

A DOVEKIE ON THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS, ALASKA

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Until recently, the only record of the Dovekie (*Plautus alle*) in Alaska was of one specimen taken in 1935 near Point Barrow (Gabrielson and Lincoln, *Birds of Alaska*, 1959). In 1965, however, Bédard (*Condor* 68:503-506, 1966) collected one Dovekie and sighted four more among the large concentrations of colonial sea birds on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, and in the same year, Breckenridge (*Auk* 83:680, 1966) collected two individuals and reported other observations of this species on Little Diomedede Island, Alaska.

With the occurrence of Dovekies along the west coast of Alaska now substantiated, I will report here an observational record of this species from a yet more southerly locality in the Bering Sea, St. George

Island, Pribilof Islands, Alaska. On 8 July 1958, while censusing alcids along the low cliffs one mile northeast of the village of St. George, I observed a single Dovekie among a small group of Least Auklets (*Aethia pusilla*), Crested Auklets (*A. cristatella*), and Parakeet Auklets (*Cyclorrhynchus psittacula*). This group was sitting atop a large boulder at the base of a 60-foot cliff, which was populated with many more small auklets and with kittiwakes (*Rissa* spp). The Dovekie remained on the boulder during the hour that I was present, but was gone when I returned later that afternoon. I was unable to find the bird on subsequent trips to the area.

Although Dovekies have not previously been reported from the Pribilofs, a region in which there have been relatively intensive ornithological activities, several natives of St. George were familiar with the species and indicated that they usually see a few every year. Present evidence, therefore, suggests that Dovekies may be more regular, although certainly uncommon, inhabitants of islands in the Bering Sea than had previously been thought.

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BEHAVIOR OF ORANGE-CHINNED PARAKEETS IN PANAMA

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In D. M. Power's recent study of captive *Brotogeris jugularis*, reference is made to information obtained from me regarding the species in the wild (*Condor* 68:562, 571, 1966). In the interest of accuracy what is reported needs clarification and amplification, which may have behavioral significance. From the article a reader might infer that I saw roosting flocks on Barro Colorado Island, Canal Zone. My observations there were of something different—pre-roosting assemblages, which gathered in late afternoon in a tall, thinly foliated tree, bordering the laboratory clearing, preparatory to going to roost. The parakeets arrived at this tree in pairs or small groups, from about 17:00 to 17:40. When flying into this tree, and when other birds arrived, the parakeets were extremely noisy. In the tree they tended to divide into pairs, members of which often pressed together, some of them billing in a seemingly "affectionate" manner. When over a hundred, possibly about two hundred, had gathered, new arrivals ceased, and the assemblage became almost silent. After a few minutes of quiet, well before sunset, the birds began to fly off in silent groups of from about six to perhaps 25 individuals, so that by 18:00 not a bird remained. All flew in the same direction toward the mainland, across Gatun Lake—presumably to an unknown roost. Their silent flight was in marked contrast to their

usual boisterousness when flying. I saw these assemblages on Barro Colorado Island on successive afternoons of 12-15 September 1938, but never on my numerous subsequent visits. As this species is common on the island, it is likely that they have some other gathering site, for I have observed the same behavior at several other localities in Panamá. On 6 September 1965, at one of these pre-roosting assemblages, which seemed to be gathering early (about 16:30) because the day was overcast and drizzly, I noted some 50 Orange-chinned Parakeets, in two adjacent, sparsely foliated, small trees. Among them was a bird remarkable in having the normal parrot green color replaced by light greenish yellow. This abnormally plumaged individual was evidently accepted by the group, for it perched in physical contact with a green-colored parakeet.

In contrast with the pre-roosting assemblages, the only nocturnal roost of this species that I have observed was in Balboa, C.Z., in a row of planted banyan trees (*Ficus*), so densely foliated that the perched birds could hardly be seen, much less counted.

The published account of the pendent pose of "Rigid-Immobility" that I once observed requires some modification. The birds were not at all concealed or camouflaged by foliage. A pair flying in full daylight landed near me on a bare, slender branch of a small tree in the open. One bird (evidently seeing me) swung from its upright posture so that it hung below the branch, resembling a leaf, with back toward me but head turned in my direction, the eyes keeping me in view. It held this posture for over a minute, until I looked away. At once the birds flew.

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