

On 15 August 1966 two Eskimo seal hunters, Joseph Ahgeak and Merle Solomon, reported finding the nest of a small, black sea-bird near the tip of Point Barrow, the northernmost extremity of Alaska. On 17 August we visited the nest and identified the birds as Black Guillemots. (The similar Pigeon Guillemot, *Cepphus columba*, has not been recorded in extreme northern Alaska.) The nest was in a 55-gallon oil drum, open at one end and partly submerged in the gravel of the Point. The drum was approximately 200 m from the end of the Point and 40 m from the shallow water (maximum depth, 2 m) of Elson Lagoon. A single egg rested directly on the gravel in the back of the drum. The incubating bird left the nest as we approached and flew to the lagoon, where it was joined by another adult, presumably its mate. Both birds remained in the water near shore while we were there. At the same time two other adults in breeding plumage were seen approximately 200 m away. The breeding status of these birds is unknown.

Before our next visit to the nest on 3 September, a young Eskimo shot the two nesting adults (although the natives do not use alcid as food). We found the egg partially hatched, so we collected the chick and preserved it in alcohol (MVZ 3537).

On 22 August a second nest was reported to us. It was on gravel under a ruined building near Elson Lagoon, 4 km south of the previous nest. This nest contained two juveniles. We left the area shortly thereafter, and have no more information on this nest.

Such use of artificial nesting cavities apparently permits limited breeding in this area beyond the known normal breeding range of the species. This suggests that distribution of the Black Guillemot is limited by the lack of suitable nesting sites.

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Kingfishers eating bullfrog tadpoles.—At 5:15 AM 13 June 1967, at about sunrise, I saw a pair of Belted Kingfishers, *Megaceryle alcyon*, flying about over a pond the University of North Carolina built on its farm at Chapel Hill in 1965. The artificial pond has never had any fish in it, but since the spring of 1966 it has had a high population of bullfrogs, *Rana catesbeiana*. The kingfishers were alternating in long flat dives into the shallow waters of the pond close to the shores where hundreds of bullfrog tadpoles concentrate during the day. As I watched several dives by the kingfishers I could see each come out of the water holding a fat white-bellied tadpole in the bill. The tadpoles were about 2 to 2½ inches long. I had recently collected some for close observation and found that they had developing hindlegs and the larval tail, which made them resemble fat minnows whether they were swimming or lying quietly on the pond bottom.

I was sure, from watching the kingfishers through an 8 × 40 binocular, that they were eating bullfrog tadpoles because no other tadpoles of this size are in the pond. I was able to verify it to my satisfaction through a fortunate circumstance. As one kingfisher flew back to eat its prey on a tree branch within 300 feet of where I stood, the bird suddenly jerked its head and the tadpole fell to the ground where I retrieved it. In a search through the literature on the feeding habits of the Belted Kingfisher, I can find no reference to tadpoles in its diet.—JOHN K. TERRES, *P. O. Box 571, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.*