some eggs were deposited on the bare ground. Where the tops of the low bushes were used for a nesting site only a frail platform of twigs and small sticks were used.

There was a very pleasant sensation attached to this visit among the wild birds. It was brought about, no doubt, by the utter lack of fear the birds entertained for man. Some of the albatrosses allowed us to stand or sit down alongside of them without seeming to mind us being so near them a bit. All the birds on this island could be approached close enough to be captured with the hands, excepting the finches and plovers. Being strictly land birds they did not have the same confidence in man that the sea birds exhibited, or as they

were not found nesting this fact may account for the difference in behavior.

On returning to the beach after a hot and tiresome climb we found the first cutter badly broken on the port side amidships, so that it could not be used to take us off to the ship. A heavy roller had picked it up and suddenly dropped it on its bilge, breaking five frames, three strakes of planking, and the gunwale. This boat was launched through the surf and taken in tow by one of the other boats. The surf was too heavy for a small boat to land and get us at this time, so we had to jump one by one from a low cliff into the sea during a quiet time and swim off to it and thus returning safely to the ship. The coxswain, who had injured his leg, was placed in a life preserver, lowered from the cliff, and hauled by line to the small boat.

2. *French Frigate Shoals*.—The next landing was made on the largest sand island inside the lagoon of French Frigate Shoals. This islet was covered with grass, vines, and low-growing plants. A fairly large turtle, weighing about 200 pounds, was captured by members of the landing party while it was asleep on the beach. The turtle furnished fresh meat and soup for all hands.

The birds inhabiting this island are given below:

One Frigate Bird only was seen hovering over the ship at the time of anchoring.

A fairly large colony of Black-footed Albatross were nesting on the islet. Scattered among them were 30 Laysan Albatross. There were about 400 of the black-footed variety. The peculiar antics performed by these birds were noticed for the first time on this islet.

A colony of about 600 Noddies was located in the central part of the island. A single egg placed in the center of a creeping vinelike plant was all the nest that these birds required. There were no young birds seen.

The Sooty Tern was also found, but not so numerous as the Noddy. They, like the Noddy, were content to deposit each an egg on the ground in the wake of a bunch of grass or in the lee of a plant. There were perhaps 350 of these birds in the colony.

The Wedge-tailed Shearwater was also present, but not in very large numbers. About 100 birds were on the islet.

The Blue-faced Booby was seen along the shores of the islet on the edge of the vegetation. Fresh eggs to well-grown young were in the nests. The eggs were placed on the bare ground. Two eggs are the usual complement, but never more than one young bird was seen in a nest. What becomes of the second egg was not discovered.

One Red-tailed Tropic Bird was seen nesting. One egg only was in the nest.

The seine was taken ashore by a fishing party, but owing to numerous coral heads in the lagoon which interfered with hauling the seine, only three fish were caught.

Although very small in area, this island supported a numerous bird population.

3. *Lisianski Island*.—Laysan Island had to be passed without landing, because of high winds and heavy seas. About 2 p. m., March 24, the *Thetis* anchored off the west shore of Lisianski Island abreast the boat passage through the reef. The old westerly swell

of the heavy winds of the day before made the anchorage a rolling one. On landing one was struck with the lack of vegetation growing. What little was found was not in a very flourishing condition. The land was wind swept, sandy, with bleached sea shells, and bird bones scattered everywhere. This island has a network of subterranean passages or tunnels made by the Petrels and Shearwaters. Walking for that reason was very difficult, because every step or two one continually kept breaking through to the knee without the slightest warning into one of these burrows.

The party that landed saw but seven rabbits, all of which were captured and brought to the ship.

Whenever the island afforded enough bushlike growth for the Frigate Bird to construct its nest they were seen nesting in colonies. There were three of these colonies. At the north end of the island the colony consisted of about 1,000 birds; on the northeast shore about 1,200 birds, and the third, located near the house in the central part of the island, about 800 birds. Others were found scattered, usually alongshore, where a few dead or dying bushes afforded a perch on which to roost. The total number, however, would not exceed 3,500.

The White or Laysan Albatross was found nesting on all parts of the island. Well grown young birds, still in their pin feathers, were fairly numerous. The grown birds were more shy than those seen on Bird Island or on French Frigate Shoal sand island. They seemed to take great delight in playing their little performance, apparently never tiring of it. Estimated number of this species is 10,000.

