

arcticus

SB 9741.9 1961

v. 67

Ontario Bird Notes.—*Gavia arctica*. BLACK-THROATED LOON.—A female was taken on May 22, 1899, off Mimico (a suburb of Toronto), in Lake Ontario. The bird is in immature plumage, slightly abraded; the only previous record for Toronto is that of a pair sent to the Paris Exhibition of 1867.

*James H. Fleming, Toronto, Can.*

Auk, XVII, April, 1900, p. 176.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Hypothetical List.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 452

HYPOTHETICAL LIST.

1. *Gavia arctica*. BLACK-THROATED LOON.—I recorded<sup>3</sup> a specimen in error; it proves to be a very small Loon, in winter plumage. A pair are mentioned in Prof. Hincks's list of birds sent to Paris.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Auk, XVII, 1900. 176.

<sup>4</sup> 'Catalogue of Birds Known to Inhabit Western Canada. By the Rev. W. Hincks, F. L. S., &c.' Journal of the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Upper Canada, VII, 1867, 9-12 (also reprinted as a separate). This list was prepared in view of sending a collection of birds to the Paris Exhibition of 1867; it contains two hundred and seventy-one species, of which twenty-nine were not obtainable. By 'Western Canada' is meant Ontario, but the birds sent were with few exceptions taken at Toronto.

Measurements of Coon  
in coll. F. C. Brown (supplied  
by B. to G. C. Arctium) sheet  
~~at Plymouth, Mass.~~  
at Plymouth, Mass.

 over.

Wary Loco Plover 327989

Length 33

-FCB-

Wing 12+

bill light

gape 4

color with

culmen  $2\frac{7}{8}$

decided

Tarsus  $3\frac{1}{2}$

blunt large

Colymbus arcticus?

Seelkonek River, R. I.  
Oct. 18, 1883

A Dove shot as above by R. C. Brown  
of Providence R. I. & submitted to me for  
examination by Southwick & Jones measured  
as follows:

Tip to eye -	3.80
" " nostril -	1.93
Width at " " " " "	3.1
Depth " " " " "	70
Wings -	
Wing (chord)	12.19
No. of feathers	17
Tarsus . . . . .	3.13
Tail	2.63
Culmen fr. feathers	2.58
Depth at base	76
Mid toe & claw	4.93
Center " "	4.25
Length (are) . . . . .	12.55

In plumage the bird  
corresponds closely - in  
fact is identical with -  
a N. E. specimen in  
the Bos. Soc. Coll. which  
I have referred with  
some doubt to C. arcticus  
I append measurements

Bill to end  
of nostril

of the smallest *C. torquatus*  
which I have seen (No 4125  
Coll. W. B. Leonard Riv., Mass

April 9, (1885):

Bill tip to eye	4.55
" " " anterior end nostril	2.30
" width at " " "	.36
" depth " " "	.80
Gonys	13.
Wing (closed)	19.
No. vertebrae	3.64
Tarsus	3.43
Heel	3.05
Culmen from feathers	90
Bill depth at base (posterior)	4.19
Middle toe & claw	4.41
Outer toe & claw	13.60
King (one)	

### Dutcher, Long Island Birds.

*Urinator arcticus*. BLACK-THROATED LOON.—This is the first positive record of this species on Long Island, and also in New York State, and is probably one of the very few specimens that have been taken in the United States. Mr. J. P. Giraud, Jr., does not give it in his 'Birds of Long Island,' published in 1844, although Mr. George N. Lawrence includes it in his list published in 1866, notwithstanding there is not a specimen in his collection, now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. In Volume X of the 'Pacific Railroad Reports,' published in 1858, Mr. Lawrence, who wrote the history of a portion of the water birds, says, "I have never been so fortunate as to meet with an American specimen of this bird." In the 'North American Birds,' by Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway it is considered "very rare, and not even positively known to occur in the United States." (Water Birds, Vol. II, p. 453.) The only United States record of which I know is of one shot in Sandusky Bay in 1880 (vide Wheaton's 'Birds of Ohio,' p. 565). It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I am able, through the kindness of M. J. Earley, Esq., of this city, to record the capture of a full-plumaged adult male. I append his letter.

New York, May 16, 1893.

*Dear Sir:*

The bird which I sent to Mr. Wallace, taxidermist, to be mounted, and which you inform me is a Black-throated Diver, was killed by Gus Merritt, of City Island, on Saturday morning, April 29, between Sands Point lighthouse and Execution lighthouse. He was one of a party of young men who left City Island in the middle of the night to lie in line for Ducks between Sands Point lighthouse and Execution lighthouse. At daylight on Saturday morning the bird flew from the east, and was killed by him as it passed over his boat. I received it from Mr. Merritt a few days afterwards and sent it to Mr. Wallace where you saw it.

Yours, very truly,

M. J. EARLEY.

The specimen while yet in the flesh was brought to the attention of Mr. L. S. Foster by Mr. Wallace, who, after he had skinned it, gave me the body for sexing. I found the sexual organs very fully developed and the bird very fat. Most of the skeleton has been preserved, and is now in the osteological collection of the American Museum of Natural History.

Auk, N. July, 1893 p 265-66.

Colymbus arcticus  
in Mass.

Framingham Ms. Nov 11

Mr Brewster  
Dear Sir

Yours to  
Purdie in re U Arc. just recd  
under enclosure from him. I  
take this course because you  
will see Mr Ridgway at the  
meeting, & I want you to talk  
him up the distinction he makes  
between immer & arcticus by measur-  
ments of certain spaces on the bill  
is an all-sufficient one in de-  
termining the species.

My bill fills his bill for Arc!

I am quite confident I have  
the genuine article of Blackthroat.  
Setting aside Plumage - dimensions are

Colymbus arcticus:

See "Proceedings Bos. Soc. Nat. Hist."  
under Campyloraemus labradorius.

Auk I. April. 1884. p. 207.

Length 28  
Wing 12 +  
Culmen  $2\frac{5}{8}$   
Depth  $1\frac{1}{16}$  weight  $6\frac{1}{2}$

but corroborated by plumage as  
this.

edgings of back feathers so  
extensive as to give quite a gray  
aspect. Back of head & neck a  
proubian smoky brown, such as I  
have never seen on juv imber  
Dors neck (eye close to bill) striped  
with blackish, fairly heavy on lower  
part.

On your return, if I can't induce  
you to come up to F, will send the  
skin to you if you desire.

V. T. G.

F. C. Brown

Colymbus arcticus:

See "Proceedings Bos. Soc. Nat. Hist."  
under Camptolaemus labradorius.

Auk I. April. 1884. p. 207.

*lumme*

Birds within Ten Miles of Point  
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam.

140. *Colymbus septentrionalis*. RED-THROATED DIVER.—Common,  
breeding with the last, but not arriving so early, usually coming in May.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct, 1882, p. 241

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador  
by Henry B. Bigelow.

2. *Urinator lumme*. RED-THROATED LOON; WABBY.—Nests in small  
ponds inland. Appears on the coast after the young are able to fly, when  
it is rather common, particularly in September. One which I examined  
had the stomach filled with caplin.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 25.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 441.

5. *Gavia lumme*. RED-THROATED LOON.—Regular migrant, not  
uncommon; adults in breeding plumage, April 28 to June 3; earliest  
record a male in winter plumage, March 14, 1899; in fall from October 6  
to November 30. There are no winter records.

Urinator lumme

Cohasset, Mass.

An adult in full  
plumage but with a little  
white intermixed with the grey  
on the sides of head is in  
the collection of Mr. Edwards.  
He shot it in Sept 1888  
at Cohasset. It has been only  
one other in full plumage shot  
in Mass.

24 Col. <sup>Spa.</sup> septentrionalis Nov. 10<sup>1</sup>

E. Mass. 1886.

An adult ♂ Red-throated Diver in full spring plumage was shot at Cohasset Narrows by Vinal Edwards, collector for this station, on July 2. The bird was not a cripple in any way, as is often the case with Sea Fowl which remain through the summer. On the following day an adult Black-backed Gull was seen. Harry Gordon White, Woods Holl, Mass.

(Edwards)  
Q. & O., 18. August, 1890. p. 127.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
F. W. Andros.

Urinator lumme (Gunn.), Red-throated Loon.  
Winter visitant, fairly common along the coast.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 127

Boston & Eastern Mass.  
Review of 1884.

Our first prize was a fine specimen of the Red-throated Diver, (Colymbus septentrionalis), with the Red (?) patch, taken Oct. 6th. Although the bird is very common at this season—at least in Rhode Island waters—we never saw one taken in this plumage and believe it to be rare.

F. B. H. Boston, Mass.

O. & O. IX. Dec. 1884. p. 147

**A Red-throated Loon on Chestnut Hill Reservoir, Boston, Mass.—**

In the early afternoon of February 7, 1918, while I was observing the ducks on Chestnut Hill reservoir, a bird came on the wing from the westward which upon alighting on the water was seen to be a Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). After taking its bearings for a few minutes, it began to swim and dive in the ample area of open water about the intake, which even during the very severe weather of the present winter has been of considerable extent, affording a wintering place for Mergansers, Black Ducks, a few Golden-eyes, and recently a Ruddy Duck. At the time the sky was clouded, wind northeast, and the temperature about 24°. Two days later Mr. Barron Brainerd with Mr. Talbot found this loon still present. But when I visited the reservoir on the 11th, it was not there. The area of open water had been diminished almost half by a formation of thin ice around its borders and had become, perhaps, inadequate to the loon's sense of sufficiency. I am informed that Mr. Talbot noted the absence of this loon on the 10th.

This was my first record of a Red-throated Loon on a pond, lake, or reservoir. I find that Mr. William Brewster reports but one occurrence in his 'Birds of the Cambridge Region' [1906], that of a young male shot in Fresh Pond by Mr. Ruthven Deane on October 21, 1871. The species is not uncommon in winter along the seacoast of New England, and in its fall migration is rather common. Dr. C. H. Townsend in his 'Birds of Essex County' [1905] states, "The Red-throated Diver is a lover of salt water, very rarely, in Essex County, entering the fresh-water ponds and rivers." Dr. J. C. Philips in an article on 'Ten Years of Observation on the Migration of Anatidae at Wenham Lake, Massachusetts,' (Auk, vol. XXVIII, April, 1911, p. 197) says concerning the Red-throated Loon, "Rare in the pond. The only specimen in my collection is a female marked Wenham Lake, October, 1906." Dr. Glover M. Allen in 'Birds of New Hampshire' [1903] gives two records of individuals taken in the interior of the State in the autumns of 1876 and 1886 respectively, and states that "Mr. G. H. Thayer has noted it as a rare autumn visitant to Dublin Pond." Mr. Thayer (Auk, Vol. XXI, October, 1904, p. 493) gives a record of two seen in Dublin Pond "during a long and heavy north-easterly storm which ended on October 12 or 13, 1903." Mr. Ora W. Knight in his 'Birds of Maine [1908] says, "Occasional specimens are reported about the ponds and lakes in fall, or more rarely in spring." Messrs. Sage, Bishop and Bliss in 'Birds of Connecticut' [1913] state concerning the species, "very rare inland," and then give two autumn records.

So it would appear that in New England the Red-throated Loon's appearances inland on bodies of fresh water have been rare, and that these appearances have all been in the autumn, with the exception of Mr. Knight's testimony of occurrences in Maine under the expression "more rarely in spring." The Chestnut Hill reservoir occurrence in February, therefore, seems to stand by itself as an incident not duplicated in New England, so far as an examination of records show.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, Boston, Mass.

*Auk, Vol. XXV, 1918, p. 219-220*

Arinator lumme

Red-throated Diver

Secomett Point, R.I.,  
April 16-21. 1890

A few migrating every morning, flying at about the same height above the water as the common Loon which they closely resemble in general appearance. On the morning of the 21st we saw a flock of eleven go by. They flew in a loose straggling body within about thirty yards of one another, but all heading in the same direction and evidently keeping on together. Mr. Mackay tells me that he has seen this before, but it is by no means common, the birds usually going singly. As far as I have observed the common Loons are silent when migrating *but* the Red-throated Divers usually utter a loud nasal somewhat vibrating cry of one syllable at frequent intervals. This resembles the syllable anc. It can be heard at a long distance. We saw none of these Divers in the water during our stay. *Mr. Mackay thinks that none of those seen were in full nuptial plumage.*

*Capture of a Rare Bird in Hudson River Valley.*

2. *Colymbus septentrionalis* (Linné). RED-THROATED DIVER.— After ineffectual efforts to trace supposed specimens of this species, I was agreeably surprised to find a fine immature example in the collection of Mr. Peter de Nottbeck, Esq., taken (near his residence) November 14, 1876, on the Hudson River, at Low Point, sixty-one miles from New York. — EDGAR A. MEARNS, *Highland Falls, N. Y.*

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1878, p. 146.

COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS AGAIN ON THE HUDSON.— In the Bulletin for July, 1878, p. 146, is the mention of the capture of a specimen of *Colymbus septentrionalis* at Low Point, on the Hudson River. I have seen the bird in question, and will add the capture of a second specimen in a locality not far from the first, in the autumn of 1878 (about the beginning of cold weather, I could not learn the exact date). It is now in the possession of Mr. Wood, of Fishkill-on-Hudson, N. Y. Both specimens look remarkably alike. — W. A. STEARNS, *Fishkill-on-Hudson, N. Y.*

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Oct., 1880, p. 242.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.  
C. H. Merriam.

177. *Colymbus septentrionalis*, Linn. RED-THROATED DIVER.— Occurs during the migrations. Have seen it at Big Moose Lake in October.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct., 1881, p. 235

Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y.  
William Dutcher.

1. *Urinator lumme*. RED-THROATED LOON. Mr. Giraud says: "Those procured in this vicinity are usually young birds—adults seldom occurring."\*

Mr. Newbold T. Lawrence, when recording two adult specimens taken on Long Island, says, "In this plumage it is rare."†

Mr. J. C. Knoess, who for many years has practiced taxidermy at Riverhead, Long Island, informs me that he has two very fine specimens of this Loon in the adult plumage "with beautiful red throats." Both were procured on the Island, "and are the only ones in mature plumage I ever saw on the Island." The writer, while at Sag Harbor, in the spring of 1886, saw in the shop of Messrs. Lucas and Buck, taxidermists, a specimen which had been sent to them in the spring of 1885. It was shot in Mecox Bay, Suffolk Co., and was the first one they had ever seen in the adult plumage. Mr. A. E. Sherrill, of East Hampton, Suffolk Co., shot a full plumaged male May 8, 1887. It is now in my collection. He informs me that this specimen was shot at Montauk Point, on the ocean, about a mile off shore. It was alone. He adds, "I never saw one of these Loons except in the spring, and few of them at that season of the year. I never killed one just like it before, but have several times heard of their being shot. They are known locally as Sheldrake Loon." Mr. A. H. Helme, of Miller's Place, Suffolk Co., writes to me as follows: "While crossing the Sound, May 11, 1887, from Bridgeport, Conn., to Port Jefferson, Long Island, when about one mile from the Connecticut shore, I saw about twenty-three Red-throated Divers. They were singly, or in pairs, or three together. Those which came near enough to enable me to distinguish the markings were in immature plumage."

Auk, V, April, 1888. p. 170-171.

\* The Birds of Long Island, 1844, p. 381.

† Notes on several rare birds taken on Long Island, N. Y. Forest and Stream, Vol. X, p. 235.

Oneida County, New York,  
William L. Ralph & Egbert Bagg

Urinator lumme.—A young bird of this species was killed at Clinton, in October, 1889, by a young man of that place, who has had it mounted and preserved.

Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 230.

Birds Toga Co, N.Y. Alden Loring.

731. Red-throated Grebe. Common. Found in pairs and singly; like the preceding species it dives at the flash of a gun and also lives on fish and they have the habit of eating their own feathers.

O. S. O., XV. June, 1890, p. 86

Birds of Oneida County, New York.  
Egbert Bagg.

Urinator lumme.—One on exhibition at Sylvan Beach in 1891 was killed at Durhamville several years previously. An additional record.

Auk XI. April, 1894 p. 164

Albinism and Melanism in North  
American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

One of the finest and most attractive examples is among the  
*Colymbidae*, a snow-white specimen of *C. septentrionalis*, which was  
shot in Salem Harbor, Mass., and is now in my possession.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 23

An Ornithologist's Summer in Labrador  
M. Abbott Frazar.

*Urinator lunae*, Red-throated Loon. Rather  
common and generally distributed along the  
coast. Breeds on the edges of the smaller  
ponds (often near pools of surface water only  
a few rods square), on the larger islands they  
make no nest but simply lay their eggs in a  
slight hollow on the bare ground, usually on  
a slight rise not over one foot from the water's  
edge. The space about the egg is perfectly  
bare, the grass or other vegetation being trampled  
flat. Hence the spot is easily discovered,  
and the bird if sitting can be seen for a considerable  
distance. Seven sets of eggs taken, each  
contained two, which from all I heard or saw  
is the greatest number ever laid.

O. & O. XII, Jan. 1887, p. 2.

*Colymbus septentrionalis*

In winter on Mass. coast.

Swampscott, Mass.  
January 27, 1883.

During a cruise off and along shore  
to-day I saw perhaps half a dozen of these  
loons. They were very shy, usually rising  
a long way ahead and clearing the  
water with apparent difficulty.

Old Records for Mass. & Rhode Id.

West Island, Seconnet Point, R. I., April 27, 1875. Shot one Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*), April 16, 1878. A good many flying on migration; wind light northeast. Shot one on April 1, 1881; one on April 13, 1884; three on April 14, 1886; one on April 15 and four on April 20, 1887; one April 21, 1887, and April 16, 1892. A migrating movement eastward; birds flying about sixty yards high; noted one flock of five, one of six, the others scattering, about twenty-six birds in all. April 17, 1892, saw eight flying on migration; wind light west.

Auk 28, Jan-1911, p. 120.

Old Records for Mass. & Rhode Id.

February 21, 1892. We shot a Loon (*Gavia immer*) to-day from the Jetty, which had scarcely any feathers on the wings; the bird could not possibly have flown. I took it to be a case of moult.

Auk 28, Jan-1911, p. 119.

Old Records for Mass. & Rhode Id.

April 14, 1886. Quite a flight of Loons (*Gavia immer*), on migration; wind east, a gentle breeze.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, Nantucket, Mass.

Auk 28, Jan-1911, p. 120.

Colymbus septentrionalis.

Spring flight.

Wineyard Sound, Mass.

April 18, 1885

Crossing from Nantuxet to Wood's Hole by steamer I saw about thirty of these birds. Upon the approach of the boat they usually tried to fly but as there was absolutely no wind the attempt invariably proved a failure. They would flop along the surface for perhaps a mile the body nearly clear but the tips of the wings striking at every flap. Their progress was about equal to our own. Finally becoming tired they would give it up & talk to being

1045. A complete fibula in an adult living carinate-bird [*Colymbus septentrionalis*]. By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt. *Ibid.*, June 26, 1885, p. 516. **Science, Vol. V**

**Vol. 30.** 1712. *The Loon in Captivity*. By Edward Jack. *Ibid.*, July 12, p. 491. **For. & Stream,**

p. 65. 1792. *The Loon's Flight*. by Cary.

**May 29.** 1920. *A Loon in a Cornfield*. By Cashie. *Ibid.*, p. 369. **For. & Stream, Vol. 34**

*Lunda*  
*cirrhata*

Bird Id., Cal. - Jos. Skirm.  
(May 28)

about twenty pair of Tufted Puffin were breeding in the burrows which were situated on the banks that surrounded some parts of the island. The burrows extended into a depth of about four feet, at the end of which they deposit a single egg on the bare earth. We only obtained eight of their eggs, as our time on the island was limited, and it generally takes from five to ten minutes to obtain one of them. The burrows never run straight, but nearly always curve just before the nest (if such it can be called) is reached.

O + O. IX. Nov. 1884. p. 131.

**An Afternoon about St. Michaels, Alaska, August 15, 1878. E. W. Nelson**

The report of the gun, re-echoing from the opposite bluffs, seemed to dislodge a perfect shower of Puffins from their resting-places about the entrances to their burrows. Each came whirring down by me, some almost into my face, to get a nearer view of the intruder; then, after a wide circuit, they returned and dropped heavily into the water a short distance off. The Common Puffins (*Mormon cirrhata*) I found far less numerous than the Horned Puffins (*M. corniculata*), but they were equally curious.

Bull. N.O.C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 33

Osteological Notes upon Puffins and Ravens.—In examining some skeletons of adult specimens of *Lunda cirrhata*, kindly loaned me by the Smithsonian Institution, I find, occupying the usual site of the bone, but completely enveloped by the tarsal theca, a rudimentary accessory metatarsal, or the hallux metatarsal, which is freely articulated, but all evidence of a basal phalanx of the toe is absent. Such a rudimentary element in the skeleton of a bird is an interesting fact, and it sees its counterpart in the rudimentary limbs in such a lizard as *Ophisaurus ventralis*.

