

standing in a field. A small bird held in the vulture's beak was observed moving, indicating that the prey was alive. The prey appeared to be a Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) chick about 1 wk old. The vulture looked towards Titus and then slowly flew off with the bird in its beak. Inspection of the spot from where the vulture flew revealed eight Ruffed Grouse chicks crouched motionless in the grass. An adult grouse was seen in a brushy area nearby when the chicks finally scurried off. We believe that this observation represents a Turkey Vulture preying on live, wild Ruffed Grouse chicks.

Observations of Turkey Vultures taking live prey are not common. Glading and Glading (1970), Mueller and Berger (1967), and Scott (1892) reported Turkey Vultures eating live birds, and Jackson et al. (1978) noted Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) and Turkey Vulture capturing live fish. Only the last of these involved a largely natural situation with both

predator and prey free.

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## Range Extension of Atlantic Puffin and Razorbill in Hudson Strait

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Atlantic Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*) and Razorbills (*Alca torda*) were seen at Digges Sound, Quebec and Northwest Territories, far beyond their known breeding ranges, in August 1979; suggestive evidence of breeding was obtained for Puffins.

**Key Words:** Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), Razorbill (*Alca torda*), Digges Sound, breeding range, aquatic birds, new records.

During August 1979 we visited the large Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) colonies situated on Digges Sound, at the northwestern tip of Quebec (62°30'N, 77°40'W), to make a preliminary survey of seabird populations in the area. In the course of our visit we obtained strong evidence that small populations of Atlantic Puffins (*Fratercula arctica*) and Razorbills (*Alca torda*) occur in this area, well beyond the previously known limits of their breeding range.

The observations of Puffins we owed to our Inuit boatmen, Adami Mangiuk and Ituq Ainalik. After they described the birds to us and identified them in our field guide, they took us on 24 August to a small island, 0.5 km long, off the southwestern coast of Digges Island, Northwest Territories (62°31'N, 77°59'W). As we approached the north side of the island, which rises to a height of 40 m, about a dozen Puffins flew off the cliffs and several others took off

from the sea. By the time we landed approximately 40 birds, including at least one carrying a bill-full of fish, were circling around just off the cliffs.

The cliffs consisted of small precipitous rock faces broken by steep ledges covered in thick grassy turf. Four Puffin burrows were located 20-30 m above the sea, but although one contained fresh droppings no chicks were found. Adami saw an adult bird enter a burrow in a rock cleft, but we were unable to detect a chick. Egg-shell fragments of the right color and dimensions to have belonged to a Puffin were also found.

According to Adami, Puffins have been present on the islet for some years. L. M. Tuck, who visited the Digges Sound colonies in 1955 (unpublished data, Canadian Wildlife Service), made no mention of Puffins in the area. Even if he had not visited the vicinity of their islet, he would probably have been informed



by his Inuit assistants had they been present. It seems probable, therefore, that the Puffin colony has become established during the last 20 years.

Razorbills were observed on 3 d between 20 and 27 August along the cliffs at the extreme southwest end of the murre colony on the mainland side of Digges Sound. Three birds were seen on the water on the day that we arrived and subsequently one or two birds were seen circling in front of the cliffs on the south side of Akpa Cove on several occasions. The cliffs in the immediate vicinity supported about 500 pairs of Thick-billed Murres, an outlying group on the extreme edge of the colony. No Razorbills were actually seen landing on or taking off from the cliffs, and their breeding status remains in question.

Tuck (*op. cit.*) made no mention of Razorbills in his report on Digges Sound, but he did mention that he camped for several weeks in Akpa Cove. It seems inconceivable that he could have overlooked the birds had they been present in 1955. Surprisingly, our Inuit companions had no knowledge of Razorbills and had never identified them, although their knowledge of other birds was quite detailed. It thus seems reasonable to assume that Razorbills have colonized the area very recently and they may not yet be breeding.

According to Godfrey (1966) and Brown et al. (1975) the nearest breeding colonies of Puffins to Digges Sound are in Labrador (56°N, 60°W) and west Greenland (64°N, 52°W), both areas being approximately 1300 km away. Razorbills nest in very small numbers in the Harper Islands, Loks Land (V. C. Wynne-Edwards, *in* Godfrey 1966), 650 km from Digges Sound, but otherwise the nearest breeding populations are in the same areas as the nearest Puffin colonies. Todd (1963) quoted I. A. McLaren's sight records of Puffins near Cape Hopes Advance in July 1951, and there and off Cape Wolstenholme (near Digges Sound) in August 1955, but considered those records as exceptional.

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## *Sorex palustris* on Prince Edward Island

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Thomas, Howard H., Gwilym S. Jones, and Randall L. Dibblee. 1980. *Sorex palustris* on Prince Edward Island. Canadian Field-Naturalist 94(3): 329-331.

The first specimens of the water shrew from Prince Edward Island are reported. Habitat is described and habitat associates and ectoparasites are listed.

Key Words: water shrew, *Sorex palustris*, mites, Prince Edward Island, new records, ectoparasites, habitat.

Two Water Shrews, *Sorex palustris*, a male and female, were collected 1 km W of Sturgeon on Route 317, Kings County, Prince Edward Island on 7 July 1977. Another male had been collected on 29 July 1969 at Whitlock's Pond, Bridgetown, Kings County but was not previously reported. Although the Water Shrew is known to occur on the adjacent mainland areas from the Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec southeast to Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia (Hall and Kelson 1959), these three specimens represent the first records on Prince Edward Island.

All three were preserved as fluid specimens and deposited in the Northeastern University Vertebrate

Collection (NUVC); the skulls were removed, cleaned, and measured. Ectoparasites were collected by searching through the fur using a dissecting microscope and by washing the specimens with Alconox detergent, filtering the wash solution and recovering ectoparasites from the filter paper.

The two shrews collected near Sturgeon were trapped in a brush pile under one of numerous dead-fall spruce trees, *Picea* sp., in a disturbed, swampy area about 40 m from the Sturgeon River. Four other species of small mammals were collected at the same locality, the Masked Shrew, *Sorex cinereus*, Southern Red-backed Vole, *Clethrionomys gapperi*, Meadow





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