

by the gull; (e) the altitude at which the Dovekie's colony is situated—the higher a colony is situated, the greater the chance of escape for the Dovekie when chased by the gull, after carrying out the diving maneuver; (f) the exposure of the colony—the more open the colony terrain, the less possibility of surprising the Dovekies staying in the colony by the gulls; (g) the weather conditions—strong wind increases the effectiveness of the gull predation.—LECH STEMPNIEWICZ, *Department of Animal Ecology, Institute of Biology, Gdańsk University, Czolgistów 46, 81-378 Gdynia, Poland*. Received 10 July 1980; accepted 16 Sept. 1982.

Glaucous Gulls Stealing Spoil from Parasitic Jaegers.—Piracy is a manner of foraging, particularly common in the jaegers (Stercorariidae) and gulls (Laridae) (e.g., Fisher and Lockley, *Sea birds*, Collins, London, 1954; Belopolski, *Ekologia morskich kolonialnych ptic Barentseva Moria*, [in Russian], Izdat. Akad. Nauk SSSR, Moskva-Leningrad, 1957; Hatch, *Auk* 87:244–254, 1970). Jaegers feed largely by harrying other seabirds, in particular gulls and terns, until they disgorge and drop food which the jaegers then snatch. Cases where gulls steal food from jaegers are much rarer. Parmelee and MacDonald (*Natl. Mus. Can. Bull.* 169:61, 1960) reported Glaucous Gulls (*Larus hyperboreus*) attacking and stealing food from Long-tailed Jaegers (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) which had been foraging at the dump at Eureka, Ellesmere Island. Belopolski (op. cit.) described Mew Gulls (*Larus canus*) snatching fish dropped by birds being pursued by a jaeger. Morrison (*Wilson Bull.* 90:649–650, 1978) observed Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) stealing spoil from Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) by direct attack.

When studying the breeding biology of the Dovekie (*Plautus alle*) in the region of Hornsund, south-west Spitsbergen (Stempniewicz, *Acta Ornithologica* 18:141–165, 1981) I was also interested in the Glaucous Gull which is the most important predator of the Dovekie. During field studies on Spitsbergen, in summer 1974 and 1975, I observed several cases of Glaucous Gulls stealing food disgorged by a Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) that was being pursued by a Parasitic Jaeger. In each of 12 observations, the Glaucous Gull joined the jaeger in harrying the Kittiwake. Next, the gull flew a few meters below and behind the Kittiwake, whereas the jaeger was usually to be found over and behind its quarry. The appearance of the Glaucous Gull did not noticeably affect the behavior of the other two birds. After disgorging of the food by the Kittiwake, both the Glaucous Gull and the Parasitic Jaeger tried to catch it. However, the Glaucous Gull won this competition in 9 of the 12 cases because of the shorter distance it had to cover to retrieve the dropping spoil. After either of the birds grabbed the food, the other one ceased to be interested in it.

The foraging manner of the Glaucous Gull described above takes less time and effort from the gull than hunting the Dovekies, especially the adult Dovekies. However, it was used fairly rarely, despite the high frequency of the Kittiwakes harried by the Parasitic Jaegers in the region of Hornsund. The food disgorged by the Kittiwakes (consisting of marine macroplankton) probably did not constitute spoil large enough to be worthwhile for the Glaucous Gulls to make it the main target for foraging.—LECH STEMPNIEWICZ, *Department of Animal Ecology, Institute of Biology, Gdańsk University, Czolgistów 46, 81-378 Gdynia, Poland*. Received 10 July 1980; accepted 16 Sept. 1982.