

11 April 2022

Compiled by NEBBS  
group coordinator



Sending Easter Greetings and many thanks for your continuing involvement! Here's a brief Note.

### **Plastics in the news**

Microplastics in human blood (The Guardian 24 Mar 2022):

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/mar/24/microplastics-found-in-human-blood-for-first-time>

Microplastics in human lungs (The Guardian 6 Apr 2022):

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/apr/06/microplastics-found-deep-in-lungs-of-living-people-for-first-time>

### **Recently published paper**

Van Franeker, J.A., Jensen, J.-K., Simonsen, P.J., Bravo Rebolledo, E.L. & Kühn, S. (2022).  
Plastics in stomachs of northern fulmars *Fulmarus glacialis* collected at sea off east Greenland:  
latitude, age, sex and season. *Marine Biology* 169: 45 (online: 14pp+23ppSup)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00227-022-04029-8>

Note from Dr Jan A van Franeker: '... our recently published article in *Marine Biology* about plastics in stomachs of fulmars caught off eastern Greenland. This new sample urged us to review all known fulmar studies in the light of regional variations. Results clearly show that going to northern latitudes the quantities of plastic in stomachs decreases. But because of variation within this large scale pattern, we also looked into the potential influence of age, gender and maybe the season. Old males prove to have the least plastics in their stomachs. The longer that we and colleagues from all around the northern hemisphere are involved in this fulmar research, the more fascinating details emerge from our data. For further detail, check out the most recent message on our dossier [www.wur.eu/plastics-fulmars](http://www.wur.eu/plastics-fulmars)'

### **Student assistance at Dove Marine Laboratory, Cullercoats**

During November 2019 to March 2022 I have worked with and provided training to Newcastle University student Matthew Livsey during his Zoology and Biology undergraduate and postgraduate courses and projects. Together we worked on 37 guillemots, 9 little auks, 4 razorbills and 17 fulmars, plus stomachs from additional guillemots. We performed necropsies together, collected tissue samples and analysed stomach contents. Several of you will have met Matthew when you came to assist in the Dove Marine Laboratory. He is currently writing up these project findings for his final assessment and considering his future options, for example: work, new ornithological experiences and / or further studies and research. It has been of great benefit to have some of Matthew's time and enthusiasm and we wish him well with whatever he does next.

**With special thanks** ... to the staff at the Dove Marine Laboratory - for allowing the use of their facilities since February 2003, for freezer storage and lab space for necropsies, also for their on-going interest, assistance and encouragement. Also to the various students at the Dove with whom I have discussed their projects, over many years, and talked about our own seabird investigations. Also to Dr Jan van Franeker, and his team, for so much training, encouragement & help since 2002.

### **Finally**

At this time, surveyors should please collect all fulmars (with complete abdomens), and similarly with little auks and kittiwakes. We may also collect some guillemots, razorbills and puffins, ringed specimens and other birds of interest. Many thanks for all your monthly surveys and reports, etc.

Kind regards, Dan Turner (Group coordinator).

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