

The Farallon Research Station of Point Reyes Bird Observatory is supported by PRBO members, the Dean Whitter Foundation, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Science Foundation. This is contribution number 40 of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory.—T. J. LEWIS, D. G. AINLEY, D. GREENBERG, and R. GREENBERG, *Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Box 321, Bolinas, California 94924*. Accepted 20 Mar. 73.

**Northern Fulmar colonies on the south coast of Devon Island, N.W.T., Canada.**<sup>1</sup>—On 2 August 1972 during an aerial reconnaissance of breeding seabirds around Devon Island, two major colonies of Northern Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis*) were sighted on steep cliffs on its southwest coast, one of which may be the largest fulmar colony known. This colony, located between Stratton Inlet and Hobhouse Inlet (74° 28' 00" N, 86° 58' 40" W to 74° 27' 40" N, 86° 43' 00" W), consists of expansive grassy-turfed steep rock cliff ledges extending continuously for about 6.6 miles (10.1 km). All the grassy-turfed ledges and crevices of the cliff face appeared to be occupied by nesting fulmars. No attempt was made to estimate the colony size precisely, but the colony is in at least order of magnitude 5 (10,000–100,000 breeding pairs). The second fulmar colony on cliff ledges at Cape Liddon is relatively small (order 4: 1,000–10,000 breeding pairs), occupying some 2.2 miles (3.5 km) of cliff (74° 37' 45" N, 91° 10' 40" W to 74° 38' 20" N, 91° 03' 15" W). Both these colonies had been sighted previously, but no reports were made. Cape Liddon was first identified as a possible fulmar nesting site on 4 May 1970 by C. J. Jonkel in association with polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) surveys. Similarly, the Hobhouse Inlet colony was seen on an earlier flight in late July 1972 by S. D. MacDonald. We found no evidence of a fulmar colony at Cape Riley (74° 40' N, 91° 42' W), first reported by an officer of the Parry Expedition of 1819–20 and listed as a suspected breeding location by Fisher (1952, *The fulmar*, New Naturalist Series, London, Collins).

It is extremely difficult to determine whether these colonies are of recent origin or not. The only reference to fulmars nesting in the vicinity is that made by Duvall and Handley (1946, Report of a wildlife reconnaissance of the eastern Canadian Arctic, Spec. Rept. U. S. Dept. Interior, Fish and Wildl. Serv.) following their short stay at Hobhouse Inlet: "Some [fulmars] were [seen] flying about a high cliff as though they may have nests, but none were observed to alight." This suggests they may have detected the edge of the present colony that extends into Hobhouse Inlet but failed to observe the major part of it. No mention of the Cape Liddon site could be found in a search of the literature.

One possible explanation to account for these colonies not being discovered previously is that they are new colonies and did not exist earlier. But this seems rather unlikely because nothing suggests that fulmars in arctic waters have increased in numbers (Salomonsen 1965, *Auk* 82: 327) and even if they have it would be difficult to account for recent colonies having reached these sizes since 1946 based on the rates of increase shown by boreal nesting fulmars (Fisher *ibid.*, Salomonsen *ibid.*). Consequently it seems more plausible that these colonies were present in historic time but went unnoticed.—DAVID N. NETTLESHIP, *Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*. Accepted 4 Apr. 73.

<sup>1</sup> An investigation associated with the program "Studies on northern seabirds," Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada (Report No. 12).