

## PATTERNS OF DISTRIBUTION OF DIURNALLY ROOSTING GULLS IN A COASTAL MARINE ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT.—Barkley Sound, British Columbia, is an important stopover site for migrating California Gulls (*Larus californicus*) and several other seabird species. The Sound also supports a resident population of the Glaucous-winged Gull (*L. glaucescens*). Most gulls roost communally. The distribution of individuals at roosting sites is a function of prey behavior, opportunities to feed by local enhancement, and species differences in foraging ecology. The average roosting flock of California Gulls, fish-feeding specialists, on 55 transects was 22.5 individuals. As intertidal foragers, Glaucous-winged Gulls occurred on 102 transects in smaller groups that averaged 4.7 individuals. When fish schools apparently became a less reliable resource, flocking tendency decreased in California Gulls, and individuals foraged alone more than they did in flocks.

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