R. W. Shufeldt. Fort Wingate, N. M.  
Auk. V. July. 1888. p. 328

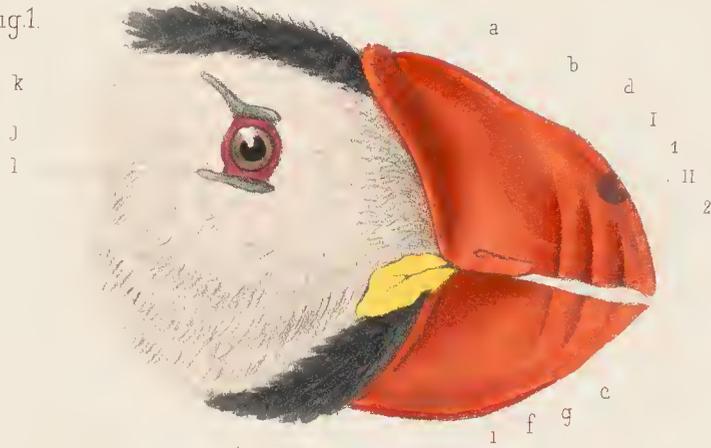
Farralove Ids. Cal. - H. R. Taylor

Another bird, rather common, is the Tufted Puffin (*Lunda cirrhata*), known on the island as the Sea Parrot. They are probably the most curious sea-bird on the coast. I was at a loss to see why they had such large and powerful beaks until one day an enraged bird covering an egg, took firm hold of my finger and then I knew that with its big grooved bill as a weapon of defence, the bird was a dangerous adversary, even for man. They lay one large egg in a burrow or hole in the rock, in which are carelessly scattered coarse dry weeds. They have their favorite breeding places or rookeries, where numbers await the diligent collector; but he must be a cool-headed climber, for many of the eggs are laid in dangerous places and over three hundred feet above the sea.

O + O. XII. March. 1887. p. 42

FRATERCULA CORNICULATA.

Fig.1.

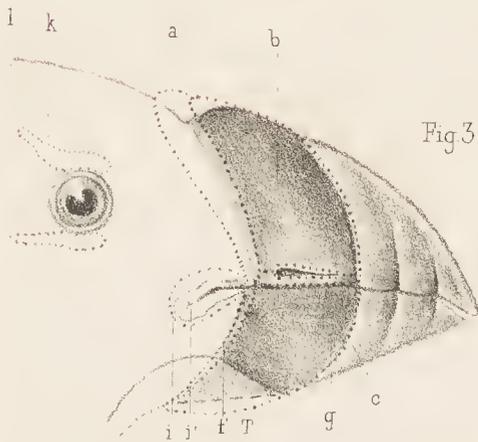


Adulte au printemps

Fig.2



Figure idéale de l'adulte en hiver



Schema de l'adulte prenant les ornements de nocés

Fig.3.

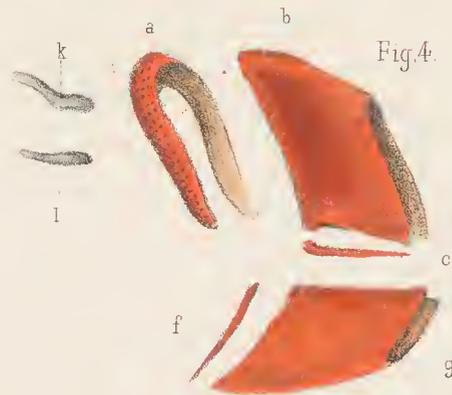


Fig.4.

Pièces cornées tombant après les nocés

*Fratercula  
arctica*

Birds within Ten Miles of Point  
deMonts, Can. Comeau & Merriam

143. *Fratercula arctica*. PUFFIN; SEA PARROT. -- Not common as far up as Point de Monts, but very abundant on the Mingan Islands, where they breed by thousands.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 241

Birds of Magdalen Islands.  
Dr. L. B. Bishop.

3. *Fratercula arctica*. PUFFIN. -- Breeds abundantly in twisting burrows on the top of Great Bird Rock, and in the crevices of the cliffs on Bryon Island.

Auk, VI. April, 1889, p. 145

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador  
by Henry B. Bigelow.

3. *Fratercula arctica*. PUFFIN; SEA PARROT. Abundant all along the coast. Still breeds in comparative abundance on many of the outlying islands. The young were fully fledged and in the water by the 25th of August. Though highly esteemed by the natives, we could not consider them a delicacy. Drawings which I made of bills of young just fledged show a great resemblance to those of Brünnich's Murre and the common Murre.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, pp. 25, 26.

A Summer Colony at Anticosti.  
by Joseph Schmitt, M. D.  
*Fratercula arctica*.

See under  
*Rissa tridactyla*

Auk, XIX, April, 1902, pp. 181-183.

Maine

*Fratercula arctica.*

1885

Aug. "Puffins still bred on our coast. I  
have seen an adult taken here last August  
besides young taken last winter" (Manly Hardy  
in letter of Oct. 6. 1885)

Fratercula arctica

Cohasset, Mass.

Mr. Matthew Bone Jr.  
has a young bird in winter  
plumage shot at Cohasset.  
It is the only specimen  
which has ever come to his  
knowledge as shot at that  
place although the Rose Bird Ark  
is a regular & common  
spring & autumn migrant.

**The Puffin (*Fratercula arctica arctica*) on Long Island, N. Y.—**

On April 30, 1915, a specimen of this species was found on the beach near Montauk Point and was sent to me for identification. The body of the bird was very much decayed and it may have perished several weeks before it was found. This appears to be the third record for Long Island.— J. A. WEBER. Box 327, Palisades Park, N. J.

Auk. xxxii. Oct. 1915. p. 495.

Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y.  
William Dutcher.

2. *Fratercula arctica*. PUFFIN.—Mr. L. S. Foster, of New York City, permits me to record a specimen of this species, now in his collection, which was captured about December 15, 1882, at Centre Moriches, Suffolk Co. Mr. Giraud says: "It but seldom occurs, and only in winter on the coast of Long Island."\*

*Auk*, V, April, 1888. p.171

\*Birds of Long Island, p. 374.

NOTES CONCERNING CERTAIN BIRDS OF  
LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D.

THE following data for the most part relate to recent occurrences of species more or less rare or uncommon on Long Island. One species or hybrid (*Helminthophila lawrencei*) is here for the first time recorded from Long Island. The note concerning another species (*Larus minutus*) has to do with the occurrence of this bird in North America, as well as on Long Island, for the second time.

*Fratercula arctica*. A specimen of the Puffin was sent me from Montauk by Mr. Arthur Miller, with a request that it might be identified and its name furnished. The sender stated that but for its poor state of plumage, he should have kept the bird for mounting, as it was to him an ornithological curiosity. It was found on the beach, March 30, 1902. The state of plumage which rendered it an imperfect specimen for mounting rather added to its interest as a 'skin,' since it was due to moult. Its flight feathers are lacking, the new quills, although sprouting, being as yet rudimentary and entirely incapable of supporting it in the air. The feathers of the breast are largely wanting, leaving the skin well protected, however, by the abundant dark-colored down. Its comparatively helpless condition was doubtless responsible for its having been driven ashore, where it perished in the surf. *Auk*, XX, Jan., 1903, pp. 50-57.

FURTHER LIGHT ON THE MOULT OF THE BILL IN CERTAIN MORMONIDÆ.\*—When M. Bureau announced his great discovery, that the Puffin moults parts of its bill and eyelids, it was expected that he would follow up the matter with an investigation of other birds of the same family. This he has done in a highly satisfactory manner, with exactly the results that were anticipated. His original paper, published in the Bull. Soc. Zool. de France, 1877, we translated for the Nuttall Bulletin. It is now republished, in connection with the paper below cited, the two together forming under one cover a brochure which has just reached us through the courtesy of the author. As we are just closing this number of our Bulletin, we can only do this valuable paper the scanty justice of stating its principal results.

1. M. Bureau establishes for *Fratercula* and its allies a family *Mormonidæ*, distinct from *Alcidæ*. He finds *F. arctica* divisible into three forms, *armoricana*, *islandica*, and *glacialis*, the geographical distribution of which corresponds to certain isothermals.

2. *F. corniculata* moults the bill almost exactly as *F. arctica* does, the only difference being that one pair of small pieces falls in the latter, but not in the former.

3. *Lunda cirrhata* moults the bill in substantially the same pieces, lacking only the horse-shoe shaped piece encircling the base of the upper mandible. It has no moult of the eyelids. "*Sagmatorrhina*" is the young of this bird.

4. *Chimerina cornuta* (i. e. *Ceratorhina monocerata*) moults the horn and another small piece. *C. "suckleyi"* is the young, and the adult in winter.

5. *Ombria psittacula* moults the nasal shield.

6. *Simorhynchus cristatellus* is the most like *Fratercula arctica*, as it moults four pairs of pieces (all the red parts of both mandibles). *S. "dubius"* is the adult in winter, after the moult. *S. "tetraculus"* is the young before the red horny pieces are developed.

7. *Simorhynchus camtschaticus* remains undetermined as to the moult. (It would appear to be most like that of *Ombria psittacula*.) *S. cassini*, Coues, is the young of the species.

8. *Simorhynchus microceros* moults the tubercle. *S. pusillus* (Pall.) is the same bird.

M. Bureau's determinations are thus without exception the same as those made by the writer in the "Key to North American Birds," in 1872.

This highly important paper is illustrated with six colored plates, showing the points very clearly, and a map of the distribution of the races of *Fratercula arctica*.

M. Bureau may be said to have entirely reformed our ideas of this interesting family.

A preliminary title-page of his brochure indicates that he may extend his fruitful studies to the moult or other changes of the bill of birds in general. We take the liberty of suggesting, as an inviting problem, the remarkable seasonal changes of size and shape alleged to occur in the bills of certain *Fringillidæ*, notably the genus *Ægiothus*.—ELLIOTT COUES, Washington, D. C.

\* Recherches sur la Mue du Bec des Oiseaux de la Famille des Mormonidés par le Docteur Louis Bureau. Extract du Bull. de la Soc. Zool. de France. Paris, 1879. 8vo. Pp. 68, pll. vi, and a map.

ON THE MOULT OF THE BILL AND PALPEBRAL ORNAMENTS IN *FRATERCULA ARCTICA*.\*—The remarkable changes which the bill and eyelids of the Common Puffin undergo after the breeding season have been hitherto unknown. The author's exposition of the matter reveals a phenomenon as yet unparalleled among birds. Temminck acknowledged (*Man. Orn.* 2d ed. ii, 932) his inability to describe the various conditions of this common bird, and the efforts of subsequent naturalists to supply the required information have been unavailing. The Puffin is a bird which must be studied alive. Discovering that two islands off Brittany, one in the Channel and the other at sea, harbored hundreds of these birds during the breeding season, the author found the material for his investigations.

In the spring, when the birds come to breed on these islands, they are all alike in plumage and ornamentation: the cheeks are grayish-white; the bill is high and thick opposite the nostrils; there is a boss or bead (*ourlet*, a "hem") along the base of the upper mandible; the gonys is

\* De la Muc du Bec et des Ornaments Palpébraux du Macareux arctique, *Fratercula arctica* (Lin.) Steph. après la saison des amours. Par le Docteur Louis Bureau. Extrait du Bulletin de la Société zoologique de France, 1877. 8vo. Paris, 1878. pp. 1-21, pl. IV, V.

The translator presents this remarkable and most important paper nearly entire, though with the utmost condensation in language, to bring it within limits. As reviewer, he need only witness the care and fidelity with which Dr. Bureau's investigations were evidently conducted, and the clearness with which the novel results are brought out. The paper is illustrated with several figures on two plates, one of them colored and furnished with movable pieces gummed on, on raising which both the process of the moult and its results are seen at a glance. How much we learn—how little we know! Here is a bird that sheds part of its bill, and we only just now find it out, though the bird has been "known" for ages. The author's happy experience should provoke new inquiry into the various curious North Pacific species, some of which may yield up similar secrets. "*Sagmatorrhina lathamii*," the "Saddle-billed Auk" was made a new genus of, though now known to be nothing more or less than *Lunda cirrhata*. The remarkable case of *Ceratorhina "suckleyi,"* = *C. nonocrata*, now seems less singular, though we do not yet know the details; perhaps the "horn" may be moulted. *Ptychorhamphus aleuticus* has a wrinkled membrane at base of the bill, which may be something different at other times. *Simorhynchus cristatellus*, as known to us in full dress, has a curious horny formation at the angle of the mouth, wanting in the so-called *S. "dubius"* and *S. "tetra-culus."* *Simorhynchus microceros* has a curious knob or caruncle on the base of the culmen, not seen in the so-called *S. "pusillus."* M. Bureau's discovery puts the family in an entirely new light. Besides its special application, it has, what the author might have signalized, an interesting bearing on the homology of feathers with other epidermal productions; we may now speak of the "moulting" of the horny covering of the beak, as well as of the feathers.—

TRANSLATOR.

ON THE MOULT OF THE BILL, OR PARTS OF ITS COVERING, IN CERTAIN ALCIDÆ. — It is now about two years since attention was first called to the deciduous nature of portions of the bill, and the palpebral ornaments, in the Common Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), by Dr. Louis Bureau, in a very interesting paper in the "Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de France" (1877, pp. 1-21, pll. iv, v), a translation of which, with notes, by Dr. Elliott Coues, was given in this Bulletin for April, 1878 (pp. 87-91). Having in mind Dr. Bureau's discovery, together with Dr. Coues's hint that "new inquiry into the various curious North Pacific species" might "yield up similar secrets," I gave this matter special attention during the past summer, while engaged in a study of the North American *Alcidæ*. The result of my investigations is the conclusion that a similar change from the breeding to the winter condition exists in the North Pacific species of *Fratercula* (*F. corniculata*), in *Lunda cirrhata*, *Ceratorhina monocerata*, the species of *Simorhynchus* (*S. cristatellus* and *S. pygmaeus*), and in *Ciceronia microceros*, but probably not in any other of the North Pacific forms, except, perhaps, *Phaleris psittacula* and *Ptychorhamphus aleuticus*. In *Fratercula corniculata* and *Lunda cirrhata*, the change is very much the same as in *F. arctica*, only the basal rim of the bill, and the nasal shield or saddle, being cast. In *Ceratorhina* the nasal shield, together with the prominent vertical horn, are cast, the bird then becoming *C. "suckleyi."* In *Ciceronia microceros*, a similar but much smaller knob is moulted, when the bird becomes *C. "pusilla."* The change is most remarkable in *Simorhynchus*, in which, apparently, not only the conspicuous rictal plate, and greatly enlarged basal portion of the mandible, but also, apparently, the *entire sheath of the bill*, are moulted, the species in this stage being *S. "tetraculus"* (Pall.). Unfortunately, I have not been able to examine undoubted winter specimens of *Phaleris psittacula*, but as the bill is exceedingly simple (there being no accessory pieces) in this species, during the breeding season, it is quite possible, though hardly probable, that no change takes place.

It is a somewhat singular, and perhaps important circumstance, that in nearly every species in which this singular transformation of the bill takes place there is little if any change in the plumage, the colors and ornamental plumes of the breeding season being worn all the year round. On the other hand, in *Mergulus alle*, and the species of *Synthliborhamphus*, *Brachyrhamphus*, *Uria*, and *Lomvia*, the bill is simple and entirely devoid of deciduous elements, while the seasonal change of plumage is very marked. This, however, is also the case in *Alca impennis* and *Utamania torda*, in which there is an apparently deciduous basal maxillary lamina.

Besides the doubtful case of *Phaleris*, we are not sure as to *Ptychorhamphus aleuticus*. This has the bill more or less corrugated at the base, and this corrugation is undoubtedly more conspicuous in summer than in winter specimens. Both this species and *Phaleris psittacula* have an unvarying plumage, and on this account we are disposed to refer them to the group having a greater or less portion of the bill deciduous, without, however, having any better reason for doing so. — ROBERT RIDGWAY, Washington, D. C.

[Since the above was put in type, I find that in the announcement of the discoveries in question I have been anticipated by Dr. Louis Bureau, who treats of the subject in detail in a very important paper, entitled, "Recherches sur la Mue du Bec des Oiseaux de la Famille des Mormonidés," published in the "Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de France" (December, 1879, pp. 1-68). The species treated by Dr. Bureau are *Fratercula arctica* (including "des différentes formes que revêt le *Fratercula arctica* suivant les régions qu'il habite"), *F. corniculata*, *Lunda cirrhata*, "*Chimerina cornuta*" (= *Ceratorhina monocerata*), "*Ombria*" *psittacula*, *Simorhynchus cristatellus*, and *S. kamtschaticus*. In *Phaleris psittacula* it seems that the nasal shield ("cuirasse nasale") alone is deciduous. — R. R.] Bull. N. O. C. 5, April, 1880, p. 126-127.

An Ornithologist's Summer in Labrador  
M. Abbott Frazer.

*Fratercula arctica*, Puffin. At the entrance of Wolf Bay is Wolf island, which accommodates the largest colony of Puffins I heard of on the whole coast. The island covers an area of about two or three hundred acres and the whole surface is covered with Puffin burrows. In many places they are so thick that one cannot step without sinking the foot into one and as likely as not come down onto the back of the inmate, but it never seems to hurt them as they scramble out and away they go. These burrows look from the outside like a Woodchuck hole and are about the exact size, but they are seldom over four feet deep and generally take an abrupt curve near the opening and run along usually near the surface of the ground. Several that I opened curved in such a way that the nest, which is an enlarged cavity at the end of the burrow with a little straw laid on the bottom, was exactly under the entrance and only a thin crust of soil between the two. My method of opening them was to put in my arm above the elbow and throw up the soil, then advance it again and the second time generally made the nest accessible and almost invariably the parent bird was found sitting. About a dozen nests I examined held two eggs and the balance of about a thousand, contained but one each; the greater part of the eggs were a plain, dull white, others were more or less thickly spotted with concealed chocolate markings deepening on some into reddish-brown, and about a dozen specimens were covered with deep and distinct

brown spots and blotches, the spots varying on many to distinct tracings such as is seen on Murre eggs.

During my stay at Wolf Bay and while the Puffins were laying, we had a heavy three day's storm, the day after which I visited the island and every burrow was flooded and in many of them I could see the eggs floating around, showing they were somewhat incubated, and yet I think it made no difference in the hatching of the eggs, for afterwards there was hardly a burrow without its young bird. While the holes were drying out I noticed a great many birds plucked green grass and carried it in, presumably, to raise the eggs out of the mire.

O. & O. XI, Jan. 1887, p. 2-3.

FRATERCULA ARCTICA

Forme Armoricana

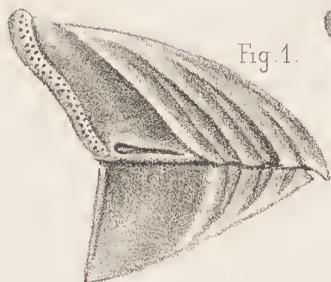


Fig. 1.

*♂ (maximum) Bretagne*

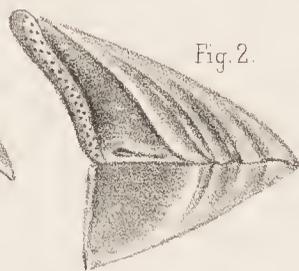


Fig. 2.

*♀ (maximum) Bretagne*

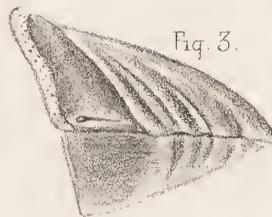


Fig. 3.

*♀ (maximum) Bretagne*

Forme Islandica

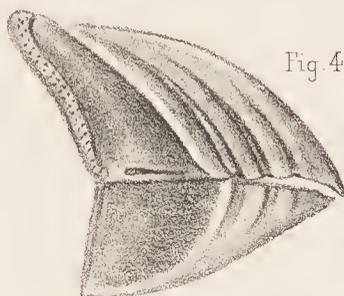


Fig. 4.

*♂ Islande*

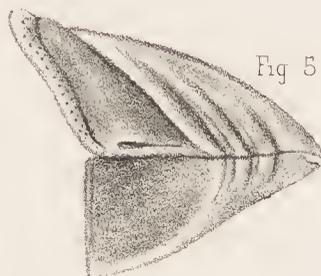


Fig. 5.

*Islande*

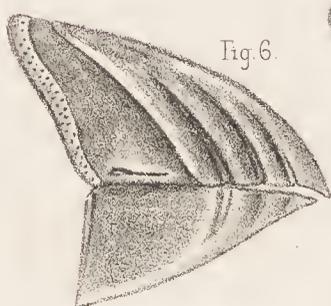


Fig. 6.

