

ABSTRACTS FOR *CONDOR* 103(3) AUGUST 2001

FEATURE ARTICLES

TIME ALLOCATION AND FORAGING PATTERN OF CHICK-REARING RAZORBILLS IN NORTHWEST ICELAND

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Abstract. A newly modified, bird-borne data-logger was used to investigate the flight activity and diving behavior of foraging Razorbills (*Alca torda*) breeding at Latrabjarg, northwest Iceland. The recorders allowed us to determine with high time-resolution all relevant movements in 47 complete foraging trips of 29 different Razorbills during two successive breeding seasons, 1997 and 1998. In 1998, direction recorders equipped with a compass recorded 19 foraging routes of 10 different Razorbills. The trips consisted of a number of flights interrupted by short series of diving bouts by which the birds seemingly explored areas for prey availability. Foraging occurred at sites where Razorbills stopped, dived, and rested for a long time before returning to the nest by a single flight or a sequence of a few flights. The majority of dive profiles ($n = 17\ 095$ dives) consisted of nonstop downward and upward movements to depths rarely greater than 35 m, and never exceeding 41 m. There was considerable diurnal variation in foraging behavior, expressed by more frequent and shallower dives around midnight. The Razorbill's diving pattern turns out to be very different from that reported for Thick-billed Murres (*Uria lomvia*) breeding in the same colony. Considerable differences in duration of trips, average number of dives, and time allocation were observed between the two breeding seasons, suggesting differences in foraging conditions for the birds.

Key words: *Alca torda, breeding, data-loggers, diving pattern, Iceland, Razorbill, time-budget.*

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