

Ludlow and Kinnear, *Ibis* 4:95, 1934; Barclay-Smith, *Br. Birds* 57:517, 1964; Boswall, *Bull. Br. Ornithol. Club* 93:38–39, 1973). The only previous record of Rock Doves nesting in trees in North America is a brief mention of tree nesting in New York state by Barclay-Smith (1964).

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A new method for collecting prey delivered to Tufted Puffin chicks.—The food habits of seabird chicks in general are not well known. A commonly used method of discovering what seabirds eat is to collect adults and examine the contents of their stomachs (e.g., Pearson, *J. Anim. Ecol.* 37:521–552, 1967; Bedard, *Can. J. Zool.* 47:1025–1050, 1969; Sealy, *Auk*

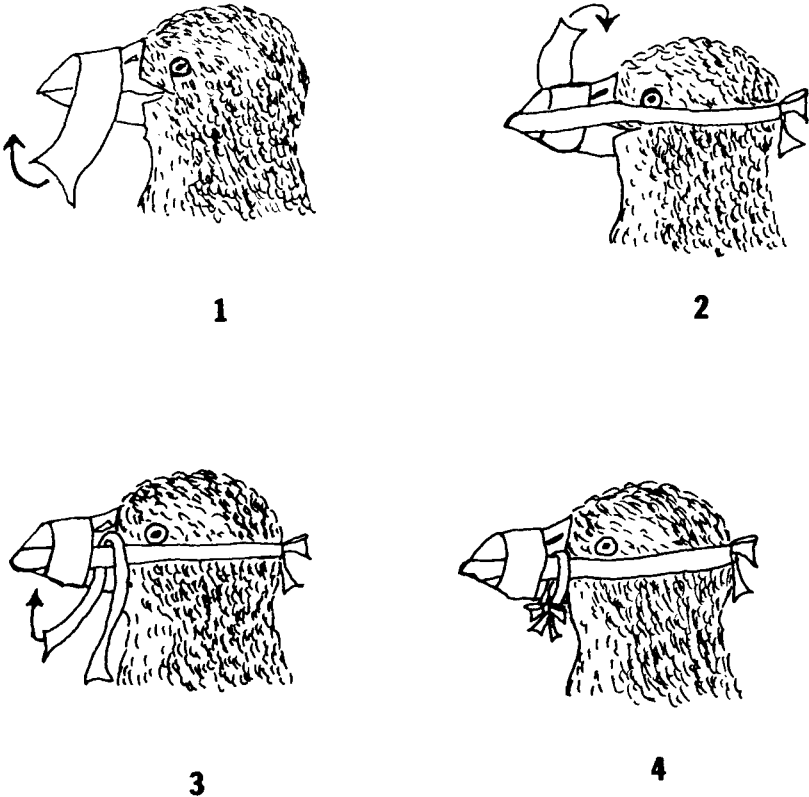


FIG. 1. Sequential steps of tying the bill harness on the Tufted Puffin chick.

90:796–802, 1973; Sanger and Baird, pp. 372–417 in *Environmental Assessment of the Alaskan Continental Shelf*, Final Rep., Vol. 12, NOAA, Environ. Res. Lab, Boulder, Colorado, 1977); however, the collection of breeding adults usually results in the subsequent death of dependent chicks. To segregate food that adults eat from that which they feed to chicks is difficult, if not impossible, except in species that carry food to their chicks in their bills or neck pouches.

Although chicks of some species regurgitate their stomach contents readily, chicks of a number of species do not. For these chicks, other methods to obtain food are necessary. Some investigators have tied string loosely around the neck of the chick, obstructing the passage of food down the esophagus (Orians and Horn, *Ecology* 50:930–938, 1969), or have inserted a finger down the esophagus of the chick (Hunt, *Ecology* 53:1051–1060, 1972). In the above methods, regurgitated food is in various stages of digestion, and often whole prey are not involved.

Here, I describe a method to ascertain the prey delivered to Tufted Puffin chicks (*Fratercula cirrhata*). I tested this method on 30 puffin chicks on Kodiak Island, Alaska, in 1977–1978. The method may also be useful on other fish-eating species in which the parents bring back bill loads of prey and drop them on the floor of the burrow. The method consists of placing a bridle on the chick so that the chick cannot swallow food delivered by the adults (Fig. 1). The researcher visits the burrow periodically and removes all prey inside. Prey are usually quite fresh, even after 24 h, so that their weight, volume, and length are close to fresh values. A large sample of chicks should be used for this method, and if an individual is repeatedly sampled, I suggest supplementing its diet with additional food, preferably food that it normally eats.

The bridle may be constructed of plastic bandages or electrical tape for the first wrap and filament tape folded together or surveyor's tape for the harness. The neck harness must be loose enough so that it will not interfere with the chick's respiration. Similarly, the nares should not be taped. I advise checking the chick at 4-h intervals to ensure that the nares do not become clogged with mud. Bridles should be removed at the end of each day, at which time the chicks should be fed.

The method does not physically injure the chick, which can occur with esophageal constriction or the retrieval of food by finger insertion.

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Laughing Gull nesting attempt on Lake Erie.—On 21 May 1984 we discovered a Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) incubating a single egg in a Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*) colony on a dredge disposal dike in Maumee Bay, western Lake Erie (Lucas County, Ohio). The nest was at the edge of the dike-top road in the midst of a dense cluster of Ring-billed Gull nests. On 23 May the nest contained two eggs; their measurements were 52.4 × 36.3 mm