*Terre-neuve*

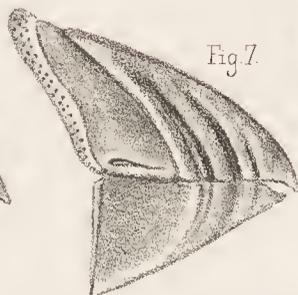


Fig. 7.

*Canada*

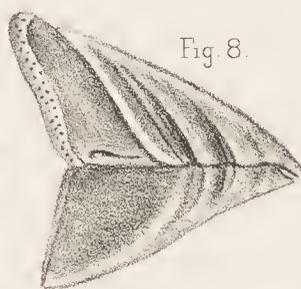


Fig. 8.

*♀ Sud-Ouest du Groënland*

Forme glacialis

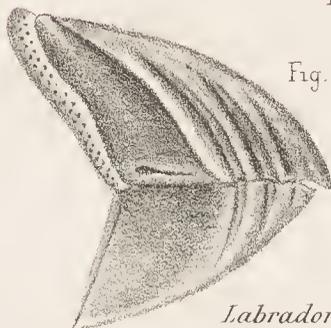


Fig. 9.

*Labrador*



Fig. 10.

*Groënland*

*Simorhynchus*  
*cristatellus*

**A Crested Auk on the Massachusetts Coast.**—While on a recent collecting trip to Chatham, Mass., I was asked by Mr. A. W. Baker, an intelligent and trustworthy gunner and fisherman of that place, to give him the name of a bird killed at Chatham during the winter of 1884-'85, which he described as being very much like the Little Auk or Dovekie in form and color, though a little larger, and having a tuft of narrow, pointed feathers on the front of the head, curving upward and forward. From his minute description of the bird it was evidently one of the Little Crested Auks, apparently *Simorhynchus cristatellus*—a bird he had otherwise never seen or heard of, but which he very accurately described. That the bird was one of the Little Crested Auks there can be no doubt.

The occurrence of such a bird on the Massachusetts coast is of course entirely accidental and surprising. We have, however, the Tufted Puffin (*Lunda cirrhata*) recorded from Greenland and the coast of Maine, the Black-throated Guillemot (*Synthliborhamphus antiquus*) from Wisconsin (cf. Sennett, Auk, I, p. 98), and the Paroquet Auk (*Cyclorrhynchus psittaculus*) from Sweden, showing that these Northwest Coast species of Alcidae are more or less given to wandering to points far remote from their proper habitats.—J. A. ALLEN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.* **Auk, 2, Oct., 1885. p. 388**

**The Ancient Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) in Ontario.—**

The only two Ontario records of the Dovekie (*Alle alle*) prove, on examination of the birds, to be Ancient Murrelets. The first was recorded by Mr. J. H. Ames in 'The Auk', 1902, p. 94, as follows: "A Dovekie (*Alle alle*) was shot Nov. 18, 1901, by H. Macdonald, a fisherman, two miles out in the lake from Toronto, Ontario. Mr. John Maughan, a taxidermist, now has it in his possession. I was present when he opened the stomach, which was empty except for a few small fish bones. It was a female and evidently a young bird, as there was no white on the secondaries and the back was slaty instead of a black." On turning up my Journal I find that I too had noted the absence of white on the wings and the slaty-blue of the back, I also noticed that the beak was very small and the bird itself large for a Dovekie but had no suspicion of the real identity of the bird and repeated the record in my 'Birds of Toronto' (Auk, 1906, p. 441). Recently through the kindness of Mr. Maughan I have been able to compare his bird with a series of Ancient Murrelets in my collection, the Toronto bird is much like a female from Howkan, Alaska, April 12, 1897, but lacks the long white feathers of the sides of the head and nape, the plumbeous rump and upper tail feathers are obscured by dusky, the body feathers under the wings plumbeous instead of black, the chin and throat sooty on only the upper half, and the beak narrower and weaker.

Mr. Maughan's data give the length as 10.25 in., spread 18.5 in.; weight 4 oz., feet light bluish gray, webs darker.

The second bird was recorded by Mr. Everett P. Wheeler in 'Bird Lore', 1909, p. 174, as follows, "November 15, 1908, I found on the Canadian shore of Lake Erie, about seven miles from Buffalo, the body of a Dovekie (*Alle alle*). The skin was identified by Mr. Savage and Dr. Cummings of the Buffalo Academy of Science and is still in my possession. The specimen was a male, entirely free from subcutaneous fat, and the crop was empty." Wishing to know what had become of this bird I wrote to Mr. James Savage of Buffalo who very kindly put me in communication with Mr. Wheeler and in September 1910, the latter presented me with what remained of the specimen explaining that it had been almost completely destroyed by moths. Fortunately the wings are perfect enough to be measured, there are a few feathers on the head, and the beak and feet are uninjured, and the bird can be identified with certainty. There is one other record of the Ancient Murrelet in the region of the Great Lakes, one taken at Lake Koshkonong, Wisconsin, late in October, 1882, and recorded by George B. Dennett (Auk, 1884, p. 98). Of the many accidental migrants to the Great Lakes hardly another species has so restricted or remote a range. The Ancient Murrelet is confined in summer to the North Pacific; breeding in the Aleutians most to the Commander Islands and Kamschatka thence south to the Kurile Islands, apparently not entering Bering Sea proper. In winter it ranges south to Japan, and more rarely from Alaska along the British Columbian coast, and south to California. In view of the restricted range it is difficult to account for the presence of the Murrelets on the Great Lakes, if the birds are young as they likely are, Mr. A. C. Bent's suggestion that they were stragglers to the Arctic Ocean and becoming lost were carried through the Northwest Passage with the ice that moves eastward with the prevailing current, is not improbable. Against this is the fact as Mr. Bent points out, that the Arctic ice has always proved an effective barrier to prevent the eastward wanderings of Bering Sea forms, none of the Auklets or Murrelets having even near relatives on the east coast of Arctic America. Once into Hudson's Bay it is not difficult for a sea bird to reach the Great Lakes.—J. H. FLEMING,

Toronto, Ont.

Auk XXIX, July 1912, p. 387-88

*Cephus gryllus*

1896. Penobscot Bay, Maine.

Penobscot Bay at large chiefly near ~~Dear~~ Island. June 20<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup>  
27<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>1</sup>  
July 3<sup>1</sup>

Spirit Ledge June 22<sup>1</sup> lying prone down with half spread wings on  
flat, sloping face of Big Boulder. A lobster fisherman  
hauling his pots near 40 yds. off. Do not breed on this island.

Black Ledge, June 25. Four birds hanging about, floating on the water, one  
or two occasionally alighting on the ledge. Searched the island  
carefully but could find only one nest which was barely within  
reach of Watson's long & slender arm under a heap of loose  
boulders in a rocky gulch. The eggs lay on ~~some~~ bed of small  
flat pieces of shale. My stereographs show the position of this  
nest & the general character of the island. Herring Gulls the only  
other birds breeding here.

The Black Gullnest flew from the gulch in which we found  
the nest when our boat was 200 yards away. Conway says  
that they usually remain on the nest & can be taken in  
the hand. He found six sets of eggs on this island last year.  
The nests were, he thinks, raided by the Boston Collector  
yesterday for he saw his boat hauling over that way.  
Between Black Ledge & Spirit Ledge we saw to-day at  
least a dozen birds. Those swimming about Black Ledge  
occasionally uttered a low, sibilant pe-e-e-e like that  
of King Sparrows but feebler, also reminding me of a  
Cedar birds note but stronger & more penetrating.  
What I took to be Gullnest's excrement on the top of the  
ledge was tinged strongly with pinkish salmon whereas  
the more abundant Gull's excrement was chalky white.  
The Gullnest's here are very shy of a sail boat but not of  
a row boat.

*Cephus grylle*

1896 Penobscot Bay, Maine.

July 6 Eggmoggun Reef. One near corner where Conway lives.

" 9 Brimstone Island. On this small island (1/2 acre or less) among ledges  
rent & fissured or under <sup>huge</sup> blocks & slabs of stone piled  
together by some Titanic force at least a dozen pairs of  
Guillemots were breeding. As we approached the island only  
one bird was visible on the water but while we were anchoring  
and during the first half hour after we had landed I saw no less  
than ten birds fly from the upper part of the island and in  
such a manner as to leave no doubt in my mind that they  
came directly off their nests. On first starting they flew slowly  
with the legs & feet showing, then gathering headway & tucking up  
their feet they would spring swiftly off for a hundred yards or  
more when they would again lower the feet & holding them wide  
apart with the webs spread would flit the water with great  
force sending up a jet of white spray & after rolling half over  
before they could regain their equilibrium. After alighting they collected  
together & bobbed about on the waves watching one another. Each  
bird as it started uttered the pe-e-e note. I was struck to-day  
with the close resemblance between this call & the ordinary hissing  
note of the Cedar bird. The Guillemot note is stronger but the two  
are exceedingly alike.

Doubtless most of the Guillemots breeding on the ledges in this Bay  
rear their young successfully & no wonder for there of us searched  
this small island for more than an hour without finding upon them  
two nests. There was an old bird in each & she would not move even  
when pulled with a stick. One bird had two young which crawled  
away out of sight before I reached the place. He did not molest her  
but the other we took with her two fresh eggs. I could not reach  
her possibly but Conway having a rather small hand & arm managed  
to get her by the head & draw her out. She bit but not with

*Cepphus grylle*

Penobscot Bay, Maine.

(Brimstone Island)

1896

July 9

(No 2)

(~~Harpor's ledge~~) sufficient force to cover pain. She made ~~not~~ cry but voided a quantity of white & brown excrement. A beautiful bird she was with her glossy, greenish black plumage & deep coral red feet, legs, mouth, & tongue.

Both nests were two or three feet down under huge blocks & slabs of stone & in crevices so narrow & dark that the birds could be seen only from one or two points & then not until one's eyes had become accustomed to the dim light. The bird with young could not be reached at all & Conway says that many of the nests that he has found were absolutely inaccessible.

Probably most of the eggs on this island had hatched for we found the shells outside on the rocks & as we walked about heard young in many places uttering a note similar to that of their parents but louder & more squeaking.

Perhaps no other North American bird lays its eggs in such secure situations as this Gullenot. There are no Weasels, Skunks or other small mammals on these exposed ledges & crows & Gulls cannot possibly enter the narrow crevices in which the eggs are concealed while, as just stated, the human egg-collector must prefer leave a considerable percentage of those that he finds & there must be many that he cannot find. The fishermen never try to get them, at least in these waters, to Conway says. It is remarkable that the birds do not incise foster but of course many of them are lost.

Spirit ledge. R. N. Knight tells me that last year he found three full sets of eggs on this ledge. There were 8 or 10 birds about it this year.

Knight has told me a beautiful pair of eggs taken June 25, 1896 on this island.

Notes on some birds of Grand Manan  
by G. H. Andrews.

Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*). This small Guillemot breeds very abundantly in certain places on the bold western coast, laying their eggs in all sorts of out of the way places which offer shelter above high water mark. Not being in particular quest of this species we spent but a short time among them at a favored breeding ground, the western coast of Wood's Island, where we found them June 11th, nesting in countless numbers. This island is high and wooded, and lies to the southeast of Grand Manan proper, and is about half way between the latter and the Three Islands. On the eastern side the land slopes gradually down to the pebbly beach, while the southern and western shores are lined with massive perpendicular cliffs which rise in sheer ascent three to four hundred feet from the surf-beaten base. For grand and rugged coast scenery this spot is unsurpassed on Grand Manan. At the foot, and from holes and cavities all the way up these cliffs the Black Guillemots whirr away as we pounded on the turf above. In a few moments the water was alive with them; they venture out but a short distance, disporting and preening themselves, all the while keeping up a plaintive elueking note. The eggs, two or three in number, are placed on the bare rock, or occasionally hollowed out in the dirt and lined with chips of shale. The boulders and rocks which lay in every sort of inexplicable positions and postures, as if an earthquake had shaken them from their original foundation, offered excellent nooks and corners for the shelter of the nests of *C. grylle*. The eggs are sometimes inadvertantly laid too near the water's edge and washed away by the incoming tide. A small subterranean cave which we reached after a tedious crawling over the sharp rocks on hands and knees, contained several nests which we found by candle light. They are exceedingly skillful in hiding away their nests, and one may poke about the cliffs for some time ere he gets the "hang" of finding their eggs. As it was, I failed to acquire this art, and came away with little to show for the trouble. O. & O. XII, Nov. 1887 p. 179-180

Birds within Ten Miles of Point  
de Monts, Can, Comeau & Merriam

145. *Uria grylle*. BLACK GUILLEMOT; SEA PIGEON.—A common resident, breeding not only here, but even on the islands off the mouth of the Saguenay, an hundred and fifty miles farther up the St. Lawrence.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p, 24

An Ornithologist's Summer in Labrador  
M. Abbott Frazer.

*Cephus grylle*, Black Guillemot. Rather common but nowhere numerous. According to my experience this species is not at all gregarious except when drawn together by force of circumstances.

O. & O. XII, Jan. 1887. p. 3

Birds, Haute Island, Bay of Fundy, July  
26, 1887. W. L. Bishop, Kentville, N. S.

Sea Pigeon, *Uria grylle*; common.

O. & C. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 145

Breeding Dates of Birds in Kings  
County, N. S. Watson L. Bishop.

Black Guillemot. July 3.

O. & O. XIII. Mar. 1888 p. 45

Birds of Magdalen Islands.  
Dr. L. B. Bishop.

4. *Cephus grylle*. BLACK GUILLEMOT.—Breeds abundantly in scattered colonies on most of the islands of the group. None were seen on the Bird Rocks.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 145

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 441.

6. *Cephus grylle*. BLACK GUILLEMOT.—One record, a female taken December 19, 1895. It is possible that this bird is *C. mandtii*, as its beak is small, and the plumage very white. The specimen is in a sealed case and a closer examination is necessary.

Dwight, Summer Birds of  
Prince Edward Island.

*Cephus grylle*. BLACK GUILLEMOT. — The 'Sea Pigeons' used to breed in great numbers in the cliffs at various points along the coast. I have no doubt that they still do so in smaller numbers, although the only positive evidence I have is the fact that I saw a dozen or more of the birds about a cliff near New London on the north shore of the island, and heard the young 'squealing' in inaccessible crevices. This cliff, extending for perhaps half a mile, is probably the highest on the island, and is almost sheer to the water seventy or eighty feet below. No beach here intervenes between its base and the waves which in times of storm beat so fiercely against it that it is justly dreaded by mariners as one of the most dangerous spots on the north shore of the island. Its crumbling face, to the very brink of which the green fields above extend, affords ledges and seams where the 'Sea Pigeons' find secure nesting places, and are said to be "plenty." I devoted only one day to exploring this locality and did not see many birds. They were in small parties or pairs, floating upon or skimming over the water, or quietly sitting upon some ledge, the white wing-patch conspicuous against the red background of rock as viewed from a boat. Their black bodies were comparatively inconspicuous owing to shadows. At Tignish a boy told me he had found a nest the previous year in the low bluffs of the north shore, and I think they may breed in the high cliffs southwest of North Cape, although I could not make thorough search. I also saw a pair at East Point where again are high cliffs, sixty feet or more in height.

Auk X, Jan, 1893. p. 6-7-

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador  
by Henry B. Bigelow.

4. *Cephus grylle*. BLACK GUILLEMOT; PIGEON. — The Black Guillemots were, with one exception, the most numerous of all the sea fowl. They still breed in great abundance on almost all the suitable islands, and are killed in great numbers for food. I was unable to discover any trace whatever of Mandl's Guillemot, although Turner reports it "abundant" on the east coast.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p.26.

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<sup>1</sup> Read before the Nuttall Ornithological Club, December 4, 1905.

<sup>2</sup> Auk, Vol. IV, 1887, p. 13.

<sup>3</sup> Auk, Vol. VIII, 1891, p. 164, and Vol. XII, 1895, p. 89.

<sup>4</sup> From Blomidon to Smoky. Boston, 1894.

[Auk  
April

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF CAPE BRETON ISLAND.<sup>1</sup>

BY CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D.

THE following notes on the birds of Cape Breton were made during a visit to that island between the 17th of August and the 5th of September, 1905. This region has already been visited in summer and its birds noted by Dr. J. Dwight, Jr.,<sup>2</sup> F. H. Allen,<sup>3</sup> and the late Frank Bolles.<sup>4</sup> Dr. Dwight and Mr. Allen confined their observations to the Bras d'Or region.

My own trip was by water to the island and through the Bras d'Or Lakes, and on foot from South Gut near Baddeck, "down north" as far as Neil's Harbor; also by boat from Ingonish to Sydney, and up the Myra River, with a drive through the eastern part of the island.

Ninety-eight different species of birds were noted; a number of which at this late date were of course migrants. The following twenty-one species may be added to the lists above referred to.

*Cephus grylle*. BLACK GUILLEMOT. — Common along the shore from Englishtown to Neil's Harbor. *Auk*, XXIII, Apr., 1906, p. 172.

Winter Birds of Eastern Massachusetts.

H. K. Job.

Of course, even in a very mild winter, no great number of birds such as I have just been mentioning are found. No one notices them except the collector, and he only a stray one or two now and then. Some other instances of such wandering it might be well to speak of. In January, 1880, a friend of mine was skating on a pond where a number of men were engaged in cutting ice, when he noticed a curious looking bird sitting on the edge of the ice in a rather dazed manner, not heeding at all the presence of the workmen. He went for a gun, returned, and shot the bird, which I ascertained was a Black Guillemot. There had been a severe northeast storm the day before, and the poor creature had evidently got lost.

Bull. N. O. C. 8, July, 1883, p. 150.

**Birds of Bristol County, Mass.**  
F. W. Andros.

*Cepphus grylle* (Linn.), Black Guillemot.  
Winter visitant, not common.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 137

Uria Grylle.

New Brunswick Canada  
Aug. 21st 1880

Mr. Tufts of Lyme shot a very young  
Guillemot in the Merrimac River on the  
above date. Welch had the specimen and  
Scott bought it for Princeton College.  
It was barely full grown and had a  
few soft downy plumage- clackers and  
shinnies unlike that of the winter bird.

Uria grylle.

France Bel. Canada  
Aug. 21st 1881

Mr. G. H. L. of Boston in a  
letter to Mr. Audin dated (Nov. 9 '81) says  
"Have lately learned from an acquaintance  
that on the 22<sup>nd</sup> while sailing in a  
boat he saw a Guillemot sitting on the ice  
near where the ice men were cutting.  
He returned home, got his gun and shot  
the bird which proved to be a Uria grylle.  
The bird appeared dazed and I believe  
was entirely unobtrusive although  
quite near the workmen." "I saw a very

Northwest End of Madd.  
August 28<sup>th</sup> 1880

Mr. Lupton of Lynn shot a  
Guillemot in the Merrimac. When  
above date Welch had the specimen  
Scott bought it for Princeton  
It was fairly full grown and  
very soft downy plumage - dark  
otherwise unlike that of the m.

Recent Snow Storm on Tue. 21<sup>st</sup> and the Amur  
Fair seen are mutually heavy one.

BLACK GUILLEMOT, (*Uria grylle*.) A specimen of the above was shot in Narragansett Bay, near Bullock's Point, R. I., by Mr. S. W. Thayer of Pawtucket, and sent to me. This is the only one of this species I have seen from that locality.—*F. B. W.*

**O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886, p. 16.**

Black Guillemot in Connecticut.—Through the kindness of Mr. Gurdon Trumbull, I received in the flesh a male *Cepphus grylle* taken at Stony Creek, Conn., in December, 1887. So far as I know there is no previous record of this species for the State.—JOHN H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*  
*Auk*, VII. July, 1890, p. 283

Albinism and Melanism in North  
American Birds. Ruthven Deane,

*Uria grylle* has been recorded in the  
melanistic state.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 24

Albinism and Melanism in North  
American Birds. Ruthven Deane,

*U. grylle* has been recorded in albinistic  
plumage.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 23

THE WINTER CHANGE OF PLUMAGE OF THE BLACK GUILLEMOT.—  
Years ago, when I spent my winters North, I had specimens of the Black  
Guillemot (*Uria grylle*) sent me in midwinter in full dark summer  
plumage. I was inclined to think some did not change into light plumage,  
but from specimens sent me this winter I find that the change is very  
early, and some are in full summer plumage by the 1st of February. One  
specimen, shot the first week in February, had but few light feathers.  
This winter change appears different from the fall moult, when the bird loses  
all his pinion-feathers, so that it cannot fly, since in winter the feathers  
appear to change from white to black without much of a moult.— GEORGE  
A. BOARDMAN, *Milltown, N. B.*

Bull. N. O. C. 5, July, 1880, p. 190.

