

MIDSUMMER OCCURRENCE OF THE HORNED PUFFIN IN ROSARIO STRAIT, WASHINGTON

ASA C. THORESEN, Biology Department, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49104

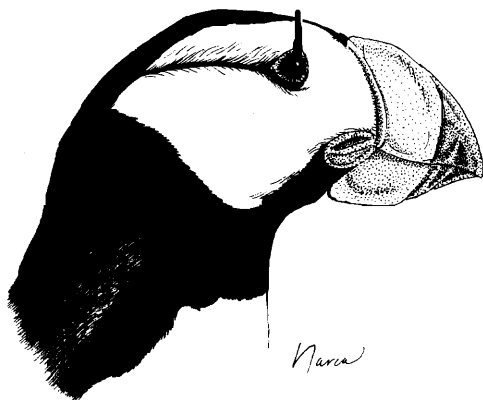
The southern extent of the known breeding range of the Horned Puffin is Forrester Island, Alaska. They have not yet been found breeding in British Columbia. However, in 1973 Sealy and Wilson (Syesis 6:51-55) reported that Horned Puffins (*Fratercula corniculata*) were becoming a regular winter and spring visitant to the coasts of British Columbia. Later, Hoffman, Elliott and Scott (Western Birds 6:87-94, 1975) reported that the species had been sighted along the Oregon and California coasts in May, June and July.

On 24 July 1977 while watching the activity of Tufted Puffins (*Lunda cirrhata*) at Williamson Rocks, Rosario Strait, I saw a Horned Puffin in full breeding plumage flying with three Tufted Puffins. It circled the rocks several times flying close to my anchored boat and finally settled with the group on the water close to shore. At least three pairs of Tufted Puffins have nested on Williamson Rocks since 1957 when my special interest in alcids began. However, this is the first record of a Horned Puffin east of Victoria, British Columbia, during the breeding season. The Horned Puffin stayed with the others for about 2 hours. It did not come to shore while I was there but stayed out in the tide rips. I did not see it during subsequent trips to Williamson Rocks.

During the summer of 1980 Horned Puffins were also observed frequently on and around Protection Island, south of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Washington, by ornithology students from the Walla Walla College Marine Station.

I am indebted to the Walla Walla College Marine Station at Rosario Beach, Anacortes, Washington, for the use of their boats, which greatly facilitated alcid observations.

Accepted 9 September 1980



Horned Puffin

Sketch by Narca Moore