

NESTING OF THE NORTHERN FULMAR ON THE WESTERN BERING SEA COAST¹

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Seven hundred kilometers of coastline in the Koryak region of the Russian Far East, from Anastasiya Bay in the north to Korf Village in the south, were surveyed

by motorboat between 1 June and 22 June 1990. Nearly all marine bird colonies were documented on this portion of the coast. Several large, previously unknown, Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) colonies were found during the survey.

Prior to this study, only three fulmar nesting areas were known on the western Bering Sea coast (Fig. 1): a large complex of colonies (totaling about 40,000 light-phase pairs) at Cape Stoletiya in Anadyr Gulf (Portenko 1972; N. Konyukov, pers. comm.), and two small colonies (fewer than 50 light-phase pairs each) on Ver-

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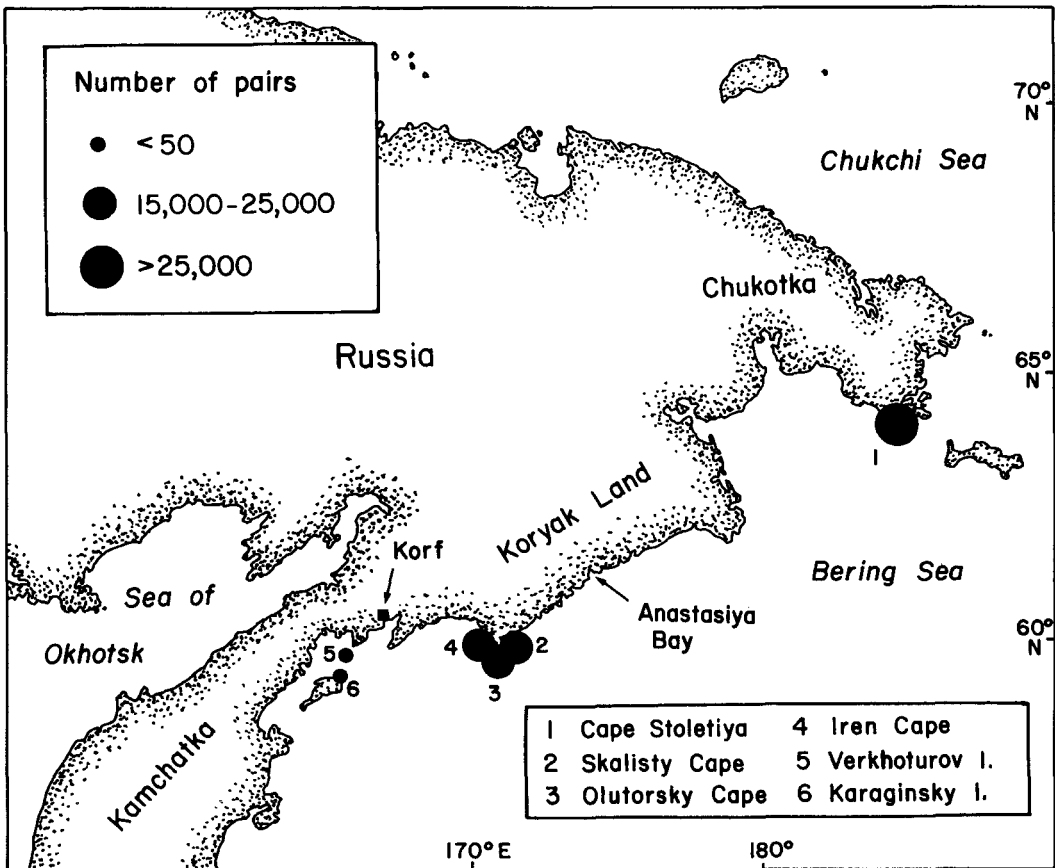


FIGURE 1. Locations and relative sizes of Northern Fulmar colonies on the western Bering Sea Coast.

khoturov Island (Kharkevich and Vyatkin 1977) and Karaginsky Island (Gerasimov 1970).

The first new colony encountered was at Skalisty Cape, where some 20,000 pairs of light-phase fulmars nested on about 200,000 m² of a 40-m high cliff. A few dark-phase individuals were seen among the predominantly light-phase fulmars in this colony. Fulmar nest sites appeared to be evenly distributed from 20 m above sea level to the top of the cliff at 300–400 m. Two kilometers south of Skalisty Cape, 20 pairs of fulmars nested on an 80-m high cliff and 90 pairs nested on a 150-m high cliff.

Olutorsky Cape is formed by the 600-m high sea-cliffs of Ukiyn Mountain. Three separate fulmar colonies were observed there. About 5,500 pairs were counted in the first colony (from north to south), 12,000 pairs in the second, and 500 pairs in the third colony. Only light-phase individuals were seen at this location, which lies about 40 km south of Skalisty Cape on the Olutorsky Peninsula.

Finally, four fulmar colonies were discovered at Iren Cape (20 km west of Olutorsky Cape), where cliffs are about 400 m high. A colony on the northern side of the Cape contained about 4,000 pairs, and three colonies on the southern side had 5,000, 7,000, and 1,000 pairs, respectively. Only light-phase fulmars were observed. These breeding sites were part of a large com-

plex of seabird colonies that occupied about 5 km of coastline at Iren Cape.

In all, 55,000 pairs of Northern Fulmars were counted in 10 colonies during the survey, which more than doubles the previously known populations of this species on the western Bering Sea coast. Fulmars number about 490,000 pairs in the eastern Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (Sowls et al. 1978).

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BEHAVIOR, VOCALIZATIONS AND POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIPS OF *XENORNIS SETIFRONS* (FORMICARIIDAE), A LITTLE-KNOWN CHOCÓ ENDEMIC¹

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Many taxa of birds are restricted to the very wet forests of the Chocó region, a small area extending from eastern Panama through Pacific Colombia to northwestern Ecuador (Chapman 1917:106, Haffer 1975). One of the most distinctive and distributionally limited of these endemics is *Xenornis setifrons* (Spiny-faced or Speckled Antshrike) which represents a monotypic genus in the subfamily of "typical antbirds," *Thamnophilinae*,

within the *Formicariidae*. Although its separation as a monotypic genus has never been challenged, the relationships of *Xenornis* within the family remain obscure. In the type description of the genus, Chapman wrote, "A formicariian bird, possibly a member of the thamnophiline group but without close resemblance to any known species." Wetmore (1972) remarked, "The bird is peculiar, possibly a relict of an older group from which some of the more widespread antshrikes may have had their origin." Only a handful of specimens exists, and *Xenornis* remains virtually unknown. In this paper we present the first observations on vocalizations, foraging, and some other behaviors of *Xenornis*, and compare these aspects of the biology of this enigmatic antbird with those of some other thamnophilines.

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