Uria grylle

Habits -

Boston Harbor, Mass  
January 24, 1879

Found them abundant in the Light house Channel opposite Boston Light and outside the Brewster's upon the open ocean. In all about 25 or 30 were seen. Most of these were in the Channel near its entrance. They were scattered about singly or in pairs, diving, evidently for food, in the strong tide-way. The greater number were too shy to permit the near approach of our steam-tug but a few seemed absolutely unsuspecting. We shot ~~them~~ all in the mottled winter plumage and they were very conspicuous on the dark water. Flying or sitting they looked

nearly pure white. The boys on each  
several hundred yards off and  
skinned off close to the water, assum-  
ing Old Squaws in their night, white  
flight. When approached slowly, especially  
if that at - they took to diving but  
although they remained under water a  
long time their progress was seemingly  
slow for they rarely made more than  
twenty yards at a stretch. One that  
was repeatedly shot at appeared and  
disappeared so quickly that no one could  
bring his gun to bear on him before he  
was gone from sight.

These specimens examined were all  
rather fat. The fat was of a brick-red  
color and was attached to the skin in  
layers. Their stomachs were crammed  
with what I at first took to be fish  
bones; but in one <sup>all</sup> stomach I found a  
whole shrimp and the bones may have  
been those of shrimp but soon even I  
thought too large to belong to their

Crustacean.

Two of these specimens were undoubtedly  
young; the third I considered an adult  
is white plumage (cf. skin in my  
collection).

mandtii

*Uria  
troule*

Uria troile see Sula bassana  
under "Bird Rocks of the Gulf of St Lawrence"  
Auk. v. April, 1888. p. 129-135-

Birds within Ten Miles of Point  
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam.

146. *Lomvia troile*. FOOLISH GUILLEMOT; MURRE.—Like the Dovekie, the Murre is sometimes very abundant here in winter, while during other winters it does not occur at all. It is not wary, and does not even know enough to keep out of the way of dogs along the shore. It is well named the "Foolish" Guillemot, for both its habits and appearance deserve this appellation. In fact it looks like a perfect idiot, swimming over on one side as if one leg were broken, and staring vacantly at its enemies without attempting to escape. Its *tout ensemble* is stupid and gawky.

During the winter of 1875 they were so exceedingly abundant that Mr. Comeau shot about a thousand for their feathers, and his dog caught over fifty. They were all in very poor flesh, some being little more than animated skeletons, and a great many died and were washed ashore.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 242

New Brunswick Notes --- Chamberlain.

The late records in the Bulletin by Mr. Harry Merrill and others, regarding the rarity of *Lomvia troile*, prompt me to add my quota of information, which will support the facts already recorded, as I have known of but two examples of this species occurring in this vicinity in ten years. There is not, however, near St. John, any good collecting ground for this class of sea-birds; for many species reported as common at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy have not been taken here.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Jan, 1883, p. 9-10.

Birds of Magdalen Islands.  
Dr. L. B. Bishop.

5. *Uria troile*. MURRE.—Common. Breeds on Bryon Island and the Bird Rocks. About a dozen specimens of the lately eliminated species *U. ringvia*, or, as at present considered, phase of plumage of *U. troile*, were breeding on the cliffs of Great Bird Rock. As far as we were able to judge from the limited time at our disposal they were in pairs, and seemed to be entitled to the rank of a distinct species. An egg obtained by Mr. Robbins from one of these peculiarly marked birds could not be distinguished from those of the other Murres. Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 145

452. *Observations of the Nesting Habits of the Guillemots at Bird Rock [Gulf of St Lawrence]*. By Col. N. S. Goss. *Trans. Kansas Acad. of Science*, VIII, 1881-82, pp. 59. 60.—From differences observed in the eggs and habits of the birds the writer believes that *Lomvia ringvia* will prove to be not an individual phase merely of *L. troile*, as now generally held.

An Ornithologist's Summer in Labrador  
M. Abbott Frazar.

*Uria troile*, Murre. Very common but rapidly diminishing. This species generally breed on the islands furthest out to sea and seldom make any effort at concealment, laying their eggs generally upon flat surfaces; often so close together that they get confounded and try to steal each others eggs. But quite often I have found them away underneath the rocks on shelves where I have had to crawl on my stomach and then reach still further in with a forked stick to draw them out. I noticed quite a number of instances where eggs had been laid in little hollows among the rocks which had afterwards become full of water so as to nearly cover the eggs; however, I saw quite a number of birds sitting upon eggs which were in just such positions; whether they would hatch or not I cannot say, but I certainly never took an egg which was in the least bit addled. I saw no evidence of their ever laying over one egg at a time and the birds pick but one bare spot on their breasts.

*O. & O.* XII. Jan. 1887. p. 3.

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador  
by Henry B. Bigelow.

5. *Uria troile*. MURRE.—We found the Murres fairly common to Hamilton Inlet, north of which we saw very few. A large colony was reported to us, however, at Eclipse Harbor. Probably no bird has suffered more from the depredations of the eggers than this, which is in merely a remnant of its former numbers.

*Auk*, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 26.

A Summer Colony at Anticosti.  
by Joseph Schmitt, M. D.

*Uria troile*

See under  
*Rissa tridactyla*.

*Auk*, XIX, April, 1902, pp. 181-183

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

2

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Hypothetical List.

*Auk*, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 452.

2. *Uria troile*. MURRE.—A specimen recorded by me is an error.<sup>5</sup> A careful examination of the printed records prove they are based on hearsay evidence, and as far as I know no specimens exist from any where on the Great Lakes. <sup>5</sup> *Manum, Cat. of Canadian Birds, 1900, 22.*

Maine Notes.... Harry Merrill....

Lomvia troile.... See under  
Lomvia arca brunnichi.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, July, 1882, p. 191.

Lomvia troile: see  
Lomvia a. brunnichi and L. troile in New  
England.... by W<sup>m</sup> Brewster.

For L. troile see under L. a. brunnichi

Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct, 1882, p. 251-252.

Maine (Eastport)

Uria troille

1886 Occurrence in Dec. on coast of Maine.

Dec. - Dec. 27, 1886, I saw at F. B. Webster's  
three of these Murres in the flesh. They had  
been received that day from a gunner at  
Eastport, Me. All differed from U. brunnichi  
in the same plumage by having the bill  
much longer and slender and a post-  
ocular white stripe (see two specimens in my coll.)  
The bills in all three were black, or nearly so,  
contrary to Combes and unlike specimens (from  
Europe) in Bos. Soc. Nat. Hist. While these  
birds came about 20 Alca torda & only 1 U. brunnichi

The Common Murre (Uria troille) and the ~~Razor-billed Auk~~ (Alca torda) on the New England Coast.—Among some birds received by Mr. F. B. Webster from a gunner at Eastport, Maine, December 27, 1886, I found three Murres. They were in the flesh and evidently had been dead only a few days.

William Brewster,  
Cambridge, Mass.

Auk, 4, April 1887, p. 158.

Lomvia troille

Young in Mrs. Peabody's care.  
collected chiefly "Salmon, Jan., H. B.  
Griffin." The bill is much sturdier than  
that of young brunnichi and is appreciably  
yellowish especially near the base.

Salmon Mass.  
Jan.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
F. W. Andros.

*Uria troile* (Linn.), Murre. Rarely recorded,  
off our coast in winter.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 137

Albinism and Melanism in North  
American Birds, Ruthven Deane,

An albino.

*L. troile* is in the Museum collection at Toronto, Canada.

**Bull. N.O.C.** 1, April, 1876, p.23

Uca trille ringia

not mentioned in A. O. U. Cat. B.

Had better known unpublished

Uca trille ringia Grav. Cat. Fish. Brit. Mus. XXVI, 523.

"This variety differs etc - no argument & inessential."

See also Forster's Brit. Birds Wood. 1855, IV, 73-74

Abel & form description of relativus & trille. Interim

of trille form trille to trille is a variety of trille of U. trille. Strong argues the form in trille & trille with U. trille & trille according to Wood (see v. a. 914) U. trille has a ringed

variety. For another Mr. Golembek says the ringed birds & xx form the appearance of the eye, when viewed with the microscope, is very like the one in the original bird"

Hawaii - From Forster. See his des. figs. 160, 161.

Has seen ringed birds paired with each other & with trille. Saw a bird with each other with a typical (trille) female.

Lomvia



Uria lomvia

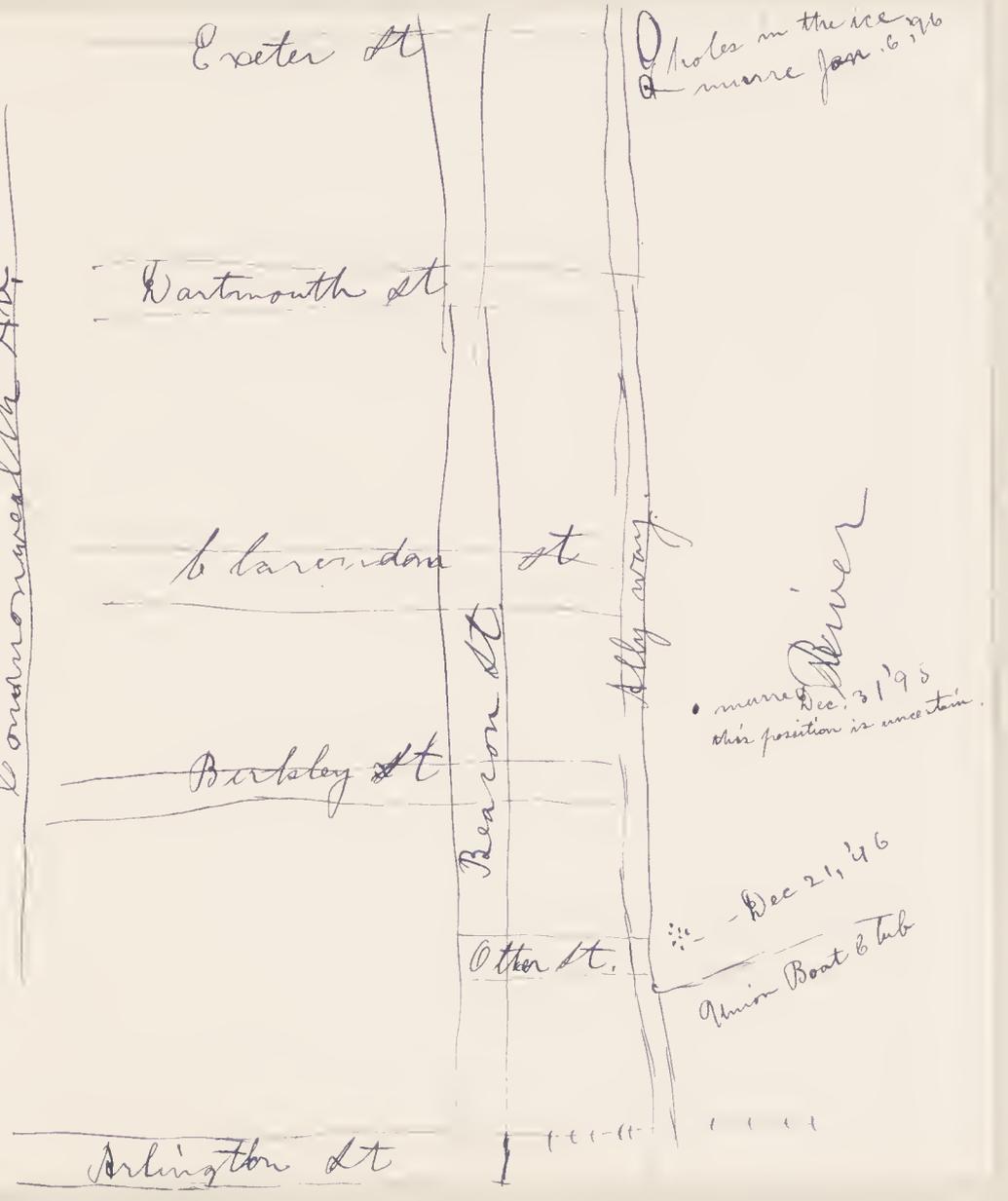
135 MARLBOROUGH ST.

Dear Mr. Brewster,

I hear that you would like the data about <sup>Brunich's</sup> the murre <sup>will</sup> pretty soon, so I send it now. I find out what I can about the blackducks and send it out latter. My first record is on Dec. 31, '95. I saw one bird from the ally of Beacon St. between Arlington St & the Harvard bridge. I have not the place nearer than that. He was near the shore so I saw him distinctly. Again on Jan. 6, '96, I saw a murre in a small piece

of open water close to the shore  
 between the ends of Dartmouth & Exeter  
 Sts. He was very tame, & although all the  
 other birds soon left, he stayed even  
 when I threw things at him to make him  
 fly. Instead he slowly spread his wings  
 and dove. Mr. G. M. Wheelock saw him  
 there again next morning, <sup>[Jan 7, 1896]</sup> but at noon  
 he was gone, & after that I did not see  
 him again. On Dec. 21, '96 I saw six  
 of these birds all together at the foot  
 of Other St. They were driven in very  
 close by a boat so I feel very sure of  
 them. Yours sincerely  
 G. C. Shattuck.

common near the river



Uria lomvia

Permitt 17

Uria lomvia  
(in Concord, Mass.)

Concord Aug 9<sup>th</sup>

Mr Brewster

Dear Sir

I send you  
herewith the measurements  
& description of the bird  
I was speaking with you  
about last Sunday.

These I made at the time  
which was late last fall.

If you can form an  
opinion from these, as to what  
the bird was I should be  
pleased to know it for I could  
not identify it to my satisfaction.

Yours Resp.  
S. Herbert Hodge

Length	17 in	
Wing	8 "	
Bill	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub> "	
" depth	7/16 "	Actual Siga Bill
Tarsus	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> "	
Middle Toe	1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>16</sub> "	
Extent	29 "	Tail 1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in.

Head, back of neck & sides of same  
 black meeting on throat. Back & end  
 of tail & ~~the~~ upper sides of wings  
 black.

All under parts pure white  
 Under parts of wing whitish  
 and tips of secondaries edged  
 with white.

Wab. Feet 3 toes.

Uria lomvia.

(in Concord, Mass.)

Concord Mass.  
Aug. 14-1900

Mr. Brewster

Dear Sir.

Your letter in answer to my inquiry about the bird of which I sent you a description was received, and am glad to know that you think it was a Murre.

The bird was shot by Ed Langfield probably somewhere near Fair Haven Bay, as he does not hunt very far from there now, and it was some time late in October as near as I can remember. (1899)

at the time I could not find

anything described in the book I had at-home "N.A. Stearns Birds of N.E." that seemed to agree with it. and the rather meager description of the murre in this book was not sufficient to lead me to think that one of those birds could have strayed so far from its icy home. He pictures it as sitting up so straight & contorted on an ice berg that I had always associated it with the frozen north, and although he says it occurs on the Mass. coast in winter I had never supposed it would occur so far inland as Concord.

I am very sorry, now that I know what it was that I did not save it for as you say it would be quite valuable here.

In regard to the description sent you

Holden, S. H.

Aug. 14, 1900

you are very welcome to keep it. and I will say that if in the future I should happen upon anything rare or anything not known to me I will see that you get something more than a poor description of it —

Yours Truly,  
S. Herbert Holden

P.S. Capt. Dakin tells me that all the Martins in his neighborhood got together and departed some time Sunday the twelfth.

Birds North Atlantic, seen by  
Hagerup, Chamberlain,

A large number of some species of Auk was seen in the North Sea, between 14° and 8° west longitude, that were supposed to be Murres. Numerous single birds and some small flocks were seen.

O, S.O. XVI, Jan, 1891, p.14

Birds North Atlantic, seen by  
Hagerup, Chamberlain,

Brunnich's Murres, also singly and in small flocks, were passed about 100 English miles south of Cape Farewell.

O, S.O. XVI, Jan, 1891, p.14

Birds of Southern Greenland, from  
Mss. of A. Hagerup. M. Chamberlain.

*Uria lomvia*. BRÜNNICH'S MURRE.—An abundant winter visitor, appearing on the fjord in flocks of one hundred to a thousand birds. They are generally found swimming over very deep water, much deeper than that upon which the Eiders gather,—too deep to admit of their going to the bottom for food. When approached they usually escape by swimming or diving, and but seldom take to the wing. They are very fond of sitting near the edge of the ice, but are never seen to stand while resting either on the ice or land.

In the autumn of 1886 the first comers were observed on November 9, and during the following day large numbers appeared. On April 16, 1887, they were yet numerous, though somewhat diminished, but by the 25th of that month the greater part had left. A few remained through May, and on the fourth day of June some groups of two to five individuals were observed. In 1886 the last small flocks, numbering twenty to thirty, were seen on May 30.

~~Auk~~, VI. July, 1889. p. 213

GENERAL NOTES.

An Abundance of Murres in the Environs of Quebec.—Since the 15th of November last, numerous flocks of Murres<sup>1</sup> have been seen flying over the river before Quebec; hundreds have been shot by sportsmen and some have even been killed with sticks near the wharves. The cold in December has been from 15° to 25° Reaumur, but it did not seem to inconvenience them. Several, however, that had left the water to rest on floating ice found themselves unable to remove on account of their wet feet freezing to it; two live specimens thus captured have been brought to me. The presence of these birds is a novelty here, as they are never met with in the environs of the city. Several have even strayed away into the mountains about ten miles from the river; they were exhausted and starving. After the 20th of December their numbers considerably decreased till the 8th of January, when the last were seen. Their presence is probably due to hurricanes in the Gulf of St. Lawrence driving them towards the southwest.—C. E. DIONNE, *Quebec, Can.*

<sup>1</sup> [A specimen sent to Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., proved to be *Uria lomvia*.—EDD.]

~~Auk~~ XI. April. 1894 p. 175

*Uria lomvia*.  
Dear Sir [48604] Toronto, Apr 9/1901

The *Uria l.* was collected by  
Mr. Soam at that time a local  
gunner. It may interest you to know  
that these birds appeared here  
again this winter in considerable  
numbers some of which came into  
my hands to be mounted & I might  
possibly procure you some skins  
if you want any more yours Ed. Deacon

Birds of Southern Greenland, from  
Mss. of A. Hagerup. M. Chamberlain.

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<sup>1</sup> [A specimen sent to Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., proved to be *Uria lomvia*.—EDD.]

*Auk* XI. April, 1894 p. 175

CANADA POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



Wm. Brewster, Esq  
Cambridge  
Mass

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador  
by Henry B. Bigelow.

6. *Uria lomvia*. BRÜNNICH'S MURRE.— Of about the same occurrence as the Murre,— perhaps even less common.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p.26.

<sup>1</sup> 'The Unusual Migration of Brünnich's Murre in Eastern North America.' (Proceedings IV International Ornithological Congress, London, 1905).

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p.441

7. *Uria lomvia*. BRÜNNICH'S MURRE.— In 1893 this species entered Lake Ontario in considerable numbers; the first appeared at Toronto November 29, and they increased in numbers through December, all eventually dying of starvation. For the next ten years the birds were noted annually in November and December, but in decreasing numbers, none surviving very long. The migration of this maritime species into the fresh waters of the Great Lakes was so remarkable and accompanied by so many unusual features that I have recorded elsewhere a fuller account.<sup>1</sup>

Lomvia a. brünnichi :

LOMIVIA ARRA BRÜNNICHI AND L. TROILE IN NEW ENGLAND. — Mr. Merrill's note on these birds in the July number of this Bulletin (p. 191) was a timely correction of a long established error, for the common Murre found in winter off the New England coast is, as he has stated, *Lomvia arra brünnichi*, and not *L. troile*. At different times during the past ten years I have examined specimens from various points along the shores of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, and all of the numerous birds that have come under my notice have proved to be Brünnich's Guillemots. Indeed the example of *L. troile* mentioned by Mr. Merrill is the only New England one of which I have any knowledge. Dr. Coues says that the young of *L. troile* in their first winter plumage "are colored precisely like the adults, but may be always distinguished by their much shorter and slenderer bills which are in great part light colored (yellowish)." \* If the latter peculiarity be constant it will afford a ready mark of distinction between young of the two species, for the bill in young *brünnichi*, so far as I have seen, is invariably black.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass. **Bull. N. O. C., 7, Oct., 1882, p. 251-252.**

Maine Notes : Lomvia arra brünnichi.

*Lomvia arra brünnichi* (Scl.) Ridgw. BRÜNNICH'S GUILLEMOT; and *Lomvia troile* (Linn.) Brandt. COMMON GUILLEMOT.—These birds are found on our coast in the winter season, Brünnich's Guillemot being quite numerous, while the Common Guillemot is more rare. Some idea of their comparative numbers may perhaps be obtained from the fact that during the past two years I have procured some thirty specimens from different points on our coast (from Grand Manan to South Bristol) and out of this number only *one* was a representative of the Common Guillemot (*L. troile*.) The experience of Mr. N. A. Eddy of this city is exactly similar, and out of about an equal number of specimens he has obtained but a single example of *troile*. Other collectors in this vicinity who have received numbers of Guillemots have not obtained a specimen of *Lomvia troile*.

