

in 1963 and was responsible for much of the growth that saw that body transformed into the modern Wildlife Trusts movement, with 47 mostly flourishing Trusts, more than 800,000 members and around 2,300 reserves.

Ted left his day job to become a full-time Secretary of the Wildlife Trusts in 1975. He served as Chairman and then President of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust until his death, and remained an active force in the county until well into his nineties. In 2010, Gibraltar Point was dedicated to him in recognition of a life-time's achievement as a 'Trustee for Nature' and his commitment to the reserve; and in 2012, he received the Wildlife Trusts' Centenary Award, in recognition of his towering contribution to nature conservation in the UK. He was awarded an OBE in 1963 for his work in establishing nature reserves, in Lincolnshire and elsewhere; and he was made a CBE for his services to conservation in 1998.

I knew Ted Smith for almost all of my life. He lived in the same Lincolnshire village as my parents, and he picked up on my early

interest in birds and encouraged it in perhaps a rather similar fashion to his approach to conservation generally – in a very quiet and (mostly) undemonstrative way, yet one that was hard to ignore and was undoubtedly effective. He was as determined as he was diplomatic and, most of all I think, he always seemed to understand exactly what was required in a situation and how best to approach it. Like him, I visited Gibraltar Point as a youngster on a bike, and I suspect that we were mesmerised by the place in somewhat similar ways. He taught me quite a lot about birds, but encouraged me to get on and do more on my own – while birds were important to Ted, the wider picture was always his main focus.

Ted Smith was predeceased by Mary, his wife of almost 60 years, who died in 2008, and he is survived by his daughters Alison and Helen, and by two grandchildren, Alice and James.

*Roger Riddington*

---

## Notes

---

### Pacific Fulmars in the Bering Sea in summer 2015

This note summarises observations of Pacific Fulmars *Fulmarus glacialis rogersii* during a recent expedition cruise on the Bering Sea,

which are relevant to the discussion in Flood & van Grouw (2015). From 30th June to 7th July 2015 we sailed from Dutch Harbour,



Scott Schuette

25. A LLL Pacific Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis rogersii*, Zhemchug Canyon, Bering Sea, 5th June 2015. This Fulmar is snowy white with only a narrow grey saddle at the top of the mantle, just visible in the photograph. Faint yellowish/brownish marks on the white feathers are probably stains.

Unalaska, to St Paul Island (Pribilofs), continuing to the rarely visited St Matthew and Hall Islands (including Pinnacle Rock), returning to St Paul Island via Zhemchug Canyon (c. 300 km southwest of St Matthew Island at 58°N 174.5°E). Approximately 18,000–20,000 Pacific Fulmars were seen and the morph composition was noted (table 1).

**Vagrancy to the Atlantic**  
Flood & van Grouw (2015) concluded that a vagrant Pacific Fulmar in the Atlantic would most probably be a light

**Table 1.** Approximate counts and morph composition of Pacific Fulmars *Fulmarus glacialis rodgersii* seen in the Bering Sea, June–July 2015. Morphs are categorised as dark (DDD/DD), intermediate (D/L) and light (LL/LLL).

| Date      | Location                                      | n           | % dark | % intermediate | % light |
|-----------|---|-------------|--------|----------------|---------|
| 30th June | 08.30–12.00, local cruise Dutch Harbour       | 100         | 100%   | 0%             | 0%      |
|           | 12.00–21.00, Dutch Harbour to St Paul Is      | 500         | 99.5%  | 0%             | 2 birds |
| 1st July  | 07.00–12.00, Dutch Harbour to St Paul Is      | 1,000       | 95%    | a few          | 5%      |
|           | 12.00–16.00, Dutch Harbour to St Paul Is      | 1,000       | 90%    | a few          | 10%     |
|           | 16.00–18.00, arrive St Paul Is                | 500         | 50%    | a few          | 50%     |
|           | 21.00 depart for St Matthew Is                |             |        |                |         |
| 2nd July  | 07.00–12.00, St Paul Is to St Matthew Is      | 1,000       | 80%    | a few          | 20%     |
|           | 12.00–16.00, St Paul Is to St Matthew Is      | 1,500       | 30%    | a few          | 70%     |
| 3rd July  | 04.00, arrive St Matthew Is, several landings | 250         | 0%     | 0%             | 100%    |
| 4th July  | 08.00–12.00, cruise Hall Is & Pinnacle Rock   | 3,000       | a few  | a few          | 99.5%   |
|           | 12.00–21.00, head SW to Zhemchug Canyon       | 1,000       | 50–75% | a few          | 25–50%  |
| 5th July  | 07.00–17.00, chumming Zhemchug Canyon         | 3,000–5,000 | 70–75% | 2%             | 25–30%  |
|           | 17.00–21.00, depart SE to St Paul Is          | 1,000       | 70–75% | a few          | 25–30%  |
| 6th July  | 07.00–21.00, St Matthew Is to St Paul Is      | 2,000       | 80%    | a few          | 20%     |
| 7th July  | 07.00–15.00, St Matthew Is to St Paul Is      | 1,500       | 80%    | a few          | 20%     |
|           | 15.00–17.00, arrive St Paul Is                | 500         | 50–80% | a few          | 20–50%  |

