

could be located, but they could easily have been hidden in the dense vegetation somewhere on the island, as the adults were calling excitedly overhead. No further sign of the young was seen on subsequent visits to the area.

This is apparently the first breeding record of Laughing Gulls in northeastern Florida. The species does not breed in Georgia (Denton and Hopkins 1969, Burleigh 1958). According to Sprunt and Chamberlain (1970), the species is "an abundant breeding bird along the South Carolina coast." The southernmost nesting they mention is St. Helena Sound, Beaufort County, which is roughly 150 miles north of our record at Bird Island.

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A Razorbill at St. George Island, Florida. — On 11 April 1976, on the north side of St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida, we discovered an alcid swimming with several Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) and a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) near old dock pilings. The alcid, about half the size of the loon, was observed carefully for about 15 minutes as it dove infrequently and then swam out into the sound and eventually out of binocular range.

Later we compared sketches of the alcid with several field guides and identified the bird as an immature Razorbill (*Alca torda*), based on size, and particularly, the irregularly shaped stubby bill. We did not see the bird on a return visit later that day.

The only previous Florida Razorbill, also an immature, was captured 18 / Florida Field Naturalist / Vol. 5, No. 1 / Spring 1977

ured along South Melbourne Beach, Brevard County, on 1 January 1967 (Cruikshank 1967, Fla. Nat. 40: 48-49). Between that date and 1976 the southernmost Atlantic Coast record was 19 December 1967 when twelve were reported 7 miles off Tybee Island, Chatham County, Georgia (Cooldige 1967, Oriole 33: 1).

The only other alcid records for Florida are a Common Murre (*Uria aalge*) found dead near Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, on 28 December 1971 (Stevenson 1972, Amer. Birds 26: 592-596) and numerous Dovekie (*Alle alle*) records.

Our Razorbill record is the only one for the Gulf of Mexico and is also the first spring record of any alcid for Florida. — John R. Patterson, 408 Sable Court, Tallahassee, Florida 32304 and Gail E. Menk, 1128 Ocala Road, Apt. G-5, Tallahassee, Florida 32304.

First sighting of a Thick-billed Murre for Florida. — Shortly before sundown on 20 November 1976 at the Lake Worth Fishing Pier in Palm Beach County, Florida, Billy Matthews, a thirteen-year old, observed and alerted local birders to a “murrelet” swimming in the Atlantic Ocean near shore. Rushing to the pier, Billy’s father, William Matthews, Gloria Hunter, and the author saw a large alcid. Moving to within 6 m at times and using binoculars, telescope, and a field guide (Robbins *et al.* 1966, Birds of North America, New York, Golden Press, pp 148-9), we carefully identified the bird as a Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*).

The optimum combination of smooth water, close approach and leisurely study (20-30 min.) enabled the observers to be confident of their identification based on the following field marks: size (smaller than a loon), jet black upperparts and very white underparts, a distinct white line running across the black folded wing, and the sharp murre bill with a white line on the lower mandible. The author is familiar with the Razorbill (*Alca torda*) and Common Murre (*Uria aalge*) in Canada.

The southernmost record of the Thick-billed Murre on the Atlantic coast is from South Carolina (A.O.U. 1957, Check-list of North American birds, 5th ed.).—Howard P. Langridge, 1421 W. Ocean Ave., Lantana, Florida 33462.