Harry Merrill, Bangor, Maine.

**Bull. N. O. C., 7, July, 1882, p. 191.**

**Auk, 4, April 1887, p. 158.**

Brünnich's Murre at Eastport, Maine:

Among some birds received by Mr. T. S. Webster from a quoniam in Eastport, Maine, Dec. 21, 1886, I found "one Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*),

The Brünnich's Murre, usually an abundant visitor in the late autumn, has been apparently nearly wanting the past season.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

Lonvica aesa brunneicli

Brewer, Maine

January 14, 1884

" Yesterday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, a live Brunneicli's Guilleumat was brought me by an Irish boy who said he found it on the railroad track near here; I never knew of one being taken within forty miles before. The nearest open water is nine miles below and the water is not much salt <sup>until one gets</sup> ~~for~~ <sup>eighteen miles below</sup> (Letter from Manly Hardy, January 15, 1884)

Bonvia Brunnicchi

Brewer, Me.  
1890.

A (thick-billed ~~Guillemot~~) was picked up alive on the railroad track in January, over sixty miles north of the nearest open water and a hundred miles north of where they were ever known to have been taken. Some three years ago one was picked up on the rialroad track here and brought to me alive. It was in January, and the weather was bitterly cold. These are the only two cases that I know of one's coming within forty miles of here, though Petrels occasionally and little Auks often alight in autumn <sup>of some</sup> on our ponds and lakes.

Letter of Manly Hardy, April 9.

Brewer, Me.

Bonvia Brunnicchi

1890  
Apr. 26

As to the M~~u~~ses, I saw the one taken at Brewer when alive., and it was mounted for Dr. C.P. Thomes of this place. It was bitterly cold weather when it was taken, 10 to 20 below zero. Mr. Jo n Clayton of Lincoln, Me. mount~~ed~~d the other.

Letter of Manly Hardy,

Uria lomvia.

Bird Notes from St. Albans, Vermont. — The Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*), so far as my knowledge goes was first found here in December, 1892, at which time specimens were easily procured and added to the cabinet. They came in large numbers to St. Albans Bay, an arm of Lake Champlain, some three miles from town, during the winter of 1892, returning in the winter of 1893, when a specimen was shot on the 13th of December. In January, 1894, another specimen was shot in Richford, an inland town bordering on the Canada line. In the past December they came by thousands, the lake seeming, in places, fairly swarming with them. One sportsman shot 200, and each gunner brought more or less of them to town, many of which were taken alive. Those who have shot them say they are so tame one can almost catch them in their hands. They are in poor condition, apparently starving, and very many have been frozen into the ice and chopped out by fishermen.

Nelly Hart Woodworth.  
St. Albans, Vt.

Lomvia arva brunnicia

Mass

Winter of 1883-4

Reports come in from all sides to the effect that these Gullmots have been unusually abundant on our coast this winter. Southwick & Jewell received a dozen from Chatham in one lot last month (January), Goodale has been rather more than that number, Light writes me that they have been very abundant off Lynn, and there have been many in our markets. (N. B. Feb. 17, 1884)

Lomvia arva brunnicia

In winter - habits

Swampscott. Mass.

January 27, 1883

During a trip taken to-day along and off the Swampscott shore we shot two of these Murres. One was killed near the middle of a channel between the mainland and an island about half-a-mile from either shore. I shot the other after we had come in to our anchorage and actually in the midst of a dozen or more large vessels. Both were very tame. They floated high and buoyantly on the water. One was shot at several times. It would dive after the

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abundant off Bygon, and  
been many in our markets  
(17, 1884)

Mass

Winter of 1883-4

change had thick the water  
but its dries was short and  
it was early followed up and  
killed.

Our Skipper told me that

these Muscovs were very common  
further off shore on the winter  
fishing grounds. Both the little  
Auklets they always go to sea  
at the approach of a storm,  
like terns, also, they do not  
go to the bottom for their food,  
and so can fish in the deepest  
waters.

After a severe storm Mr. Wells  
of Bygon often picks up, four or  
five on the Nobeant beach. They  
are invariably dead and he  
was satisfied that they are nothing  
but skin and bones. He thinks  
that they die of brain disease.

Monomoy Isl. Notes. J. C. Leachman

Several Brunnich's Murre were  
taken about April 15<sup>th</sup> which I consider  
late for these birds at Monomoy

O. & O. XV. 1890. p. 67.

\* 9249 Thick-billed Guillemot  
Boston Mass., 1872  
In N. E. Con. Orn. Soc. N. H.

*Lomvia ura brunnicchi*

Chatham, Mass  
Jan'y - 1884.

We have just received 1½ doz.  
Brunnich's Guillemots in the flesh  
from Cape Cod. [F. T. Jewell in  
spec. Jan. 17, 1884]

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
F. W. Andros.

*Uria lomvia* (Linn.), Brunnich's Murre. Win-  
ter visitant, occasionally seen off the coast.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 137

Auk, XIV, Jan., 1897, p. 100.

Unusual Visits of Birds in Western Massachusetts  
during 1896.

*Uria lomvia*.—Two Brunnich's Murres were taken at different points  
near Springfield on Dec. 19. A heavy gale had just previously prevailed  
on the coast.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, Springfield, Mass.

1005. *Brunnick's Guillemot in Rhode Island.* [By F. T. Jencks.]  
*Ibid.*, p. 6.—One was shot "between Warwick Neck Light and Patience  
Island, Dec. 26, 1883. The first specimens we have ever known taken in  
Narragansett Bay." Ten others are reported as taken later. (*Ibid.*, No. 2,  
p. 8).

**Rand. Notes Nat. His, I No. I.**

## GENERAL NOTES.

Brünnich's Murre in Connecticut.—The occurrence of Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*) along the Connecticut coast during the past winter (1890-91) in large numbers, seems worthy of notice, since the species was not recorded in Linsley's or Merriam's list, nor have I seen any Connecticut record.

On February 7 I picked up a dead specimen on the beach at Bridgeport and a few days later three more. The finding of these specimens was the first indication I had of the occurrence of the bird, as I had been absent from home during the winter until the above mentioned date.

At New Haven I saw a stuffed specimen in the store of Folsom & Co. and learned that it was secured at Saugatuck Harbor by Mr. D. C. Sanford, a government surveyor, who had also secured another at that place.

Mr. W. F. Davis of Stony Creek writes me that hundreds could be seen there from the 1st to the 10th of January, so tame they could be taken in the hand; they could fly but seemed hungry and fatigued, some being found five miles from the salt water; he thought many died of starvation. He adds that he used to see great numbers of them when a boy, at Nantucket Shoals, where they were called Murres.

At Stratford I found a stuffed specimen in the village drug store and another in the possession of Mr. L. B. Beers. They had been seen in large numbers and attracted general attention. They were described as very tame but no one that I talked with seemed to think that they had starved. Mr. Theodore Judson, keeper of the Stratford Light, assured me that he had seen the bird occasionally before, but had regarded it as rare.

Mr. Wm. H. Hayt, an associate member of the A. O. U., writes me from Stamford as follows: "The Murres were plentiful here from Dec. 20 to about Feb. 10. A large number were shot. Fourteen specimens fell under my own observation. They all seemed to be in the last stages of starvation. One was found by the road side at some distance from the shore where it had evidently fallen from exhaustion. The stomachs of those which I examined contained nothing but sand.

I received information from several other persons at different places but think the above sufficient to indicate the extent of the movement. As all the specimens I examined were Brünnich's Murre, I refer all the notes to that species.

Since writing the above I have been informed by Mr. D. C. Sanford that from Penfield Reef Light House, off Black Rock, to the mouth of Saugatuck River "there were thousands of them, and hundreds were shot off Saugatuck."—C. K. AVERILL, Jr., *Bridgeport, Conn.*

*Auk*, 8, July, 1891. p. 307-308.

*Auk*, XII, July, 1895, pp. 310-311.  
Notes on Some Connecticut Birds.—*Uria lomvia*.—A few of these northern birds entered the Connecticut River in December, 1894. Two were killed at Essex on the 11th of that month and sent to me. At Portland, three were seen Dec. 14, and five on the 22d—specimens being taken at each date which are in my collection. I have never seen Brünnich's Murre in this immediate vicinity before.

*Jno. H. Sage, Portland, Conn.*

Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*) in Connecticut.—I have a specimen of this species which was shot at Rocky Hill, Conn., Nov. 18, 1893. The man who shot it said it was very tame and that it permitted a very near approach. On dissection it was found to be in very lean condition. This is the first occurrence of this bird in this locality so far as I can learn.—WILLARD E. TREAT, *East Hartford, Conn.* *Auk*, XII, Apr. 1895, p. 177.

Bird Notes from Long Id. Wm. Dutcher

8. *Lomvia arra bruennichi* (Sch.) Ridgw. BRÜNNICH'S GUILLEMOT.—Between January 8 and March 24, 1884, I obtained twelve specimens and noted about thirty additional individuals of this species from the south side of Long Island. A large majority of the specimens obtained were either found dead on the beach, generally frozen, or else so weak from hunger that they were easily captured by hand and died within a few hours. The only exception to the above was two that were shot by a gunner at Rockaway, who had them come to his Duck decoys. Dr. C. Hart Merriam mentions the same circumstance of starvation in connection with the Foolish Guillemot in his 'List of Birds ascertained to occur within ten miles from Point de Monts, Province of Quebec, Canada.\*' "They were all in very poor flesh, some being little more than animated skeletons, and a great many died and were washed ashore."

The notes accompanying the specimens indicate that this species is a very uncommon winter visitor to the western end of Long Island, and an irregular winter visitor to the extreme eastern portion of the Island. From a correspondent at Ditch Plain, which is very near the eastern extremity of the Island, I get the following note: "The bird sent was picked up dead on the beach after an easterly storm. At such times we have quite often found them, and have also seen them alive. I think they are driven on our shore by severe northeast gales, as after such storms is about the only time we find them." Another correspondent, from Shinnecock Bay, which is about thirty miles west of Ditch Plain, writes: "They are rather a rare bird on this coast, but during the winter in severe storms you will see one occasionally." A correspondent from Smith's Point, which is about midway between New York City and Montauk Point, says, "Do not see them every winter. They appear to be a very dumb bird. I picked this one up on the beach alive, and was going to send it to you that way, but it died before I could do so. The Captain of our Station says 'to the best of his knowledge he has never seen one before.' He has been in the Life-Saving Service twelve years." At South Oyster Bay and Rockaway, which are but a few miles from the western end of the Island, the gunners and Life-Saving men had never seen them before, and at the former place the single one shot was considered so rare that it was preserved and mounted. **Auk, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 38-39.**

\* Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. VII, p. 242.

GENERAL NOTES.

**Auk, XII, April, 1895, p. 177.**

Brünnich's Murre in Oneida County, N. Y.—The first week of December last, a specimen of Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*) was caught alive, a few miles south of this place, by a school girl, on the road between Lime Kiln Creek and Black River Canal. The bird was kept in confinement for a couple of days, when it died. It was offered meat, but refused to eat. As near as I can ascertain the bird was captured December 5, 1894.

Late in December I obtained possession of another specimen of this same species. This one was captured alive by a farmer, about December 15, a few miles south of where the other was caught. It lived but two days in confinement. The stomachs of both birds were empty. Mr. Egbert Bagg informs me that a specimen of this same Murre was caught alive at Utica, December 24. This is the first record of *Uria lomvia* from Oneida County.—WILLIAM S. JOHNSON, *Boonville, N. Y.*

GENERAL NOTES.

**Auk, XII, July, 1895, p. 290.**

Brünnich's Murre near Johnstown, New York.—I recently examined a specimen of Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*), that was taken about thirty miles north of this place. The bird seemed somewhat exhausted, and was captured alive.—DONALD FRASER, *Johnstown, N. Y.*

*Auk*, XII, July, 1895, p. 312.

Some Rare Birds of Recent Occurrence near Buffalo, N.Y.—*Uria lomvia*. BRÜNNICH'S MURRE.—Four stragglers of this species were seen here last fall; two of which were captured. One was shot near Irving on or about December 1, 1894, by 'Jake' Koch, a sportsman of local fame, who had it mounted and placed in the rooms of the Acacia Club in this city. The second was shot in Buffalo harbor by a gunner named Snyder who says that it is one of three that were flying past him at the time. This latter is now in my collection. Both were young birds which probably strayed from the coast via the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario.

Mellwraith recorded in his 'Birds of Ontario' (p. 38) the capture of nearly fifty of these birds in various parts of the Province late in the fall of 1893, and it would be interesting to know if there were any considerable numbers of stragglers last fall. A short time ago Mr. J. L. Davidson of Lockport informed me that a correspondent of his shot four strange looking Ducks in Jefferson County which possibly were of this species. And recently 'Forest and Stream' was asked to identify a bird shot in the interior of New York State that from the description was evidently a Murre.

James Savage, Buffalo, N.Y.

*Auk*, XIV, Apr., 1897, p. 202.

Murres in Western New York.—Writing from Geneva, N. Y., Mr. L. Clark states that a specimen of *Uria lomvia* was killed on Seneca Lake, December 23, 1895, a second in May, 1896, and a third on December 26, 1896. He also reports that J. S. Baker, a taxidermist at Geneva, has had several specimens of the same species brought him by hunters for mounting and that numbers had been seen on the lake during the winter of 1896. Previous to December 1895, the bird was not known to occur.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City*.

*Auk*, XIV, Apr., 1897, p. 226.

Some New Records from Central New York.—Since April, 1894, when I recorded in 'The Auk' eight new species for 'Oneida County and its Immediate Vicinity,' I have been able to add four new records, making the total number of species and subspecies recorded from our territory 243. These four records are as follows, viz.:

*Uria lomvia*.—In Christmas week, 1894, the mounted letter carrier on the road between Utica and New Hartford captured one of these birds alive, finding it almost helpless in the road just outside of the city. It was kept alive for several days and after its death was mounted and preserved.

Mr. W. S. Johnson of Boonville has recorded two other specimens of this species taken the same month in the northern part of this county (*Auk*, Vol. XII, p. 177).

Egbert Baag, Utica, N.Y.

### Some Birds of Unusual Occurrence in Orleans Co., N.Y.

*Uria lomvia*. BRÜNNICH'S MURRE.—Mr. F. A. Macomber of Murray has a mounted specimen in winter plumage which was brought to him in the first half of March, 1897, having been taken alive by hand, in a famished condition, on the ice of Sandy Creek. My collection contains the mounted head of another individual which was picked up dead from the Lake Ontario shore in the town of Kendall, by Mr. Harry Burnett.

Neil F. Rossion,  
Medina, N.Y.

*Auk*, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 193-6.

Brünnich's Murre in Lewis and Jefferson Counties, New York.— On Nov. 29, 1900, I had an adult male specimen of *Uria lomvia* brought to me by a farmer who stated he caught him alive in a mud hole near his home. This is, I believe, the first instance of the capture of this species in Lewis County.

A few days later, Dec. 4, I received another from a gunner at Redwood, Jefferson County, who stated there was quite a large flock of them on the lake at that place. This specimen had eight small black bass in its stomach, the largest three inches long.—JAMES H. MILLER, *Lowville, Lewis Co., N. Y.*

*Auk*, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 188.

Notes from Northern New York.— At Chateaugay Lake, Clinton Co., N. Y., on Dec. 24, I saw a typical specimen of *Uria lomvia* which had been shot on the lake just before it was closed by the ice—that is, about Dec. 12 or 13, 1900.

*Geo. C. Shattuck, Boston, Mass.*

*Auk*, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 199.

Notes concerning certain birds of  
Long Island, N. Y.,  
by William C. Braislin, M. D.

*Uria lomvia*. Brünnich's Murres occurred on the Long Island coast during the winter of 1901-02. Four were obtained from various localities. On Dec. 6, 1901, a female was killed at Sag Harbor on a fresh-water pond. It came into the possession of Mr. Ivan C. Byram a taxidermist of that village, who sent it to me in the flesh. Mr. Robt. R. Peavey of Brooklyn shot one at Rockaway Beach on Dec. 26, and kindly presented it to me. A member of the crew of the Amagansett Life-saving Station, George H. Mulford, found one on the beach, dead, at that place Dec. 30, 1901, and another on March 2, 1902. The last is rather remarkable as a Long Island specimen of the species, in that the feather coloration approaches nearly, if not quite, the full nuptial plumage. The feathers of the chin, sides of the throat and neck are of the dark, sooty color seen in adults collected at their breeding stations. No other skin which I have seen from Long Island has the dark coloring so much developed. This may be attributed to the date of occurrence, which is a late one for the species in this latitude. The bill of this bird is larger than our usual specimens, its depth, in fact, somewhat exceeding the limit for *U. lomvia* as indicated in Chapman's 'Birds of Eastern North America.'

*Auk*, XX, Jan., 1908, p. 51.

Some Rare Occurrences in Yates County, N. Y.— Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*).— A female Brünnich's Murre was killed in the inlet of Keuka Lake at Branchport Dec. 1, 1902, by Myron Pelton and the skin is now in my collection. It was apparently unable to rise from the water and was killed with a boat oar. There was not a particle of fat on the body and the stomach and intestines were entirely empty.

*Auk* 27, Apr-1910 p. 218.

Auk, XII, Oct., 1895, p. 387

Brünnich's Murre in Michigan. — On the morning of December 13, 1894, a Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*), in dying condition, was picked up on the Flat River, a small stream near the city of Greenville, Michigan. It came into the hands of Mr. Percy Selous, a naturalist and taxidermist of that place, who subsequently sent it to me for inspection, and eventually presented the specimen, well mounted, to the State Agricultural College. Mr. Selous writes me that the bird, an immature male, was greatly emaciated, and was dead, though not really cold when he obtained it, probably not more than an hour or two after its capture. This, I believe, is the first actual record of the occurrence of this species in Michigan, and is of special interest as rendering more probable the several more or less reliable reports of capture of other members of the family within the State. — WALTER B. BARROWS, *Agricultural College, Mich.*

Auk, XIV, Apr. 1897, p. 202.

Unusual Occurrence of Brünnich's Murres at Beverly, New Jersey. — During the occurrence of the heavy gale which prevailed along the coast about the middle of December, 1896, great numbers of Brünnich's Murres were seen and shot at different points along the Delaware River. On the 15th a boy shot one from the shore at Edgewater Park, the skin of which was preserved. The next morning I witnessed several flocks of fifteen or twenty birds each flying up the river, and secured two specimens. During the afternoon they returned in scattered flocks numbering about three hundred. A flock flew over my boat while crossing the river, low enough to have been struck with an oar. Those which remained about the river during the day to feed, were quite tame, and could be easily approached without alarm. One was also shot further down the river at Palmyra, and I was informed, several above Burlington. — J. HARRIS REED, *Beverly, N. J.*

*Alca  
Lorda*

Alca torda April 1891

T. W. ...

There will be ...  
... the ... meeting  
... this evening ... ask if  
... you will kindly show the  
... specimen which I left the  
... ... It was found  
... on the beach near ...  
... land light early in February &  
... at that time was perfectly  
... fresh, tho' damaged by mice  
... so that the skin could not be  
... saved. Another picked up  
... near the same place on  
... March 31st, but probably  
... been held during the same  
... storm with the ...  
... specimen judging by its state  
... of preservation, or more properly  
... kept. ... This should

exactly the same decision  
of bill -

Yours sincerely,  
G. S. Miller

Mr. William Brewster  
25 Rattle St.  
Cambridge

Alca torda *se* *Sula bassana*  
under "Bird Rocks of the Gulf of St. Lawrence"

*Auk* v. April, 1888. p. 129-135

Birds within Ten Miles of Point  
de Monts, Can, Comeau & ~~Merriam~~  
Merriam.

147. *Utamania torda*. RAZOR-BILLED AUK.—Not common  
breeds on the Mingan Islands.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882. p. 242

Birds of Magdalen Islands.  
Dr. L. B. Bishop.

7. *Alca torda*. RAZOR-BILLED AUK.—Breeds, but not in large numbers,  
on Great Bird Rock, Bryon Island, and Entry Island. On Great Bird Rock  
this species with *Fratercula arctica* breeds principally near the top of the  
cliffs, leaving the lower ledges for the Gannets, Kittiwakes and Murres.

*Auk*, VI. April, 1889. p. 145

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador  
by Henry B. Bigelow.

7. *Alca torda*. RAZOR-BILLED AUK; TINKER.—Although subject to  
the same persecution as the Murres, the Razor-billed Auk seems to have  
stood it better, and is still abundant all along the coast. We found them  
in July in considerable numbers in the lanes in the floe ice. They breed  
in company with the Murres.

*Auk*, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 26.

