FIRST RECORD OF DOVEKIE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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The Dovekie (*Alle alle*), or Little Auk, is a small alcid that breeds primarily in the High Arctic and overwinters primarily in the North Atlantic Ocean (Renaud and others 1982; Montevecchi and Stenhouse 2002). Dovekies breed in dense colonies in Greenland, Norway (Jan Mayen, Svalbard), and Russia (Franz Josef Land, Novaya Zemlya, Severnaya Zemlya). Exceptionally large breeding populations have been documented in northwestern Greenland (Renaud and others 1982; Stenhouse and Montevecchi 1996; Montevecchi and Stenhouse 2002).

In the North Pacific Ocean, individuals breed on Little Diomede Island in the Bering Strait; additional nesting Dovekies are thought to occur on King Island, St. Lawrence Island, St. Matthew Island, and the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea and possible nesting occurs on Big Diomede Island (Day and others 1988). Summer aggregations occur as far south as Talan Island (UTM: Zone 55, 618504E, 6576508N, NAD83) in the northern Sea of Okhotsk (Kondratyev and others 2000). In the western Canadian Arctic, Dovekies are considered casual (American Ornithologists’ Union 1998), and a small breeding population has been documented in Home Bay on eastern Baffin Island (Finley and Evans 1984). This is the only known breeding population in the Canadian Arctic, but unconfirmed individuals or small groups may breed on Ellesmere Island and elsewhere (Finley and Evans 1984; Gaston and Jones 1998).

During winter, Dovekies may be abundant along coastal areas in northwestern Europe,