

Thick-billed Murre  
Jan 1897  
Johnson Co., IA  
George C. Hoover  
Anderson 1907

Record Number: 81-MU  
Classification: A-D

REFERENCES

Hoover, G.C. 1897. Notes and news. Iowa Ornithologist 3:24.  
Anderson 1907  
DuMont 1933

VOTE (1981): 1-I, 1-II, 4-III, 1-IV

III, highly likely based on distinctive features and other records that yr.

IV, few details.

III, spec. not pres.

III, Although no description exists and nor does the specimen, it is very likely that this bird was also a C. Murre for the reasons given by Anderson (large flight 1896-7). (Ignor Bent -- apparently misplaced data).

Mr. GEORGE C. HOOVER, of West Branch, Iowa, writes that he has in his collection a specimen of Murre (*Uria troile*) taken in Johnson county, in January of this year.

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Anderson 1907  
p 153

9. (31). *Uria lomvia* (Linn.). Brünnich Murre.

Dr. Elliott Coues (Key to North American Birds, 5th Ed., Vol. II, p. 1084) says: "Individuals of any species are liable to be blown inland or otherwise beyond their range. Thus, a storm of Dec. 16, 1896, scattered a flight of Brünnich's Murres over the U. S. from Michigan and Indiana to South Carolina; a few of these were captured and recorded (Auk, Apr., 1897, pp. 197-199, 202, 203, 226, 228)." Frank C. Pellett reports "a lost specimen, caught alive in December" (Cass). J. H. Brown ("An Accidental Visitor," Iowa Orn., iii, 1, 1897, 11) says: "Mr. Frank Pellett of Atlantic sends me a description of what will prove to be one of the Murres, probably the Atlantic form, *Uria troile* Linn. It was captured alive, but thoroughly exhausted, Dec. 20th, near Atlantic, and died some time after. It has been mounted and is now in Mr. Pellett's collection." Mr. George C. Hoover of West Branch wrote to me under date of April 4, 1897: "I had given to me perhaps one of the most rare and strange birds ever found in the state. It was a specimen of the Auk family known as the Murre (*Uria troile*). It was found in Johnson county in January of this year. I mounted it and now have it in my collection."

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Both of these specimens were undoubtedly stragglers from the great flight of Brünnich Murres recorded above.

Bent, A. C.: Life Histories of North American Diving Birds.  
Bull 107 US Nat Museum, Washington, 1919.

*Fall migration.*—Southward by same routes. Dates of arrival: Maine, Portland, September 22; Massachusetts, August 21 to September 27; New York, Long Island, October 7; Iowa, Burlington, October 12 to 15; Nebraska, September 2 to 30; Washington, Shoalwater Bay, September 24; California, Monterey, July 22. Dates of departure: Melville Peninsula, Igloolik, August 13; Greenland, Kikkerton Island, October 6; Alaska, Point Barrow, September 17 to October 22; California, Monterey, October 28.

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DuMont 1934  
pp 78-79

*Uria lomvia lomvia* (Linnaeus). Brünnich's Murre  
Accidental. Anderson (1907) listed two specimens which were found following the storm of December 16, 1896, which resulted in a number of interior records of this bird. One was caught alive at Atlantic, Cass County, December 20, 1896, by Frank Pellett. This mounted specimen, which is now in the possession of T. C. Stephens, Sioux City, was recently examined by Ludlow Griscom of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge. It was stated to be a young Brünnich's Murre of the year (Wilson Bull., XLIV, p. 239). The second specimen was found in Johnson County during January, 1897. It was given to George C. Hoover of West Branch who mounted it. The present whereabouts of this bird is not known.

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