<sup>2</sup> Proceedings Canadian Institute, 1890, 200.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I., Water Birds.

*Auk*, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 441.

8. *Alca torda*. RAZOR-BILLED AUK.—One specimen taken Decem-  
ber 10, 1889, now in the Canadian Institute.<sup>2</sup> There is also a Hamilton  
record in the collection of Mr. John Maughan, Jr., taken December 9, 1893.

New England Coast

Alca torda

1886

Unusual abundance.

Nov. & Dec.

During these months F. B. Webster has received many Razor-bills in the flesh from various points along our coast, most of the earlier specimens from Cohasset, Mass., the later ones from Eastport, Maine. On Dec. 27 I saw about 20 from the latter locality and in the flesh and received that day. The adults could be easily distinguished from the young by their larger and much more grooved bills. All had white throats but a few showed scattering black or dusky

feathers  
the *Barnswallow's* Gull, most  
usually numerous, appears  
to be less than before.

J. C. Calson tells me  
that *Alca Lunda* is often  
common in Nov. & Dec. in  
Provincetown Harbor, Mass.

New England Coast - Mass.

Alca torda

1886

Nov. Dec For the first time within my experience this species has been fairly common along the N. E. coast from Eastport, Maine, at least as far south as Cohasset, Mass. F. B. Webster has received fully twenty specimens in the flesh, freshly shot. All have had white throats. The last came from Eastport about Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Alca torda

Cohasset, Mass.

Matthews. Over for.  
tells me that this bird  
is common <sup>off</sup> Cohasset  
and at times reaches long  
flights past the line of  
foots. It occurs both spring  
& fall - and the latter season  
with the cool throats is  
at its brightest. He has two  
specimens.

Razor-billed Auks on New England Coast.

Among specimens recently received by Mr. F. W. Andros from Eastport, Maine (Dec 27, 1886)

I found no less than twenty Razor-billed Auks. These birds occurred in great numbers at various points between Eastport, Maine, and Provincetown, Mass., during November and December, 1886; ordinarily they are not common.

Wm Brewster, Cambridge, Mass.  
Auk, 4, April 1887, p. 155.

**Birds of Bristol County, Mass.**  
F. W. Andros.

*Alca torda* Linn., Razor-billed Auk. Winter visitant, rarely seen off the coast.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1837 p. 137

Monomoy Isl. Notes. J. L. Colborn.

and a Razor-billed Auk were taken about April 15th, which I consider late for these birds at Monomoy.

O. & O. XV, May 1890 p. 66-67.

Bird Notes from Long Id. Wm. Dutcher

7. *Utamania torda* (Linn.) Leach. RAZOR-BILLED AUK.—January 15, 1884, I received from a correspondent at Southampton, a specimen of this species accompanied by the following note: "The bird I send you was found dead on the seashore. It is likely it was drowned in the heavy surf we had just before. It was a new bird to me." February 2, 1884, I received another from a correspondent at Smith's Point, which was also found dead on the beach. February 6, 1884, I received still another from Southampton, not, however, from the same correspondent who sent me the one January 15. With it came the following interesting note: "I found this bird on the beach last night while on my patrol, and as it was a stranger to this coast I send it. I have been in the Life-Saving Service nine years and have never seen one before." All three birds were remarkable for the poor condition they were in, and also for the total absence of food of any kind in their stomachs.

Auk, 2, Jan., 1885, p. 38.

Notes concerning certain birds of  
Long Island, N.Y.  
by William C. Braislin, M.D.

*Alca torda*. An immature Razor-billed Auk was sent me by Capt. James G. Scott, keeper of the Montauk Point Light, on Nov. 14, 1901. In regard to it he wrote: "The bird I sent you was brought to me by a fisherman, and I think he found it on the beach, for I have found them dead on the beach."

Auk, XX, Jan., 1908, p. 51.

An Ornithologist's Summer in Labrador  
M. Abbott Frazar.

*Alca torda*, Razor-billed Auk. Common everywhere, much more so than the preceding species, owing to its habit of breeding in less frequented places and concealing its eggs in cracks and crevices among the rocks where it is not so apt to be disturbed. Also very frequently lays its eggs in the mouths of inhabited Puffin's holes a few inches or a foot from the mouth. This species is exceedingly gregarious; lays generally one egg, though in about twenty instances I found two. The bird picks two bare spots on its breast.

O. & O. XII, Jan. 1887, p. 3

*Plantus  
impennis*

*The Zoologist*, November 1883, Vol. 7, no. 83, p. 470.

The last Great Auk.—It is generally supposed that this bird has been extinct for the last forty years. In the 'American Naturalist,' however, for 1872 (vol. vi. p. 369) there appears a notice of one which was found dead on the Labrador coast in 1870. The writer of the notice, Mr. Ruthven Deane, says:—"While at Montreal, in August, 1871, Mr. Alfred Leechevallier, a naturalist who has collected largely in Labrador, informed me of a specimen of this supposed to be extinct species. It was found dead in the vicinity of St. Augustin, Labrador coast, in November, 1870, by some Indians, from whom Mr. Leechevallier obtained it while collecting there at the time. It was a male, and, although in a very bad state, he preserved it, and has recently (1872) sold it to a naturalist in France, who is to send it to Austria. Although it was a very poor specimen he realised two hundred dollars." We should be glad to know whether any of our readers have seen this specimen, and can add anything further to its history; also whether they can inform us where it is now deposited.—ED.

*Rare Birds in Nova Scotia.*  
J. B. Gilpin. Halifax. N. S.

and here may be mentioned, though certainly not owing to Arctic currents, that about twelve or fifteen years ago a specimen of the Great extinct Auk was discovered by the late Lord Bishop of Newfoundland and presented to a gentleman in Halifax. It had been dead a long time and was only feathers, skin and bones, and was found buried under guano at the Funk Islands by the Bishop himself. I think this to be the last specimen noted.

*Q. & A. Vol. 11. May. 15. 1882. p. 123*

Sale of an Egg of the Great Auk  
in London.

The following is taken from the *Pall Mall Gazette* of Dec. 14, 1887. The sale was held on Dec. 13th:

"An egg sold for 160 guineas.—At Mr. J. C. Stevens' auction rooms in King street, Covent Garden, this week, a large number of ornithologists assembled to witness the sale of an egg of the Great Auk. Before offering the lot, Mr. Stevens remarked that, in 1880, two eggs of this bird, both of which had been broken, were sold by him, and that they fetched 100 and 102 guineas respectively. Of the recorded eggs, twenty-five were in eighteen museums, and forty-one in nineteen private collections, forty-three out of the sixty-six being in Great Britain. The first bid of fifty guineas was made by a well-known ornithologist, and this was followed by sixty guineas from Mr. L. Field, to whom the egg was eventually knocked down at 160 guineas."

O. & O. XIII. Feb. 1888 p. 31

*Notes.*

I have an old book, printed over one hundred years ago in England, describing a voyage to the North Sea by the Danes. From a description I think they saw the Great Auk. Possibly they may be there now? Dr. T. S. Hitchcock.

O & O. XIV. May. 1889 p. 77

The Great Auk in the U. S. National Museum.—The Great Auk in the collection of the U. S. National Museum has recently been remounted by Mr. N. R. Wood, and is thereby greatly improved in appearance. Although the specimen is more than fifty years old, the skin proved to be in fair condition, although naturally so venerable a bird needed careful manipulation.

Like nearly all mounted specimens of the Great Auk this was far too long, and even now that it has been shortened between two and three inches still remains at least so much longer than in life.

Measured along the curve the length of the stuffed specimen is a little more than twenty-nine inches from tip of beak to root of tail, while a large skeleton, similarly measured, is but a trifle more than twenty-five inches in length.

A life-sized, colored photograph of the bird as it appeared before remounting is preserved in the collection.—F. A. LUCAS, *Washington, D. C.*

*Auk*, VII. April, 1890. p. 203-204.

WE TAKE the following respecting the eggs of the Great Auk or Gare-fowl from a recent issue of the 'London Times,' apropos of the recent sale in London of a noted egg of this celebrated bird.

"The sale yesterday afternoon [Feb. 22, 1894] of an egg of the Great Auk at Mr. Steven's auction-rooms in Covent Garden is an event of interest to many people besides ornithologists. After a keen competition it was purchased by Sir Vauncey Crewe, of Calke Abbey, Derbyshire, for 300 guineas.

"The collecting of birds' eggs is a pastime which has obtained for some centuries. John Evelyn mentions in his diary for 1681 that when at Norwich he saw the collection of eggs formed by Sir Thomas Browne, but we must come to the end of the eighteenth century before we can trace any collector in possession of an egg of the Great Auk. Early in the present century references to collections containing specimens of this egg become more frequent. There are 68 recorded eggs of the Great Auk, but this number includes several fragmentary remains that can only by courtesy be called eggs. They may fairly be divided into four groups. Ten specimens, from their perfect condition, color, and style of marking, may be put into a class by themselves. Then we have 34 good specimens; 12 are slightly cracked, badly blown, or varnished eggs, while the remaining 14 are imperfect, varying from the eggs that had one end knocked off (probably for the purpose of sucking), like that in the Angers Museum, to the two fragments of the Natural History Museum at South Kensington. Great Britain possesses the larger number of the specimens, for, of the 68, England has 45 and Scotland 3. France comes next with 10 eggs, followed by Germany with 3. Two are in Holland, while Denmark, Portugal, and Switzerland each possess one; there are two in the United States. Again, of the 68 eggs, 29 are in 19 museums, while 21 private owners possess 39 eggs among them.

"The fact of the Great Auk having formerly inhabited the British Isles has been one great cause for the steady advance in value of its eggs. The earliest record we have of a sale by auction is in 1853, when two fetched respectively £29 and £30, which remained about their value until 1860, when one sold for £60. In 1880 the price had risen to £100, followed in 1887 by £168 and in 1888 by £225.

"The egg which was sold yesterday, though not nearly such a good specimen as that sold in 1888, has an interest to all British ornithologists from having belonged to Yarrell, who purchased it in Boulogne of a fisherman who had been in a whaling ship. He had two or three swan's eggs and this egg on a string. Yarrell asked if they were for sale, and was told that the white eggs were one franc each and the spotted one two francs. Unfortunately we do not know the date of this transaction, but it was anterior to 1838, for in that year the egg was figured in Hewitson's 'British Oology.' After Yarrell's death it was sold at Stevens's auction-rooms for £21 (December, 1856), and purchased for the late Mr. Frederick Bond, an old friend of Yarrell's. It remained in this gentleman's possession until 1875, when it was sold with his unrivalled collection of British eggs to Baron Louis d'Hamonville of Château de Mononville, who sent it to Mr. Stevens."

ERRATUM.—At bottom of Plate IV, second line, for "preeing" read "preening."

**Auk XI. April. 1894 p. 189-92**

#### GENERAL NOTES.

An Egg of the Great Auk.—Mr. Symington Grieve of Edinburgh, in a recent letter to Capt. J. W. Collins, announces the discovery of one more egg of the Great Auk, "this time in a museum kept in the tower of an English parish church. The egg was labeled 'Penguin,' and the owner of the museum was under the impression that it was the egg of one of the Penguins of the southern hemisphere, until in reading an article in one of the magazines he observed that the Great Auk also was known as the Penguin in the American localities that were frequented by the bird. He had the egg examined by experts who pronounced it undoubtedly an egg of *Alca impennis*. From all that can be discovered of its history it appears in all probability to have come from Newfoundland."—FREDERIC A. LUCAS, *Washington, D. C.* **Auk**, 9, April, 1892, p. 198

The White Pelican (*Pelecanus trachyrhynchus*) is mentioned as a former inhabitant of New Hampshire and other parts of New England, and was doubtless in early times more or less common in Massachusetts, where its presence is now regarded as merely accidental.

1676. *The Home of the Great Auk*. By Frederic A. Lucas. *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIII, No. 4, Aug., 1888, pp. 456-464.—An account of the writer's visit to Funk Island. **Pop. Sci. Mon.**

991. *The last Great Auk*. By J. E. Harting. *Ibid.*, April, 1884, pp. 141, 142.—Relates to a discrepancy in letters of Mr. A. Lechevallier about a specimen of the Great Auk alleged to have been found dead on the coast of Labrador in November, 1870, and obtained by him, record of which was made by Mr. Ruthven Deane in the 'American Naturalist' for 1872 (Vol. VI, p. 369). The validity of the record thus made on Mr. Lechevallier's authority appears to be hereby much impaired. (See above, No. 991.) **Zoologist, VIII**

450. *Bits of history of the Great Auk*. [By Winfred A. Stearns.] *Fishkill Standard* (newspaper), Fishkill Landing, N. Y., June 30, 1883.—A good account of the species, compiled from various sources.

1676. *The Home of the Great Auk*. By Frederic A. Lucas. *Ibid.*, Vol. XXXIII, No. 4, Aug., 1888, pp. 456-464.—An account of the writer's visit to Funk Island. **Pop. Sci. Mon.**

991. *The last Great Auk*. By J. E. Harting. *Ibid.*, Nov. 1883, p. 470.—A call for information respecting a specimen recorded by Mr. Ruthven Deane (Am. Nat. VI, 1872, p. 260), on the authority of Mr. A. Lechevallier.

1320. *Eggs of the Great Auk*. By F. C. Browne. *Ibid.*, No. 11, April 7, p. 225.—Sale of two eggs at auction, in Edinburgh about 1880, one bringing one hundred pounds, the other one hundred and two guineas. See also note by Chas. A. Bramble, *ibid.*, No. 12, April 14, p. 248.

**For. & Stream, Vol. XXVIII**

1637. *Feathered Forms of Other Days*. By R. W. Shufeldt. *Ibid.*, No. 3, Jan., 1886, pp. 352-365.—Illustrated with figures of *Campylornis labradorius*, *Plautus impennis*, and several fossil birds. **Century Mag., XXXI**

773. *Animals that have disappeared in Recent Times*. *Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist*, Vol. III, pp. 278-280.—Refers to the Great Auk, the Labrador Duck, the Moas, *Notornis*, etc.

1313. *The Great Auk*. With cut. From the Audubon Magazine for March, 1887. *Ibid.*, No. 8, March 17, p. 152.—Sketch of its history. **For. & Stream, Vol. XXVIII**

Lucas, F. A. *The Home of the Great Auk*. (*Pop. Sci. Monthly*, Aug. 1888, pp. 456-464.)

1353. *Skeletons of the Great Auk*. From the 'Boston Herald.' *Ibid.*, No. 4, Aug. 18, p. 65. Discovery of its bones in the guano deposits on Funk Island, off the coast of Newfoundland. **For. & Stream, Vol. XXIX**

a note on the extinction of the Great Auk at the Funk Islands (p. 48), by the same. **Amer. Naturalist, Vol. 10, Jan.**

Collett, Robert. Ueber *Alca impennis* in Norwegen. (Mittheil. des Ornith. Vereins in Wien, 1884.)

upon the History and Anatomy of the Great Auk. (Rep. Nat. Mus., 1887-88, pp. 493-529, pll. lxxi-lxxiii.)

The Great Auk (*Alca impennis*) has recently been added to the list of the birds of the State, on account of the occurrence of its bones in the Indian shell-heaps at Ipswich. There is little reason to doubt, however, that the bird called "Pengwin," or "Penguin," mentioned as found from Cape Cod northward at the time Europeans first visited this coast, really refers to the Great Auk. It figures in all the early enumerations of the birds of New England and Newfoundland, while it does not appear in any of the lists referring to the region south of Massachusetts. Captain Bartholomew Gosnold, in 1602, found "Pengwins" on the Massachusetts coast at what he calls "Gilbert's Point," in latitude 41° 40'. He says: "The twentieth, by the ships side we there killed Pengwins and saw many sculls of fish."\* The locality, as shown by the context, was between the southeastern point of Cape Cod and Nantucket Island, probably a few miles south of Egg Island. What the bird called "Pengwin" was, that was so often referred to by the early explorers of the New England coast, is clearly evident from the following: Richard Whitbourne, in his account of his voyage to Newfoundland, in 1618, says, "These Penguins are as bigge as Geese, and flie not, for they have but little short wings, & they multiply so infinitely, upon a certaine flat Island [Sable Island], that men drive them from thence upon a boord into their Boates by hundreds at a time; as if God had made the innocencie of so poore a creature to become such an admirable instrument for the sustentation of man."† The same bird is also referred to by Josselyn as the "Wobble." He says: "The Wobble, an ill shaped Fowl, having no long Feathers in their Pinions, which is the reason they cannot fly, not much unlike the Pengwin; they are in the Spring very fat, or rather oyle, but pull'd and garbidgd, and laid to the Fire to roast, they yield not one drop."‡

This bird, so valuable as a "commodity," and whose "innocencie" rendered its capture so easy, doubtless did not long survive on the coast of New England after the establishment here of permanent settlements.

\* Purchas's Pilgrims, Vol. IV, p. 1648.

† *Ib.*, Vol. IV, p. 1886.

‡ New Englands Rarities, p. 11.

Bull. N. O. C. I, Sept, 1876. p. 58-59.

*Sportsman and Naturalist*, Vol. III, pp. 278-280.—Refers to the Great Auk, the Labrador Duck, the Moas, *Notornis*, etc.

1313. *The Great Auk*. With cut. From the Audubon Magazine for March, 1887. *Ibid.*, No. 8, March 17, p. 152.—Sketch of its history.

*For. & Stream*, Vol. XXVIII

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upon the History and Anatomy of the Great Auk. (*Rep. Nat. Mus.*, 1887-88, pp. 493-529, pll. lxxi-lxxiii.)

50 State Street,  
Plautus impennis.

~~Boston~~, [Feb. 14, 1905]

Just Received

John E. Thayer  
50 State St - Boston

420 Pounds - Good Stuffed Ant-  
Ward

---

Answer: Will buy at your  
price - check will  
follow immediately -  
Thayer

[Telegram from England and  
reply]

Plautus impennis.

THE GREAT AUK.

*Am. Field.* XXIX., No. 21, May 26, 1888. p. 487.

BY PROFESSOR W. A. STEARNS.

I was very much interested in the article on the Great Auk, in a recent issue of the *AMERICAN FIELD*.

With regard to this unique bird nearly every ornithological writer has had something to say, and little or no news to add to its history. A resume of our knowledge on the subject may be of interest. In Anspach's "History of the Island of Newfoundland," 1827, p. 393, we find the following curious information: "There was formerly on this coast a species of birds of the diving genus, which, from their inability to fly, were always observed within the space between the land and the Great Bank, and were once so abundant as to have given their name to several islands on that coast, but they are now utterly extinct. They were known by the name of penguins, according to some writers from the Welsh, in which language that word signifies white head, the penguin having a remarkable white spot on one side of its otherwise black head; while Dr. Forster is of opinion that this bird received its name from the Spaniards and Portuguese, on account of its heavy and fat body. In this case the derivation must have come from the Latin *pinguis*; but it is more natural to suppose that in this as in every other instance in which they have given names to places, the Spanish and Portuguese would have made use of their vernacular word 'gorde,' which is common to both languages."

Audubon said of it when he made his voyage to Labrador and Newfoundland: "The only authentic account of the occurrence of this bird on our coast that I possess, was obtained from Mr. Henry Havell, brother of my engraver, who, when on his passage from New York to England, hooked a Great Auk on the banks of Newfoundland, in extreme boisterous weather. On being hauled on board, it was left at liberty on the deck. It walked very awkwardly, often tumbling over, bit every one within reach of its powerful bill, and refused food of all kinds. After continuing several days on board, it was restored to its proper element."

"When I was in Labrador, many of the fishermen assured me that the 'Penguin,' as they name this bird, breeds on a low rocky island to the southeast of Newfoundland, where they destroy great numbers of the young for bait; but as this intelligence came to me when the season was too far advanced, I had no opportunity of ascertaining its accuracy. In Newfoundland, however, I received similar information from several individuals. An old gunner residing on Chelsea Beach, near Boston, told me that he well remembered the time when the Penguins were plentiful about Nahant and some other islands in the bay.

"The egg is very large, measuring five inches in length, and three in its greatest breadth. In form it resembles that of the Common Guillemot; the shell is thick and rather rough to the touch; its color yellowish-white, with long, irregular lines and blotches of brownish black, more numerous at the larger end."

The Great Auk differs from the Razor-billed Auk, "Tinker," or "Turra," as the inhabitants of Labrador call it, only in its immense size and in having a very large area of white between the eye and bill. Its length, according to Coues, is "about thirty inches, wing six, tail three, bill three, along gape four, its depth four." During the Sum-

mer of 1860, Dr. Elliott Coues visited Labrador, and his report on this bird, though adding little new light, thus reflects a little of our former knowledge, and says that "the fishermen knew immediately to what I referred when I spoke of 'Penguins'—as they are called—and all with singular unanimity agreed in designating the Funks, an island off the southeast coast of Newfoundland, as the only place where the birds were to be found. Yet I never could find a person who had actually seen one of the birds; they had only heard of them as Penguins. But the fact of their all agreeing as to the precise locality where the birds were to be found, seemed to me worthy of attention."

