

gling weakly, and dropped into the deeper water to drown. The gull remained on the surface near by for a few minutes until the murre sank from sight, not to reappear.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*).—A dozen or so, some of them immature, were seen on the rocks, closely associated with gulls or cormorants, or swimming with stubby tails upturned and diving for food nearby. Apparently the young were all out of the "nest" by this time.

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*).—A score or more of these sharp-billed alcids were clustered in several groups low on the rocks; others dived or rested on the water. Most of the young were fledged. One, smaller than the rest, had either fallen from its natal crevice or was making its initial descent to the sea. A breaking wave, higher than most, buffeted it about on the rocks and then washed it out to deep water. It struggled ineffectually for a minute or more, and then another wave cast it up on the rocks again, where it secured a foothold.

Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*).—The small "sea pigeons," jet black with pure white wing patches, nest apart from other species in the deep rocky fissures, rather high up. The young were all in flight, but dozens were on the water or fluttering with swift wing-beats over the surface. They fish well inshore, often beneath the breaking surf. One was observed while feeding, ducking suddenly under the water and swimming, like the other alcids, with its wings. During the course of 15 dives, it stayed submerged on the average for 23 seconds, and rested on the surface for 20 seconds between dives.

From time to time other species mingle with the colonies of breeding sea birds, but usually in small numbers and briefly. Observed among these birds at Cap des Rosiers were the Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*), Kittiwake, Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and Gannet. No intolerance was noted between these intruders and the resident population.—RICHARD H. MANVILLE, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D.C., September 28, 1959.*

**A fatal and a near-fatal strangling accident of small birds.**—On May 7, 1959, on the Madison River bank near West Yellowstone, Montana, I found an adult female Audubon's Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*) strangled by a horse hair. The hair, 25 inches in length, was caught in the tall marsh grass by one end, with the other end free. The warbler, which was still warm when found, was apparently a nesting bird. All eggs had been laid and only two very small yolks were visible in the ovary. The specimen, preserved as a mummy with the horse hair intact, is now in the collection of Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

I witnessed what was almost a similar tragedy at the Bear River Marsh Refuge near Brigham City, Utah, on May 15, 1958, while I was trying to photograph Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) gathering mud for their nests. As each bird flew to the mud puddle, it plucked, on the wing, a dry grass stem 8 to 12 inches long. Then, with the piece of grass grasped in the center with the bill, it lit, gathered a load of mud, and returned to the nest site. Suddenly, one of the swallows began to struggle frantically. I found that it had become hopelessly entangled in about 10 feet of gut leader discarded by a fisherman. Part of this leader had been trampled into the mud, leaving a number of free loops. The swallow, after gathering its mud nearby, had flown into and had been entrapped by one of these loops. I cut the bird free only minutes before it probably would have strangled to death. When released, it flew to a telephone wire and spent some time preening its ruffled feathers.—MARY WIBLE, *Carter Camp, Pennsylvania, September 16, 1959.*