

Several investigators of heterospecific flocks have cautioned that the potential advantages and disadvantages derived from flocking may differ among participants (e.g., Moynihan, *Smithson. Misc. Coll.* 134:1-140, 1962; Morse, *Ecol. Monogr.* 40:119-168, 1970). The different behaviors of the wrens and their associates substantiate this caution.

The potential advantages of flocking include the greater surveillance capability of the group and the corresponding benefits of early warning and foraging efficiency (Powell, *Anim. Behav.* 22:501-505, 1974). The advantage of early warning depends on appropriate response to predator-alert signals.

If, however, "alarm" and/or mobbing calls are prey-to-predator communication of recognition/alertness and thereby identify reduced vulnerability (Buskirk, unpubl.), then predators may avoid hunting in areas where an alarm or mobbing has been given (e.g., Trivers, *Q. Rev. Biol.* 46:35-57, 1971). If so, some advantage to flock participation may exist for gregarious species not cued to the full information content of these signals. Essentially, a protective "halo" would exist around an alerted flock. A large proportion of flock attendants cannot be of this type or predators will find successful hunting in the vicinity of grouped calls. Eliciting mobbing to attract these unaware but gregarious species or individuals may be a successful hunting ploy for some predators. Smith (*Ibis* 111:241-243, 1969) found forest falcons (*Micrastur*) provoking mobbing as a hunting technique. Flock attendants, like the wrens, that are unresponsive to the "predator-present" context of these calls should be more vulnerable than the others. Their frequency of attendance in flocks should be optimized at relatively low levels if anti-predation advantages are a predominant selective force for heterospecific gregariousness.

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Fish attack on Black Guillemot and Common Eider in Maine.—Data on bird mortality at sea are scarce and, although predation and scavenging by marine organisms are assumed, few cases have been documented. The subject was generally reviewed by Glegg (*Ibis* 87:422-433, 1945; *Ibis* 89:433-435, 1947). Additional reports include predation or scavenging by grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) (Grant and Bourne, *Seabird Rep.* 52-53, 1971; Kinnear, *Scot. Birds* 9:342, 347, 1977), octopuses (*Octopus* sp.) (Hindwood, *Emu* 64:69-70, 1964), sharks (*Galeocerdo cuvieri*, *Carcharodon carcharias*, *Carcharinus leucas*, *C. longimanus*) (Brooke and Wallett, *Ostrich* 47:126, 1976; Dodrill and Gilmore, *Auk* 95:585-586, 1978; Harrison, *Oceans* 5:25-26, 1979), monkfish (*Squatina squatina*) (Davenport, *Br. Birds* 72:77-78, 1979) and cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*) (Scheffer, *Murrelet* 23:17, 1942). Foot and leg damage is fairly common in some seabirds and has been assumed to represent attempted predation, probably by fish. The following account documents 1 source of foot and leg damage on the coast of Maine.

On 11 August 1975, a newly fledged Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*) and 2 eclipse-plumaged Common Eider drakes (*Somateria mollissima*) were observed being attacked by several fish off Eastern Egg Rock, Muscongus Bay, Maine. The sea was extremely calm,

making disturbances at the surface very conspicuous. The guillemot was first observed being tugged repeatedly under water and immediately bobbing back to the surface. After each tug the guillemot flapped its wings against the surface of the water, but seemed unable to take flight. The flapping propelled the guillemot forward only 4–6 m at a time. The surface was continually disturbed by what appeared to be about 3 fish approximately 0.75 m long. The appearance of the dorsal and caudal fins, overall size, manner of surface-feeding, locality and season suggested bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), but this could not be verified. The attack was occasionally discontinued for periods of several minutes, during some of which fish attacked the 2 eclipse-plumaged Common Eider drakes nearby. The eiders flapped their wings, ran across the water and eluded the fish for short distances only to be attacked again as soon as they settled on the water. The eiders were eventually able to escape harassment, but the guillemot appeared disabled.

The attack on the guillemot was observed for 1 h. When last seen the guillemot was drifting toward Eastern Egg Rock, where presumably the same bird was found beached the next morning. Both legs had numerous lacerations and the webbing was pierced in several places. These injuries had severed the main tendons on both legs, leaving them completely paralyzed, but the bird was otherwise unharmed and apparently healthy.

Eastern Egg Rock has been occupied by seabird researchers each summer from 1974 through 1979. On 2 August 1974, another immature Black Guillemot was found with similar leg injuries and on 20 August 1974 an adult drake Common Eider in eclipse plumage was found similarly disabled. These 2 birds also appeared healthy but their legs were paralyzed due to severed tendons.

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Crows steal golf balls in Bangladesh.—The omnivorous Large-billed Crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) is widespread in Bangladesh and occurs commonly in towns and villages. In Dacca, this crow and the House Crow (*C. splendens*) serve as important means of helping keep the city sanitary by scavenging on animal and vegetable materials. It is commonplace to observe a mixed flock of 25–100 crows scrambling through a fresh pile of trash on the street.

On 2 December 1978, while at the Dacca Golf Course, I struck a golf ball about 50 m from the green. As the ball descended to an altitude of about 30 m, a Large-billed Crow flew from nearby, seized the ball in mid-air and fled. On the same green I chipped a ball to within 1 m of the hole, only to have a second large-bill flee with the ball.

Such occurrences are common in Dacca and golf enthusiasts must either give up the sport or tolerate crows. Young boys are hired and stationed along fairways to frighten crows during golf matches.

I was unable to determine if the observed crow behavior occurred because the balls were mistaken for food or if the behavior was a manifestation of the tendency of this species, in the words of Ali and Ripley (*Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan*, Vol. 5, Oxford Univ. Press, Bombay, India, 1972:257), to indulge in “puckish pranks, apparently with no object other than fun, such as surreptitiously tweaking its fellows’ wing-tips or toes, or a sleeping dog’s tail . . .”—RICHARD M. POCHE, *Route 2, Box 164, St. Martinville, Louisiana 70582. Accepted 10 Feb. 1980.*