

THICK-BILLED MURRE

By Frederick S. Schaeffer

On 5 February, 1966, I banded a Thick Billed Murre, *Uria lomvia lomvia*, A.O.U. #031 with band number 536-98128. Age-U; Sex-U.

The bird was found by John Stoneck of 37 Neutral Ave., New Dorp Beach, Staten Island, N. Y., on 4 February, 1966, in the afternoon. The bird was found on the beach and was lightly oiled. On 5 Feb., it was released at New Dorp Beach, after having been banded, and photographed (picture not yet available at this time) at approx. 11 a.m. It swam out 100 yards and disappeared. Up to the time of release the bird had eaten some smelts, had a movement, and was quite active and alert in the patio where it had been kept. It uttered calls to the effect of 'Errrrrrr, Hrrrrrrr' a sort of purring sound.

I measured the bird. The wing length was 197 mm and the length of the exposed culmen, only 022 mm (see diagram). The head was slate or dark slate gray rather than black, the body very dark brown. The feet black. Eyes dark brown, dark above and white below, with the gape mark on the upper mandible, one if its field marks. With wings folded, each wing appeared to have a horizontal single thin wing bar.

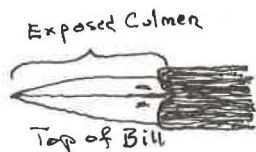


Diagram of bill - Thick-billed Murre

This was the first bird I banded in 1966 - a good omen indeed!

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