In the sailing directions for this part of the coast, the Funk Islands are thus described: "The Funk Islands, which lie northeast by east about thirty-two miles from Cape Freels, are a little group of rocks, just above water. The largest of them is forty-six feet high, not half a mile long, and cannot be seen farther than ten or twelve miles; but it will always be distinguished by the numerous birds hovering over it. About two hundred yards northward of this island there is a large rock above water, and northwest by west one hundred and eighty yards from this are still larger rocks; these are all barren, and only the resort of seabirds, that inhabit and breed there."

In the "Bulletin of the Essex Institute," Vol. V, Nos. 2 and 3, 1873, p. 41, Mr. Harold Herrick in his "Partial Catalogue of the Birds of Grand Menan," refers to this species and says: "Formerly occurred, as bones have been dug up from the shell heaps of Nantucket Island, close to Menan."

Dr. Coues, in his "List of the Birds of New England," says: "For an interesting account of the discovery, by Prof. Wyman, of its remains at Mt. Desert, and at Cronchi Cove, Me., see [American Naturalist, i, p. 578." This referred to the finding of bones in the Indian shell heaps or kitchen gardens of these places. Dr. Coues states also that "Audubon states that it used to occur on the coast of Massachusetts. This statement has been corroborated by the finding of a *humerus* of the Great Auk in the shell heaps at Ipswich by Prof. Baird." This was in 1868. The year previous, Mr. J. C. Maynard (Maynard's Naturalist's Guide, 1870), wrote that "The Great Auk (*Alca impennis*, Linn.) must have been quite common many years ago on the coast north of Cape Ann. In the Autumn of 1867, and in company with Mr. J. A. Allen, in June, 1868, I found in the shell heaps on the Ipswich Sandhills, numerous bones of this now extinct bird; probably dropped there by the Indians, who must have killed them with their arrows, or other primitive weapons, for food."

Dr. Elliott Coues, in his "Key to the Birds of North America," 1872, p. 339, sums up our previous knowledge and adds our latest record. He says: "Special interest attaches to this bird, which is now on the point of extinction, largely through human agency. It formerly inhabited this coast from Massachusetts northward, as attested by earlier observers, and by the plentiful occurrence of its bones in shell heaps; also Greenland, Iceland, and the northwest shores of Europe to the Arctic Circle. On our shores it was apparently last alive at the Funks, a small island off the south coast of Newfoundland; while in Iceland, its living history has been brought down to 1844. Of late years, it has been currently, but, as it appears, prematurely, reported extinct. Mr. R. Deane has recently recorded (American Naturalist, Vol. VI, p. 368,) that a specimen was 'found dead in the vicinity of St. Augustine, Labrador, in November, 1870;' this one, though in poor condition, sold for two hundred dollars and was sent to Europe. I know

Plautus impennis.

of only four specimens in this country—in the Smithsonian Institution, in the Philadelphia Academy, the Cambridge Museum, and in Vassar College, Poughkeepsie (the latter the original of Audubon's figures). There is an egg in each of the first two-mentioned collections."

According to a late paper of Mr. Victor Fatio, published in the Bulletin of the Swiss Ornithological Society, the total number of the skins of the (probably now extinct) Great Auk, in Europe and in the United States, amounts to seventy-one or possibly seventy-two. Besides the skins and eggs found in the United States he adds that "seven skeletons are enumerated as existing in Europe, and two (one?) in the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Cambridge, Massachusetts." He enumerates sixty-five eggs known to be in collections in Europe and America. The writer of the article adds: "This enumeration of the remains of this bird is believed to be very nearly accurate, and although a few more specimens may yet be detected in local museums, it is not likely that the total can be much increased. The limited number extant will sufficiently explain the high price which specimens of both skins and eggs bring when offered for sale, the sums obtained for the former varying from five hundred dollars to fifteen hundred dollars, and for the latter two hundred and fifty dollars to three hundred and fifty dollars."

Cambridgeport, Mass. *Am. Field XXIX, No. 21, Mar. 26, 1888, p. 487.*

Plautus impennis.

*Am. Field.* XXX., No. 15. April 14, 1888. p. 342,  
343.

**THE GREAT AUK.**

The sale by auction of an egg of the great auk for the unprecedented sum of £225, has again attracted the attention of the public to the history and relics of this bird, one of the last species that has been exterminated by the agency of man. The great auk, which may be described as a gigantic razor-bill, but with wings so small as to be incapable of flight, was a common bird at one period, hundreds being caught periodically on the small islands off Newfoundland, and on the coast of Iceland. The species also occurred in St. Kilda, and the Orkney and Farøe Islands. The last specimen from Orkney was killed in 1812, that from St. Kilda in 1822, and the last recorded capture was made on Eldey, off the coast of Iceland, in 1844. So recent has been the extinction of this fine species, that



EGG OF THE GREAT AUK (NATURAL SIZE.)

in the early editions of Yarrell's "Birds," and even in Macgillivray's fifth volume of the "British Birds," published in 1852, it is spoken of as still existing.

The cause of the destruction of the great auk and its addition to the list of species of birds exterminated by man, which at present includes the moa of New Zealand, the dodo and solitaire of the Mauritius, is not far to seek. When the species was plentiful, and hundreds were to be found at their breeding places, they were easily captured, being of slow movement on land, and utterly incapable of flight. The French fishermen who frequented the coast of Newfoundland for the purpose of capturing cod were accustomed, according to a correspondent of Hakluyt, to victual themselves always with these birds, salting them down in hundreds; and as late as a century since, a Mr. G. Cartwright prophesied they would be all destroyed, for on Fogo Island they were captured by laying gangboards from the gunwale of the boat to the rocks, and driving on board as many as the boat would carry. The captors must have taken some care to prevent any of the gairfowl reaching the water, for once in what may be termed their native element, the rapidity of their movements would have rendered all pursuit perfectly hopeless.

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Plautus impennis.

In the early part of this century, when the species had become so scarce that they were not pursued for food, a new danger arose. The collectors killed them for specimens, and the naturalists completed the destruction that the sailors and fishermen had commenced. It may be thought that on some of the rocky islets off the coasts of either continent the great auk may still exist; but the opinion of naturalists best acquainted with the subject, such as the late John Wolley, who journeyed to Iceland specially to make inquiries respecting this species and its relics, is most strongly against the probability of any remaining.

Such being the case, every relic of the bird is valuable, whether in the form of bones, skins, or eggs. Bones have been found in considerable abundance, especially in places where the birds were used for food. Professor Milne described the collection of a large number on Funk Island in *The Field* of 1875 (March 27 and April 3 and 10). His articles were illustrated by a drawing of the bird. No less than ten complete skeletons have been made, five of which are in England—one at Cambridge, two in the Natural History Museum, S. Kensington, one at the College of Surgeons, and the fifth in the possession of Lord Lilford. Of skins nearly eighty are known to exist in public and private collections. Of the twenty-two in the British Isles, examples may be seen at the Natural History Museum, and the museums at Newcastle, York, Dublin, Durham, and Leeds.

Of the eggs of the great auk, or garefowl, about seventy are known. It doubtless made no nest, and laid but one egg, which was large even in proportion to the size of the bird, being about 5 inches in length by 3 inches in breadth, and having that peculiar pyriform shape common to those of sea birds, whose eggs are deposited in exposed situations, a form which prevents them rolling, except in narrow circles, and thus prevents them being readily blown off the ledges on which they are deposited.

Like those of its nearest ally, the eggs of the great auk

vary much in color and marking. Two are figured by Seebohm in his "British Birds"—one from the Oxford Museum, of which the ground is creamy white, with black and brown blotches, chiefly at the larger end; the second, from the Liverpool Museum, being beautifully streaked with dark brown on a light brown ground.

In the valuable monograph of Mr. Symington Grieve on the great auk, two eggs are figured from the Edinburgh Museum. These vary again, being creamy white with dark blackish-brown markings, which in one are very sparsely distributed.

The value of the eggs has risen rapidly of late years. In the year 1830, one was bought in Paris for 4s. 1d.; in 1833, another was secured for 3fr. One of the eggs at Cambridge was purchased for £2 in 1832; in 1847, the late Sir W. Milner paid 200fr. for one in Paris; in 1853, the late Lord Garvagh bought two at a public sale for £59.

In 1865, ten eggs were discovered in a box at the Museum of the College of Surgeons; of these, five were sold at Stevens', averaging £30 each. In 1869, Lord Garvagh bought at Stevens' a third egg for £64; and in 1883 one is reported to have been bought by a well-known ornithologist

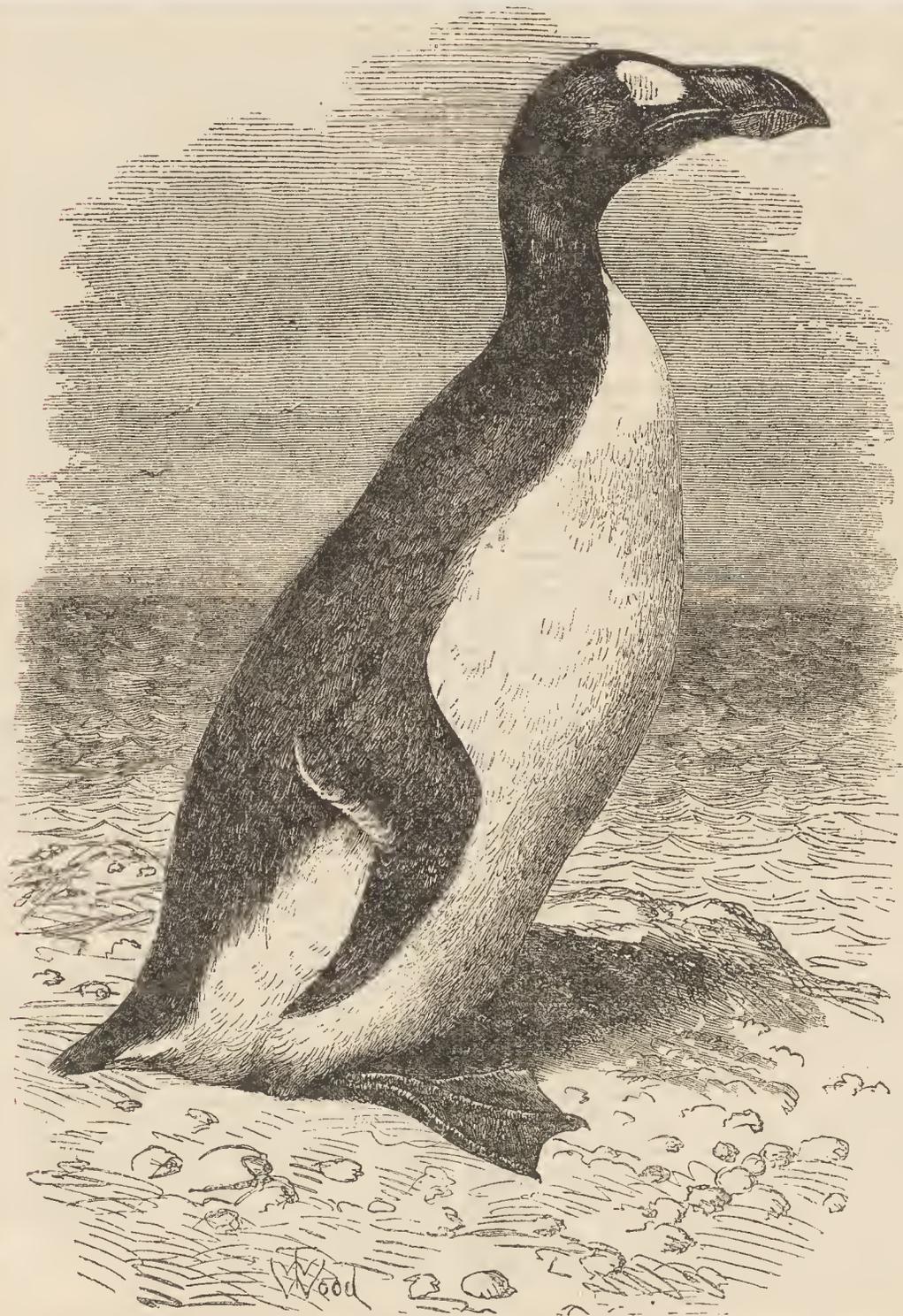
for £140. But all these prices are far distanced by that obtained on Monday last at Stevens' Auction Room, when an egg from the collection of Mrs. Wise was offered for sale, and realized the unprecedented sum of £225. This egg had been inherited by Mrs. Wise in a collection belonging to her father, Mr. Holland, and had been purchased by him in 1851 for £18 from Williams of Vere street, the predecessor of H. Ward; Williams having previously obtained it from Lefevre of Paris.

Those who desire additional information respecting this interesting species will find it in Professor Newton's abstract of "Wolley's Researches in Iceland" in the *Ibis*, 1861, and in "The Garefowl and its Historians," *Nat. His. Rev.*, 1865. Sir R. Owen's description of the skeleton is in the *Transactions of the Zoological Society for 1866*. Professor Milne's account of the remains in Funk Island has been already cited. There are sundry papers in the *Zoologist* for 1860, 1861, 1868 and 1869, and the results of previous inquiries have been accumulated in Mr. Symington Grieve's very handsome quarto, which is illustrated with colored drawings of the Edinburgh eggs and of the bones of the bird;

but for a drawing of the entire skeleton reference must be made to Sir R. Owen's account in the *Zoological Transactions*.

We reproduce the engraving of the bird which illustrated one of Professor Milne's articles in *The Field* of April 3, 1875. The egg sold during the present week is represented of the natural size; but the figure of the bird is much reduced, its actual weight when living being about 11 pounds.—W. B. TEGETMEIER, in *Field* (London).

Plautus impennis.



THE GREAT AUK (*Alca impennis*.)

## GREAT AUK NOTES.

BY FREDERIC A. LUCAS.

ORNITHOLOGISTS owe a debt of gratitude to Professor Newton and Mr. Gricve for their contributions to the history of the Great Auk, and for their labors in collecting and rendering accessible to English and American readers the substance of many scattered papers by foreign writers. Well as their work has been done a few errors, here and there, have crept in, and in correcting them, as they come up in connection with some of the points herein discussed, the writer trusts that he may not seem ungracious, for few have probably studied the writings of the above-named gentlemen with more pleasure and profit than himself.

To Professor Newton belongs the credit of calling attention to the fact that the range of the Great Auk was much more restricted than was generally supposed, and that the bird never even visited many of the localities in which it was once thought to have bred.

It is my own belief that, in historic times at least, the number of places resorted to by the Great Auk for breeding purposes was comparatively small, partly from the inability of the bird to fly, but more from one of those unknown reasons which impel some animals to select for their homes only one or two out of many possible sites.

We have a striking example of this in the Gannet, a bird whose powers of flight are exceptionally great, and whose considerable size and voracious appetite demand an abundant supply of fish. It might therefore be supposed that this bird would be found breeding at many places from Maine to Labrador, and yet, so far as I am aware, it is found at only two spots in all this range of coast, and to one of these we know certainly that it has resorted for three hundred and fifty years\* in spite of almost ceaseless persecution.

If then such is the case with a bird gifted with unusual powers of locomotion how much more likely it is to have been the habit

\*In 'The Auk' for April, by an unfortunate slip of the pen, I wrote three hundred and thirty-two instead of three hundred and fifty-three.

of a bird so hampered by nature as the Great Auk. It is also worthy of note that traditions concerning the Great Auk refer to a small number of localities only, and moreover had the bird availed itself of the many possible breeding places along the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador it might have endured in lessened numbers until this day.

There is a rumor that twenty years ago the Great Auk was still to be found on the Penguin Islands, in the mouth of Gros Water Bay, sixteen miles from Grady Harbor, a locality about two hundred and fifty miles north of Cape Norman, N. F.\* Of course this is possible, but it seems hardly probable.

It was on the program, during the cruise of the Fish Commission schooner 'Grampus,' in the summer of 1887 (a cruise in which it was my good fortune to take part), to visit as many of the probable former breeding grounds of the Great Auk as circumstances would admit of, notably Penguin Island near Cape la Hune (southern coast of Newfoundland), and Penguin Islands near Cape Freels (eastern coast). Unfortunately *Æolus* decided against a visit to the former locality — so often mentioned by the early navigators — and let loose upon us a brisk southwester, before which the 'Grampus' drove by under shortened canvas at the rate of ten knots an hour, while, with a visit to Funk Island still in prospect, it was deemed inadvisable to lose any time by waiting for wind and sea to go down.

On the eastern coast we were favored with better weather, and leaving the well-named harbor of Seldom Come By early in the morning, with a 'Newfoundland Pilot' (a lookout at the mast-head) to guard against the possible contingency of a rock not laid down on the chart, passed Peckford Reef, the Schoolmarm, and Scrub Rocks, and came to anchor about noon off the Penguin Islands, two flat, grassy islets rising but twenty feet above the water and not at all suggestive of an Alcinæ breeding place.

Still one of these *may* be that certain flat island whence men "drove the Penguins on a board into their boats by hundreds at a time," in spite of the fact that the islets are but three miles from shore, and in consequence the Great Auk must have led a very precarious existence.

Offer Wadham, nine miles farther out to sea, is much more

\*For this report I am indebted to Mr. William Selater of St. Johns, N. F.

TESTIMONY OF SOME EARLY VOYAGERS ON  
THE GREAT AUK.

BY FANNIE P. HARDY.

MR. LUCAS, in his recent article on the Great Auk, asks if the "great Apponatz" of Hakluyt may not be either a misprint or a wrong translation of "*grasse Apponatz*," the fat Apponatz; and further on supposes, for the sake of a question, that the Apponatz is the Razor-bill, as if the "Apponatz" and the "great Apponatz" were two different birds. That there is no mistake involved, and that but one bird, the Great Auk, is meant, can be shown by comparing the certain statements of early travellers.

Unfortunately the notes from which I draw my material were taken for quite another purpose, and contain no extracts from Cartier, and no copy of his works is at present accessible; but as every good library should contain at least the Tross reprints of the 'Bref Recit et Succinte Narration,' the 'Discours du Voyage fait (en 1534)' and the 'Relation Originale,' his exact words can be very easily determined. A few of the very best libraries in the country may possibly contain the following as well: 'A short and || brief narration of the two || Navigations and Discoueries || to the Northwest partes called || Newe France: || First translated out of French into Italian by that famous || learned man Gio: Bapt: Ramutius, and now turned || into English by John Florio: worthy the rearing of all Venturers, Trauelers || and Discouerers' || etc. This book, published in 1580, is an English translation of Cartier's work, and is in all probability the one quoted by Hakluyt.

While these four books would decide the question of *grande* and *grasse*, far more valuable as evidence is a quotation from one of them made by Marc Lescarbot in 1609. This I have not compared with Cartier, but probably, like most of the quotations of that time, it is a paraphrase rather than a verbal reproduction. Certainly it is much modernized in spelling. Yet that it is strikingly accurate anyone may see by comparing the French as here given with the English translation from Hakluyt, quoted in 'The Auk' for April, p. 129. The great value of this extract as evi-

dence, lies in the fact that Lescarbot had travelled extensively in this country, being as he said himself "temoin oculaire d'une partie des choses ici recitées"; and so able from his own experience to correct any misprint in Cartier's work; and moreover would not have hesitated to do this, as anyone who is acquainted with the calm way in which these early travellers appropriated each other's observations will admit. The extract is as follows:

"...et approchames de trois iles, desquelles y en avoit deux petites droites comme un mur, en sorte qu'il estoit impossible d'y monter dessus, et entre icelles y a un petit escueil. Ces iles estoient plus remplies d'oiseaux que ne seroit un pré d'herbes, lesquels faisoient là leur nids, et en la plus grande de ces iles y en avoit un monde de ceux que nous appellions Margaux, qui sont blancs et plus grands qu'Oysons, et estoient separez en un canton, et en l'autre part y avoit des Godets; mais sur le rivage y avoit de ces Godets et *grands Apponaths* semblables à ceux de cette ile dont nous avons fait mention [probably his Ile des Oyseaux, No. 3 of his chart; this Ile des Margaux is No. 46]. Nous descendimes au plus bas de la plus petite, et tuames plus de mille Godets et Apponaths et en mimes tant que souloumes en noz barques, et en eussions plus en moins d'une heure remplir trente semblables barques. Ces iles furent appellées du nom de Margaux." (Lescarbot, Histoire de la Nouvelle France, Vol. I, p. 231 et seq., ed. 1609; p. 233 et seq., Tross edition.)

