

Thick-billed Murre
16 Dec 1896
Atlantic, Cass Co., IA
Frank C. Pellett
Brown 1897, Stephens 1932

Record Number: 81-MT
Classification: A-D

REFERENCES

Brown, J.H. 1897. An accidental visitor. Iowa Ornithologist
3:11.

Stephens, T.C. 1932. Brunnich's Murre in Iowa. Wilson Bull.
44:239.

Anderson 1907

DuMont 1933

VOTE (1981): 5-I, 2-III, 1-IV

III, examined by DuMont.

I, even though specimen not extant. Examined by a very
competent obs, and associated with a widespread invasion.

I, ex. by Griscom.

I, specimen extant?

III, I-S if specimen exists. Identification by Griscom should
be a clincher.

Brown, J. H. 1897. An accidental visitor. *Iowa Ornithologist* 3:11

An Accidental Visitor.

Mr. Franck C. Pellet of Atlantic sends me a discription of what will prove to be one of the murre, probably the Atlantic form, *Uria troile* Linn. It was captured alive, but thoroughly exhausted, Dec. 20th near Atlantic and died soon after. It has been mounted and is now in Mr. Pellett's collection. A strange visitor for our state, surely.

J. H. BROWN, Davenport, Ia.

Thick-billed Murre

Stephens, T. C. 1932. Brunnich's Murre in Iowa. *Wilson Bull* 44:239.

Brunnich's Murre in Iowa.—Mr. Frank C. Pellett has recently placed in the hands of the writer a specimen of Brunnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia lomvia*), which he secured at Atlantic, Cass County, Iowa, on December 16, 1896, this being the date given on the original label attached to the specimen. A note referring to this specimen was published by J. H. Brown in the *Iowa Ornithologist* (III, No. 1, p. 11, January, 1897); but it was here reported as "probably the Atlantic form, *Uria troile*, Linn.", and as "captured alive, but thoroughly exhausted, Dec. 20th near Atlantic and died soon after". Dr. R. M. Anderson, in "The Birds of Iowa" (1907), includes this specimen in his account of *Uria lomvia*, though probably by inference rather than examination, since Mr. Pellett has no knowledge that it was examined at this time. The *Auk* for 1897 contains numerous records of this species for the interior of the continent. It is evident that a flock of considerable size must have been blown inland to lose their bearings. A comparison of these dates indicates that December 16 must have been rather early for a point so far inland as Iowa, while December 20 would be quite comparable; however, the difference is slight. To make quite certain of the identification we recently sent the specimen to Mr. Ludlow Griscom, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge; and we are indebted to Mr. Griscom for verifying our belief that the specimen is *lomvia*—"a young Brunnich's Murre of the year", as he states.—T. C. STEPHENS, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

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."

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.

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.