The Black-Footed Albatross was found in fairly large numbers, but not so numerous as the White variety. They had young well developed, but they were still in their pin feathers. They were found scattered all over the island, but were more thickly settled along its shores. Of both species of albatross very few unhatched eggs were found and no dead were seen, of young or old birds. The Black-Footed Albatross numbered about 8,000.

The Red-Tailed Tropic Bird was not seen.

Near the shack several nests of the Red-Footed Booby were seen. Young birds or eggs were found in the nests. There were 10 of these birds.

The Blue-Faced Booby was found in fairly large numbers. Some of them were found nesting near the Frigate Bird rookeries, but they were seen mostly alongshore just out of reach of the highest surf line. Eggs or young birds in various stages of development were found in the nests. Three or four nearly ready to fly were noticed. One nest contained three eggs—an oddity, no doubt. These birds seem to lose one of their offspring, as invariably we have seen but one young bird, or a freshly hatched bird and one egg, in the same nest. What becomes of the second bird or second egg we did not discover.

A third variety of Booby was found nesting on this island. It is mostly black in color, with white belly or under tail parts, yellow bill, and black legs and feet; probably the common Booby or *Sula Sula*. They were found nesting near the Frigate Birds and scattered alongshore along with the Blue-Faced Booby, though not nearly so

numerous. They nest on the ground in a slight depression with a few sticks and one or two feathers. Eggs or young birds were found in the nests, several of the young well developed. The eggs had the lime white color, two to a nest, but, as noted above, only one young bird is raised. There were probably 75 or 100 of these birds on the island.

Two colonies of the Hawaiian Tern were seen nesting near the shack. The nests contained either an egg or a young bird. There were perhaps a thousand birds in the two colonies. The nests fairly well made, were placed in small shrubs or plants or on platforms built up from the ground.

The Noddy was also found, but they were not numerous, probably numbering 300. They were not nesting.

The Gray-Backed Tern was seen in company with the Sooty Tern and scattered about the island. One bird was flushed from its egg, which was placed on the outskirts of one of the Frigate Bird colonies. These birds numbered about 500.

The Sooty Tern was found in one large colony, but they had not begun to nest. They were very noisy and rather shy. They numbered about 1,000.

The Wedge-Tailed Shearwater was very common and found everywhere on the island. They were noticed in pairs generally, and sometimes in small colonies. Just before sundown a great many of them were noticed on the wing over the water. There were about 15,000 of these birds on the island.

The Christmas Island Shearwater was also a very common bird. They are smaller, of a black color, and very tame. They were found scattered over the island, usually near the wedge-tailed variety. We did not find any eggs of either of the shearwaters. There were 10,000 birds of this species on the island.

Several Laysan Rail were seen, but no doubt there were others on the island. These curious little birds can not fly. Their wings are underdeveloped, probably through lack of use for generations past. Those seen on Lisianski Island have been brought over from Laysan Island, as this little bird is peculiar to that island only. They are bold and fearless; also very inquisitive and voracious. One was seen breaking into a tern's egg and greedily eating of the contents, when the tern returned very angry. The tiny rail paid no attention to the tern, but continued with its repast.

Along the shore one Bristle-Thighed Curlew was seen.

The Turnstone was seen to the number of a dozen.

4. *Ocean Island.*—The next possible landing was made at Ocean Island and Green Island, but because of the unfavorable westerly weather the lagoon had to be entered by hauling the dinghy over the coral reef during a quiet spell of the sea. We got the dinghy safely across the reef with the aid of several small swells, all hands having jumped out at the first grounding of the boat. Once in the shallow water in the lagoon we made for Green Island, landing on the east end in a small protected bay or sandy cove.

A large number of hair seals were hauled out on the beach, most of them being asleep.

This island is densely covered with a shrub growing waist-high, except for a portion of the center of the island, where a growth of

grass and vines predominates. The walking through this wooded growth was difficult and soon tiresome.

The Red-Footed Booby was found to be fairly common. They were nesting, but only eggs were seen in the nests. They numbered about 2,000.

The black booby (probably *Sula Sula*) were seen in greater numbers than on Lisianski. They were nesting also, eggs being found in the nests. There were 200 or more of these birds.

There was a fairly large colony of the Blue-Faced Booby nesting near the center of the island on the outskirts of a Frigate Bird colony. They numbered probably 200 birds.

