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JAMES V. BRISKIE AND SPENCER G. SEALY, *Dept. Zoology, Univ. Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2, Canada.* (Present address of JVB: *Dept. Biology, Queen's Univ., Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6, Canada.*) Received 10 Sept. 1986, accepted 14 Jan. 1987.

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Short-billed Dowitchers associate closely with Lesser Golden-Plovers.—On their European breeding grounds Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*) often feed in intimate association with Greater Golden-Plovers (*Pluvialis apricaria*), even when the latter are dispersed on their breeding territories. Dunlins appear to associate with the plovers for vigilance, and typically one (but sometimes 2–3) Dunlin follows an individual plover (Byrkjedal and Kålås 1983, *Ornis Fennica* 60:10–15; Thompson and Thompson 1985, *Ibis* 127:559–562).

While studying behavior of breeding Lesser Golden-Plovers (*P. dominica*) at Churchill, Manitoba, in 1986, I observed 5 cases of Short-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus griseus*) associating with Lesser Golden-Plovers on the tundra in a manner closely resembling the Dunlin–Greater Golden-Plover association. (1) On 26 June, I entered a golden-plover territory and found the female feeding in a patch of sedge tundra together with a Short-billed Dowitcher. The dowitcher followed the golden-plover at distances of from 0.5 to 1.5 m, while constantly feeding. I deliberately flushed the birds three times, and each time the dowitcher stayed within 1.5 m of the golden-plover, resuming feeding once they had alighted. I left the territory after about 35 min, and the birds were still together. (2) At a scheduled observation on 7 July at another golden-plover territory, the male flew up and landed on a piece of sedge tundra with a dowitcher following closely. Both birds started to feed at once, and the dowitcher followed the golden-plover at distances of from 0.5 to 1 m. During the 6 min that they stayed in view, the golden-plover attacked the dowitcher twice by rushing towards it with lowered head, but did not succeed in driving the dowitcher away. (3) At a nest inspection in the evening of 7 July the same golden-plover male (color marked) was accompanied by a dowitcher as soon as the plover left the nest. The male stood vocalizing (giving a two-syllable alarm call) about 20–30 m off, when the dowitcher flew up to him from a patch of sedge tundra about 60 m away. The dowitcher started to feed within 0.5 m of the plover. I observed the birds together for about 10 min. When I retreated, the golden-plover approached the dowitcher (as in case 2), which subsequently stood and watched as the golden-plover walked back to the nest. (4 and 5) On 13 July I saw a dowitcher feeding together with a female golden-plover in one territory and another one feeding along with a plover of unknown sex in a patch of sedge tundra near a second territory. In both cases the dowitchers followed the movements of the golden-plovers within 1 m distance during the 2–3 min it took me to pass by.

As do Dunlins in association with Greater Golden-Plovers, the dowitchers (1) walked closely behind the golden-plovers, following their movements on the ground, (2) took flight

and alighted with the golden-plovers, and (3) fed intensely when with the plovers. The plovers tried to chase their company without success, as is the case with Greater Golden-Plovers and Dunlins (Byrkjedal and Kålås 1983).

Except when several shorebird species flocked on common feeding grounds (e.g., along the shore and at muskeg ponds), I never saw dowitchers associate with any of the other species on the tundra, although both Hudsonian Godwits (*Limosa haemastica*) and Whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*) were numerous. Plovers may be attractive "watch dogs" for other birds, because they feed in run-stop-peck sequences, which may provide them with a better opportunity for detecting predators when feeding than exists in shorebirds that feed by probing. The large plovers may be especially attractive as partners because their height gives them a better view than small plovers have, and their size makes them more easily seen by predators (e.g., hawks), so that they may have to be more vigilant than the smaller plovers. I suggest that dowitchers associated with golden-plovers for vigilance, but data on flushing distances and feeding activities of dowitchers in association with golden-plovers and with conspecifics are needed.

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Foraging behavior and diet of Lesser Sandhill Cranes in low arctic tundra near Eskimo Point, Northwest Territories, Canada.—Although the Lesser Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis canadensis*) is commonly observed in the south during migration and in winter, relatively few observations have been made of the behavior and foraging strategies of this subspecies during the breeding season in the arctic. Surveys done in the United States during the nonbreeding season indicate Sandhill Cranes forage on a wide variety of food items, including insects, grubs, spiders, rootlets, herbage, grain, berries, and occasionally mice and young birds (Bent 1926, Walkinshaw 1949, Salt and Wilk 1958, Littlefield 1976). Harvey et al. (1968) observed cranes on the breeding grounds at McConnell River, N.W.T., where they fed on Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) eggs, Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) young, and varying lemmings (*Dicrostonyx groenlandicus*).

During May, July, and August 1985 I observed Lesser Sandhill Cranes at close range at Eskimo Point, Northwest Territories, Canada (61°06'N, 93°59'W). The first cranes were seen 18 May 1985, and their numbers increased dramatically with each passing day. At this time of year, snow covered the ground (ca 25 cm) except on the tops of the higher eskers, which were mostly covered with a thin carpet of lichens (ca 77%), comprised mainly of *Coelocaulon divergens*, *Cetraria nivalis*, and *Cetraria cucullata* (Mallory and Heffernan, in press). Lakes and rivers were still frozen, except in small areas where the water was shallow and the currents strong. The first birds occurred in tight flocks of 6 to 12 individuals that fed on lichens in the snow-free areas. Cranes were never observed fishing in or along the openings in the rivers or lakes, but they did scavenge at sites where fish remains were left by local fishermen. Birds remained in small flocks through the end of May, and I saw no evidence that pairs separated from the main flocks to establish territories. As snow melted, feeding occurred farther down the eskers. During this time, cranes appeared to subsist on a diet composed mainly of lichens and old growth vegetation. Data (Krapu et al. 1985) on