It is extremely improbable that the same verbal error should find its way into the three different versions of Cartier and also into the four editions of Lescarbot published during the latter's lifetime. Hence if Hakluyt, quoting a translation, said "great Apponatz," and Lescarbot, quoting Cartier either directly or indirectly, said "grands Apponaths," the chance that Cartier ever said or meant to say "grasse" is exceedingly small. Whatever the bird was, we must admit that it impressed the French as being large; and we must remember that this is an absolute, not a relative term.

In one or two places Mr. Lucas writes "Great Apponatz," beginning the adjective with a capital, as if there might be a 'Lesser Apponatz,' in comparison with which this was large. That this could not have been the case, may be seen from the fact that Apponatz, or Apponath, was an Indian name, not yet naturalized, so that any adjective attached must have been purely descriptive, never distinctive in its use. For any other bird some-

## THE NATURALIST.

### SALE OF EGGS OF THE GREAT AUK.

THE SALE of four empty eggs-shells for the sum of one hundred and twenty-two pounds ten shillings sterling, is an occurrence of sufficient rarity to merit a notice in the columns of *THE FIELD*. I therefore desire to place on record that on July the 11th, Mr. Stevens, the natural history auctioneer, disposed of four eggs of the great auk, in four separate lots for the sums of £29, £33, £31. 10s., and £29, respectively. Such of the readers of this account as are not professed naturalists may perhaps enquire what were the peculiar circumstances that could give to these egg-shells such an enormous value. I may therefore, perhaps, be excused if I claim space to say a few words respecting the great auk and its eggs.

The *Alca impennis* of Linnæus and all subsequent naturalists, the great auk of the books of our boyhood, is a species that no longer exists. Even as late as thirty years since, ornithologists delighted to describe the habits of this wonderful diver, whose speed when in the water was so great that the celebrated naturalist Bullock chased the specimen now set up in the British Museum, for many hours in a six-oared boat, without ever coming sufficiently near to it to gain even the chance of a shot.

Several other specimens were also known in the Orkneys during the present century. Mr Fleming possessed one captured at St. Kilda in 1822; this subsequently escaped, as did another taken in 1829 and intended for the Edinburgh Museum. The last specimen known, was that secured in 1834, for Dr Barckett's collection. This was captured off the coast of Waterford. Ten specimens, altogether, are known as British. Recently the remains of a specimen, containing an almost perfect skeleton, were brought to England from North America. The bones have been carefully macerated and prepared, and the skeleton has been set up, so that the structure of this extinct bird is now very well known.

The great auk, which was also termed the gare fowl, was a diving bird, closely related to the razor-bills and guillemots, although in size it considerably surpassed these species, its length being upwards of two feet. Like all divers, its feet were placed very far back, so that the body was nearly erect when the animal was on land. The tarsus or scale-covered part of the hind limb was very short; the hind toe absent. The plumage was dense, to resist the entrance of the water, and very short, the tail being only three inches in length. The wings were small, and used as fins when the bird was diving. In colour, the head, neck, throat, and upper parts generally, were black; the wings greyish-brown, the under parts white. A somewhat similar arrangement of colour may be noticed in the penguin and many other fish-feeding diving-birds. It appears not improbable that it may have direct reference to their mode of life, as they would be less visible to their destined prey than if the position of the colours was reversed, the dark colour of the back being less conspicuous from above, and the white from below.

It is probable that the plumage in the winter, and perhaps in the young, might have undergone a modification, as Dr. Fleming's specimen had the throat and neck white.

There seems but little doubt of the entire extinction of the great auk. It certainly no longer exists in the Orkneys, nor is it found in the small islands near Newfoundland, which were the last known breeding places of the birds. Consequently, specimens both of the skins and eggs are much valued. Not long since I heard of one egg which was purchased by a celebrated ornithologist for £15, and which was said to have been shortly resold for £50. The sudden influx of as great a number as four upon the market at once necessarily depreciated somewhat the price.

There was no doubt of the genuineness of the specimens recently sold. They were discovered with some others in one of the museums in London, when it was decided that the supernumerary ones should be parted with. I may state that £100 was offered, and refused, for the four before the sale, and that they were all purchased by different individuals.

The eggs are fully five inches in length, by three in breadth, and of that peculiar pyriform or tapering shape characteristic of the eggs of so many sea-fowl. In colour they are very pale yellowish-white, blotched with irregular patches of dark and light brown.

In conclusion, I may state that those who desire to become further acquainted with the structure of this singular diver will find an elaborate description of its anatomy, illustrated with admirable plates, in a recent number of the *Transactions of the Zoological Society*. And while I am writing of diving birds, I would mention that those who may be desirous of possessing an admirably coloured life-like drawing of the King Penguin, lately deceased, should obtain the last number of the *Intellectual Observer*. Of the merits of the accompanying description I cannot offer an opinion, as the signature to the article is that of

W. B. TEGETMEYER.

alle  
alle

Alle alle

1892. Mass.

Nov.

A heavy N.E. storm in November drove at least a few little Auks inland. Prosser had one which was shot on Mystic Pond, Nov. 3, and Mr. James T. Clark received another alive which was caught or rather picked up in an empty freight car that was standing with open door on a siding at Norwood (W. Dedham) Mass., on or about the same date.

1893. Rhode Island

Dec.

Providence) "The Dovekie has appeared here within the past two weeks. Known of by or eight. It is many years since we had mention of them in R. I." (J. M. Southwick letter Dec. 19, 1893) At the Natural Club meeting on Dec. 18 a specimen taken in either R. I. or Conn. was reported. I have heard of none in Mass. N.S.

"The Dovekies were all taken in the Bay from six to twenty miles down and another has come to light from Pt. Judith with a report of one at New Bedford, Conn. all about the same date Nov. 29 to Dec. 2. Now reported inland" (J. M. Southwick letter Dec. 28 93)

1895

Dec.

Newport. A specimen received by Southwick & Aitchley than last week in December. (J. M. Southwick letter Feb. 13, 1896)

Birds within Ten Miles of Point  
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam.

144. *Alle nigricans*. DOVEKIE. — Very abundant in flocks during some winters, arriving early in December and remaining till some time in February. During other winters it is rare or does not occur at all.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct, 1882, p. 24.

Strait of N.E. coast of Labrador  
by Henry B. Bigelow.

8. *Alle alle*. DOVEKIE; BULL BIRD. — Reported as very common in winter. I observed only one, off Cape Harrison, on September 18.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 26.

Ontario Bird Notes. — A Dovekie (*Alle alle*) was shot Nov. 18, 1901, by H. Macdonald, a fisherman, two miles out in the lake from Toronto, Ontario. Mr. John Maughn, a taxidermist, now has it in his possession. I was present when he opened the stomach, which was empty except for a few small fish bones. It was a female and evidently a young bird, as there was no white on the secondaries and the back was slaty instead of a black.

J. N. Ames, Toronto, Ontario.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 94.

Birds of Toronto, Ontario.

By James H. Fleming.

Pt. I, Water Birds.

Auk, XXIII, Oct., 1906, p. 441.

9. *Alle alle*. DOVEKIE. — One record, a female taken November 18, 1901,<sup>3</sup> in collection of Mr. John Maughan, Jr.

<sup>3</sup> Auk, XIX 1902, 94.

Seal Island and Cross Island,  
Maine.

**The Dovekie in Maine in Summer.** — On July 15, 1911, while Mr. G. Gilbert Pearson and the writer were taking passage, with a local fisherman, from Machias Seal Island, which is about twelve miles south from Cutler, Maine, when about half way between the Seal Island and Cross Island, Me., or about six miles from either point, we came upon a pair of Dovekies (*Alle alle*) swimming in close company. We found them in one of the eddies of the numerous tide rips, caused by the tidal currents of the Bay of Fundy.

They proved to be a male and female in an interesting stage of plumage. The head, neck, underparts, interseapular region, and tertials of the male were of the nuptial plumage, the neck entirely around being uniformly velvety, sooty brown. The rump and tail were of the winter plumage, faded grayish, and worn. The wings were much worn, some of the primaries with bare shafts for half their length.

The female was similar, except that the winter plumage remained over the entire back behind (caudad) the scapular region; the rectrices had been renewed. The throat and sides of the neck, at the place of the winter half-collar of white, were well sprinkled with white.

Though two leading manuals make no distinction between the sexes, this last feature had the appearance of a sex character, and the female was noticeably smaller than the male.

Though the birds were in fair bodily condition and had not been crippled they showed no indication of breeding, and it is doubtful if they could have flown.

I am told by Capt. Merton Tolman, until recently keeper of Matineus Rock light station, a man whose word in such a matter is not to be doubted, that during the summer of 1910, one of these birds was frequently seen near Matineus Rock.

So far as known to me, these are the only instances recorded, of the verified occurrence of the bird in summer south of Newfoundland. (Cf. Townsend and Allen, Proc. Boston Soc. N. H., XXXIII, p. 309.) — ARTHUR H. NORTON, Portland, Me.

1895

*Ulla nigripennis*

June 7 Examined a specimen  
in full adult plumage with  
wholly black head & neck  
in the collection of a  
local taxidermist in  
Kennebec village by whom the  
bird was procured. It  
was shot in Spring about  
four years ago in a wood  
with pine in the south  
of the village.

Birds of Vermont  
by Mr. & Mrs. Loomis

**Alle alle.** DOVEKIE.— 1910, May 31, one taken alive but died the next day. It was mounted and is now in the State Museum at Montpelier. It was in summer plumage.

**Ann** O. July, 1911 p. 436

Mergulus nigricans.

Driven inland.

Cambridge, Mass.

November 22, 1898

A walk of dirty, lowering westerly weather culminated to-day in a storm of considerable energy. The east wind blew in fierce gusts driving the slaty rain nearly horizontally and dashing it spitefully against the window panes. The tide ran very high flooding the Brighton marshes and flooding many of the yards along the river front. In short the storm, tho' less violent, resembled that of Nov. 1871.

As on that occasion there has been an invasion of Little Auks but it has been less marked only

Mergulus alle

Habits in winter

Swampscott, Mass.

December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1882

During a day's shooting along and off the Swampscott shore Mr. W. A. Jeffries saw at least a hundred Little Auks. Some of them were on a winter fishing ground about ten miles off shore, others within half a mile of land. They were very tame but hard to see when the water was at all rough. He found them singly or in twos and threes. They often dove and sometimes flew to escape the vessel.

In a conversation with Mr. Jeffries' Skipper, an intelligent and trustworthy fisherman, I

a small number having been reported.

Waymond has three which were taken on Charles River above Waltham, two being shot, the third knuckled on the head with an axe. Mr. Bangs' shot, one said to have caught a fourth.

Gradate had been in cell, west of them from Waltham. I bought a single bird in the market on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The only one named there. Still another specimen was taken at Fenwick & Eli's coal-yard on Washington St. It differed with the yard with the high legs and was skin when found though pale & exhausted.

1/24, 1879

*Mergulus nigricans*

In Boston Harbor -

Boston, Mass

January 24, 1879

I saw a pair of Dovekies to-day nearly opposite Boston Light. They ran in shore and flew out to sea. Mr Andrew Ward who shoots a good deal in the Harbor tells me that they are often found in considerable numbers there after an easterly storm.

In N. S. Coll. Bos. Dec. 11. 77.

* 9222	Dovekie ♂	Boston Mass
	(In N. S. Coll. Bos. Dec. 11. 77.)	
* 9223	" ♀	" "

THE OCCURRENCE OF THE SEA DOVE AT REHOBOTH, MASS.—A specimen of the Sea Dove, (*Alle nigricans*) was shot in a small fresh water pond about a quarter of a mile from my house, on November 25, 1885. Probably the storm of the previous days had blown the little fellow inland from his usual habitat. This is the first occurrence I have noted of this species at this place, but several hunters assert that during a severe winter several years ago the "Little Auks were quite frequently shot." They were, I presume, this species, as it is not very uncommon for them to occur inland during boisterous weather.—F. H. C.

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886. p. 16.

ANOTHER OCCURRENCE OF THE DOVEKIE INLAND.—Mr. E. A. Capen, of Canton, Mass., writes that he captured alive a fine specimen of the Dovekie at the above locality on November 26, 1885. The close proximity of the two dates of capture would more strongly indicate the reason of their occurring inland being due to the violent storm on the coast just previous to the above dates.

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886. p. 16.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.  
F. W. Andros.

*Alle alle* (Linn.), Dovekie. Winter visitant, occasionally seen off the coast. One occurrence inland noted at Rehoboth, November 25th, 1885 (O. AND O. Vol. xi. No. 1).

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 137

Mass (Wareham)

*Mergulus alle*

1885

Nov. 26

Mr. Vetrain Bangs tells me that 'Burdocks Bay was alive with Little Auks on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and that on the latter day he pulled up ~~one~~ dead one in the woods at some distance from the shore. During these days a violent easterly storm prevailed accompanied by very high tides. The waves along the coast are said to have been higher than at any time since the famous storm of 1851.

I cannot find that Little Auks were driven inland elsewhere and some appeared in our markets.

Mass (near Boston)

*Alle nigricans*

1888

Driven inland by storm

Nov. 25-30

On Nov. 25 a furious N. E. storm swept the entire coast of N. E. The wind blew at the rate of 80 miles an hour and about 6 inches of snow fell. It was a real "Little Auk storm" but I can learn of only two of these birds being taken. One was sold in the market the other brought in alive to Maxwell's shop on Kingston St. Both were probably taken near Boston.

Parke, Baird tells me that Webster (taxidermist) had a number of Bittern bills sent in shortly after the great storm of Nov. 25-26. Baird tells me that they were also seen in some of the ponds (fresh) on Cape Cod. They were seen on very numerous occasions, usually only one or two being seen in each pond.

Mass (near Boston)

Alle vi

1888

Driven inland by

Nov. 25-30

On Nov. 25 a furious N. E. storm swept the entire coast of N. E. The wind was at the rate of 80 miles an hour and about 6 inches of snow fell. A real "Bittern storm" occurred. I have heard of only two of them taken. One was sold in the shop on Kingston St. Both probably taken near Boston.

1467. [*Sea Doves near Warwick, R. I.*] [By J. M. Southwick.] *Ibid.*,  
No. 3, March, 1886, p. 23. **Band Notes Net. His, III**

Connecticut, June, 1893.

*Alle nigricans*

The Hawk of Montauk has  
a somewhat better one in  
its breeding plumage with  
perfectly black head & neck  
of which I saw one at Montauk  
Point in July a few years  
ago by a specimen of the  
kind as it was the head  
with an eye Mr. Stone  
thinks it had been mounted  
in 1850

I have also a Dovekie, (*Alle ni-  
gricans*.) that was taken about six miles  
from here in the town of Pomfret, Nov.  
23, 1878. It was just after a heavy north-  
east gale, and the bird had evidently been  
blown inland from Mass. Bay, although  
the distance must be more than fifty miles.  
It was caught alive in a field.—*C. M.  
Jones, Eastford, Conn.*

O. & O. VIII. Apr. 1883. p. 81

CAPTURE OF THE SEA DOVE 150 MILES FROM THE SEA:—On November 8th, 1881, a Sea Dove (*Alle nigricans*), was shot in the Hudson River, at Lansingburg, by Alfred Benjamin of that village. The bird was mounted by William Gibson of the same place, and is in his collection. —AUSTIN F. PARK, *Troy, N. Y.* *Bull. N. O. C.*, 7, Jan., 1882, p. 61

Bird Notes from Long Id. Wm. Dutcher

14. *Alle nigricans* Link. SEA DOVE; DOVEKIE.—December 7, 1882. Mr. C. A. Blydenburgh, first assistant keeper of Fire Island Light, sent me a female of this species, which he found dead on the beach. Ten days later he sent me another, and wrote as follows: "I found one Sea Dove which I will send you with this. The men at the Life Saving Station had three Sea Doves before I got one. One of the men from the next station east told me they found one this winter. That makes six picked up along here." In answer to an inquiry, Mr. L. S. Foster, of New York City, wrote me as follows: "My Long Island information concerning 752, *Alle nigricans*, is as follows: The specimen in my cabinet 'was caught on my patrol, in my midnight watch, the night of the 23d of December, 1881. June Bishop, Life Saving Station, off Centre Moriches. L. I.' One was found dead in the meshes of a net near the same locality, November, 1882. One was brought on the cars of the Long Island railroad at Bayport by a gunner, November, 1882, 'having been shot in a pool.'"

*Auk*, I, Jan., 1884, p. 33.

Notes concerning certain birds of  
Long Island, N. Y.  
by William C. Braislin, M. D.

*Alle alle*. Two little Auks were found by the same member of the Amagansett Life-saving crew referred to above, while patrolling the beach on the evening of December 14, 1901. He wrote me that he had so obtained them and added: "The sea was running very high and I suppose that they were washed in on the beach."

*Auk*, XX, Jan., 1903, p. 57.

The Dovekie (*Alle alle*) on Long Island, N. Y.—January 15, 1903, Mr. George W. Mott of Westminster Kennel Club brought in a Dovekie to be mounted. I inquired where he procured it, and he informed me that it had been given him by a boy who found it the morning previous, lying in the road midway between the steamboat dock and Babylon Village. It evidently had struck either the electric light or telephone wires, as the neck and breast were much bruised. The bird was found in a road crossing meadows near Great South Bay, and at least three and one half miles from the ocean. Both plumage and body were in good condition.—HENRY MOTT BURTIS, *Babylon, L. I.*

*Auk*, XX, Apr., 1903, p. 209.

NOTES CONCERNING CERTAIN BIRDS OF LONG  
ISLAND, NEW YORK.

BY WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D.

THE species here referred to have recently been met with as birds of Long Island. Most are recorded because of their rarity. One, the Hermit Thrush, is herewith for the first time definitely announced as a breeding species on Long Island. The evidence is based on the capture of a single specimen of an immature bird just out of the nest, with but little power of flight, at Lake Ronkonkoma. Lake Ronkonkoma lies nearly at the geographical center of Long Island, several miles from the sea. The temperature there is, however, tempered by its influence, both in summer and winter, as the thermometer records, carefully made for a series of years by a medical friend who lives near there, show. The Hermit Thrush is said to breed regularly on Cape Cod. The present record brings its coastal nesting range somewhat further south. Further investigation will probably show that the Hermit Thrush is, though rare, a regular summer resident on Long Island.

**Alle alle.** LITTLE AUK OR DOVEKIE.—Another specimen (several have been previously recorded by me in 'The Auk') was recently sent from Montauk by Mr. Baker. It was secured on

Hither Plain Dec. 31, 1906. It was driven on the beach and there found by the patrolmen of the Life-saving Service. Mr. Baker wrote me that it came ashore during an unusually heavy southerly storm. It bore marks of having received serious injury in the surf. There were areas of extravasated blood beneath the skin of both the body and the head. Its stomach contained no food.

**Auk, 24, Apr., 1907, p. 186-187.**

130. *Some Noteworthy Birds.* By Samuel Lockwood. *Ibid.*, XIV, pp. <sup>New Jersey</sup>  
715-719. Oct. 1880.—Chiefly in reference to a captive *Mergulus alle.* Amer. Naturalist

380. *Sea Dove (Alle nigricans).* By W. H. Collins. *Ibid.*, p. 111.—  
Killed in Detroit River, Mich., Nov. 30, 1881. Q. & O. Vol. VII

Albinism and Melanism in North  
American Birds. Ruthven D. ane.

M. alle has been recorded in albino state.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 23

NOTE ON ALLE NIGRICANS, LINK. — In looking over Link's Description of the Museum of the Rostock University,\* — a book so rare that only four copies are known to be extant, — I find, on p. 17 of Abth. I, the above name, which requires attention. It is, in fact, a new genus and species, based on *Alca alle*, Linn., and set forth in due form. Now *Mergulus*, the current name of the genus, is a very old word, having come down to us from the pre-Linnæan fathers; but one which was never used in the sense of a modern genus by a binomenclator until so employed by Vicillot in 1816. Consequently *Alle*, Link, 1806, antedates *Mergulus*, and must be employed for the genus, unless we are to accept *Arctica* of Mochring, 1752, which few of us seem disposed to follow Gray in doing. As to the specific name, there are three to choose from. We may say *Alle candida* after Brännich, 1764, but this name is scarcely applicable, as it was based upon an entirely white specimen, probably an albino, and misleads as to the character of the bird; moreover, it conflicts with a Linnæan name, and would therefore be thrown out by most systematists. We may say *Alle alle*, after Linnæus, but this duplication of generic and specific terms is objectionable, and now rarely practised. The alternative is *Alle nigricans*, Link; and this would appear to be the tenable name of the bird in question, according to recognized rules of nomenclature. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

\* Beschreibung der Naturalien-Sammlung der Universität zu Rostock. Erste [sechste] Abtheilung. Von D. H. F. Link. Rostock, Adlers Erben, 1806-1808. 1 vol., sm. 8vo. (Vögel, pp. 17-50 of Abtheilung I, 1806.)

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Oct., 1879, p. 244.