Along the northern shore, western end, and sparsely along the southern shore of the island the Black-Footed Albatross was found nesting in small colonies. There were probably 1,500 of these birds. A great number of albatross eggs were noted which had failed to hatch.

The White or Laysan Albatross were not so numerous. They were found scattered over the island and in one principal colony near the middle of the island. They numbered about 300.

A number of Red-Tailed Tropic Birds were seen, and several were found nesting in the dense brush. They had to be almost walked on before they were discovered. There must have been others, as we got over just a small part of the island, due to the difficulty in getting through the heavy growth of bushes. Birds of these species were also seen on the wing, usually in pairs, at different times of the day. There were about 100 of these birds on the island. The nests seen contained one egg each.

The Frigate Bird was found in one colony near the center of the island. They were nesting, using the tops of small bushes on which to build their nests. They had eggs only. There were about 1,000 of them.

The Gray-Backed Tern was scarce, only 12 being seen. One of these was flushed from its egg, located, as usual, at the foot of a bunch of grass on the bare ground.

Turnstones were seen in small flocks along the shores, probably altogether 100 of them.

Rats were also noted on the island. They were very shy. Sixteen of them were counted. They must be very numerous.

Green Island seems to have greatly changed in outline, as it is not as represented on the chart. It is closer to the reef on the southern side than shown, and the western end now follows the reef for some distance as a bare high sand spit. On this spit 10 or 12 families of Black-Footed Albatross were located. The wooded portion of the island on the western end is closer to the reef than shown on the chart. Abreast the ending of the bush, on the western end of the island, a good passage for small boats was found, with deep water leading through an opening in the reef on to a steep sandy beach. Although fresh westerly winds were blowing at the time, no breakers were noticed.

The beaches were strewn with a large variety of sea shells. On returning to the ship we found a narrow opening in the reef on the southeast side, with a swift current running through. The only precaution necessary was to keep the boat pointed fair. The current prevented the surf breaking on the sea side of the reef.



3. *Laysan Island.*—The next landing was made at Laysan Island. The weather still held westerly with fresh and strong breezes. At the regular boat passage the sea was breaking heavily. Steamed around to the southern end of the island and found a comparatively quiet spot at times on a shelf of coral or limestone rock. A landing was effected by swimming ashore after being rowed as close to the reef as was considered safe. Two cameras were taken along, but it being impracticable to land them without great risk of wetting them they had to be sent back to the ship.

It was indeed a sad sight presented to view on reaching the shore above the surf line. Dead birds were seen in piles of 10 and 15, and sometimes as many as 40 or 50 in a pile. At first we attributed this enormous number of dead birds to some epidemic or disease, but soon it dawned upon us that poachers had again raided the island for feathers. Each dead bird was found to have the breast feathers missing. All the other feathers remained. Only the breast and belly feathers had been taken.

The White or Laysan Albatross was the chief sufferer, next the Black-Footed Albatross, with the Frigate Bird and Blue-Faced Booby following in order of number found killed. Between one hundred and fifty and two hundred thousand birds were found lying in heaps in all parts of the island. All of them were found on their backs with only the breast feathers missing. In the majority of cases the feathers had been pulled out, but in some instances knives had been used, and the breasts had been cut away from the bodies of the birds. It was a most distressing sight to see so many fine birds rotting away. As a consequence there were very few young Albatrosses and Boobies. The Albatrosses, black and white, were very shy and did not permit us to get very close to them. The western half of the island has only a very few young Albatrosses, but there are hundreds of eggs with young chicks in them that never hatched. Evidently from this, the poachers made their raid about the time the young were well developed in embryo. Along the southern and southeastern parts of the island quite a number of the young of the Black-Footed Albatross were found. However, here as elsewhere hundreds of grown birds had been slain for their feathers. In fact, the work was thoroughly and systematically done, as no portion of the island was spared. The dead birds, what was left of them, were lying in heaps everywhere. Evidently they were killed and brought to persons who removed the feathers, thus accounting for them being in piles.

Arriving at the buildings on the western part of the island we found a great pile of dead birds, bare breasts uppermost, in one of the sheds. Unmistakable signs were found, showing that the buildings and island had recently been inhabited by man. An anchor or mooring was found high up on the beach near the wharf. Decaying turtle meat was discovered in one of the pantries. The water-closet was in such a condition as to lead one to believe beyond a doubt that men had been on the island within a period of two or two and a half months. However, when all is said, the greatest evidence was the presence of the dead birds minus their breast feathers.