morph, since the closest breeding colonies to the Atlantic (on St Matthew and Hall Islands, including Pinnacle Rock) are substantial in size and 100% light morph (Hatch & Nettleship 1998). We noted during the expedition that most of them were LL, some were lighter, and about 2% were LLL (plate 25).

However, observations at sea showed that dark-morph Pacific Fulmars are common in the North Bering Sea not far from breeding colonies (table 1, plate 26) and so a vagrant dark morph is at least as likely to occur as a vagrant light morph (intermediate morphs were quite rare). The origins of the dark-



Andrew Holman

**26.** Pacific Fulmars *Fulmarus glacialis rodgersii*, Zhemchug Canyon, Bering Sea, 5th July 2015. Roughly 70–75% of Fulmars seen during the expedition at Zhemchug Canyon in the North Bering Sea were dark morph; 20–25% were light morph and just 2% were intermediates.

Scott Schuette



27. A LL Pacific Fulmar, St Paul Island, Bering Sea, 5th June 2015. A small number of light-morph birds seen in the eastern sector of the Bering Sea had a tail-band that was just 20% of the length of the tail.

morph fulmars could be the Aleutian chain or the Russian sector of the Bering Sea (e.g. the Commander Islands).

#### Dark nasal tubes

Flood & van Grouw (2015) noted that the nasal tubes are commonly dark (blackish) on Atlantic Fulmar *F. g. glacialis*, especially darker birds, but rarely if ever dark on Pacific Fulmar. Many Fulmars were checked during the Bering Sea expedition and none of them had dark nasal tubes.

#### Dark distal tail-bands

Most Pacific Fulmars have a dark tail that contrasts with paler uppertail-coverts, while a small number show a dark distal tail-band, some 80% or more of the length of the tail (Hatch & Nettleship 1998). However, in the

Robert L. Flood, 14 Ennor Close, Old Town, St Mary's, Scilly TR21 0NL;  
e-mail: [live2seabird@gmail.com](mailto:live2seabird@gmail.com)

Bering Sea a small number of light-morph birds were seen with a dark distal tail-band covering just 20% of the length of the tail (plate 27). These fulmars resemble the Atlantic Fulmars with a short dark distal tail-band observed in Svalbard in 2014, although the latter population is largely composed of intermediate morphs. Of incidental interest, a few anomalous Pacific Fulmars included a DD bird with a cream-coloured tail and several LL/LLL birds with a wholly whitish tail.

#### Pribilof breeders

Hatch & Nettleship (1998) estimated that 0.2% of breeding Pacific Fulmars

in the Pribilofs are dark morph. However, on St Paul Island, Scott Schuette (*in litt.*) noted that, in the last six breeding seasons, 1–3% are intermediate morph and a similar percentage are dark morph.

#### Acknowledgments

I wish to thank John Puschock of Zugunruhe Birding Tours; captain Billy Choate, first mate Paula Faiferman and chef Nicole Arevalo of MV *Pük-ük*; Scott Schuette for information about the Fulmars of the Pribilofs; and Hein van Grouw for comments on plate 25.

#### References

- Flood, R. L., & van Grouw, H. 2015. Unfamiliar plumage types of Fulmars in the North Atlantic. *Brit. Birds* 108: 331–348.
- Hatch, S. A., & Nettleship, D. N. 1998. Northern Fulmar. In: Gill, F., & Poole, A. F. (eds.), *Birds of North America*, No. 361. The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia.

## Grey Heron carrying a rat in its feet

On 21st March 2015, while I was carrying out a survey of Otters *Lutra lutra* at the Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve of Snape Marshes, a Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* took off some 50 m

or so in front of me, carrying something in its feet. My colleague and I both focused our binoculars on it and saw that the heron was carrying a large, dead rat. It took off from the