

Documentation
First State Photographic Record
Common Puffin
(*Fratercula artica artica*)

Louis W. Campbell

On November 17, 1980, Henry Kohler, 245 Enos Drive, Oregon, Ohio, found a strange bird in his driveway about two miles from Maumee Bay. It was alive but obviously unwell and unable to fly. Having hunted ducks for many decades, Henry has a knowledge of waterbirds superior to most bird watchers and he knew immediately that this one was unusual for the Toledo area. He telephoned me and I went over the following day to photograph it. It was identical in appearance with the Pacific coast Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*) shown on page 151 of Birds of North America. But it developed later that this was not the correct identification.

I immediately phoned Gil Palmer, Supervisor of Ohio Wildlife District No. 2, stationed in Findlay, Ohio. He instructed Lucas County Game Protector Gary Stephens to place the puffin in the Toledo Zoo so that every effort could be made to save its life. It died November 22nd and was turned over to Dr. Milton B. Trautman at Ohio State University.

Wing measurements of the bird proved that it was the Common Puffin (*Fratercula artica artica*) from the Atlantic coast. Dr. Trautman points out that juveniles of the Common and Horned Puffins are virtually identical except that the former is slightly smaller. In other words, individuals could not be distinguished except by measurement.

This is the first occurrence of the Common Puffin in Ohio and the interior states. The only recorded appearance was at the Ottawa River in Ontario.

This is not the first rare bird reported by Kohler. Several years ago he shot a female Harlequin Duck which he turned over to the Ohio State Museum.

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Editor's Apology

We apologize for the delay in this issue. We wanted it in the mail in early January but held it up to include the Ohio Christmas counts. Unfortunately, it took us until two weeks ago to get the results of at least 46 of the 51 counts. Then it was too late to compile the information so now we are doing what we should have in the first instance: putting the results of the counts in the winter issue which will be mailed in late April. Getting timely information to our subscribers is important to us.