Around the building skinned birds were found; also the wings of Terns and Albatrosses.

The Albatrosses were very shy and would fly off when we were some hundred yards away. They were also very quiet, and we saw only one or two pairs carrying on their noted performance.

The different birds were seen as follows:

The White Albatross in scattered numbers in the central parts of the island around the lagoon. They had very few young birds. They totaled 40,000 or 50,000 birds.

The Black-Footed Albatross was found around the shores of the island, principally on the southwestern, southern, and southeastern portions of the island. They were fortunate in having more young birds than the White Albatross. They numbered in all about 20,000.

The Frigate Bird was found nesting in three fairly large colonies. There were eggs found in the nests. About 2,000 birds of these species were killed by the poachers. As with the Albatrosses, only the breasts were found missing. We noticed on flushing a Blue-Faced Booby, that it was closely followed and harried by a frigate bird until it finally, with a great deal of squawking, disgorged a fish in mid air. No sooner did this happen than the Frigate Bird swooped down and caught the fish before it reached the ground. The Frigate Birds were very numerous on the island. They numbered about 30,000.

The Blue-Faced Booby was comparatively scarce. A hundred or more were found dead with their breast feathers removed, victims of the poachers. Those alive were found nesting. The number of them alive on the island is about 350.

The Hawaiian Tern was noticed nesting in four or five colonies in the low bushes found on the island, one exception being a small colony in the southern part of the island near the fresh-water pond where the nests were placed on the tops of limestone or phosphate rocks. Eggs and young birds were in the nests. There were 20,000 birds of this species on the island.

The Noddy was also common. It was found scattered along the shores of the island. They were nesting, eggs and young being found. There were perhaps 6,000 birds of this species on the island.

There was a large colony of the Sooty Tern on the island in the eastern central portion. They were beginning to lay their eggs. There were 10,000 of them.

The Gray-Backed Tern was found scattered in small colonies and among the rookeries of other birds. Some were flushed from eggs. No young birds were seen. They were about 5,000 in number.

The Wedge-Tailed Shearwater was very common, numbering possibly 250,000 birds.

The Christmas Island Shearwater was also quite common, but not nearly so abundant as the other. They numbered approximately 50,000.

In the southern part of the island, where the rocks of phosphate and lime are scattered about, the White Tern or Love Bird was noted in a small colony. The eggs found were laid on the tops of phosphate rocks, with nothing soft for protection. They were about 400 all told.

Confining themselves to the waters of a small fresh-water pond in the southern central part of the island were 13 Laysan Teal.

The busy little Laysan Rail was found everywhere on the island. There were more than 5,000 of them.

The Laysan Honey Eater was fairly common, and we judged them to number about a thousand.

The Miller Bird also seemed to be fairly common, numbering about fifteen hundred.

The Laysan Finch was seen in all parts of the island. They were very numerous, approximately numbering 4,000.

The Bristle-Thighed Curlew were quite common and were found scattered over the island. There were about a thousand of them.

The Turnstone was seen in a large flock on the shores of the lagoon, numbering about 5,000.

The rabbits were found to be very plentiful. They were to be seen wherever green patches existed. Twenty of them were caught and taken off to the ship for food. About 15 of them were found dead near one of the buildings. They are rapidly eating off the vegetation of the island.

To the right of the buildings and half a hundred yards from the beach were discovered what appeared to be three graves. There were three headstones buried in the sand, consisting of slabs of phosphate or limestone rock. One of these stones had a paling fence surrounding it in the form of a rectangle. The one next to it had simply a rectantagle of heavy timbers surrounding it, while the third was without any wood at all. There were no inscriptions or marks on the stones. They were not there when the *Thetis's* party visited the island last September.

The buildings and sheds are rapidly deteriorating, and two of the sheds have apparently been blown down by the wind.

We swam off to the dinghy without mishap and arrived on board the *Thetis* about 4.30 p. m.

Respectfully,

W. H. MUNTER,  
*First Lieutenant.*

To the COMMANDING OFFICER.

HONOLULU, HAWAII, April 14, 1915.

Forwarded for the information of the department.

JAS. H. BROWN, *Commanding.*