

THE UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE OF BRÜNNICH'S
MURRE (*URIA LOMVIA*) FAR INLAND, WITH
NOTES ON OTHER RARE BIRDS.

BY A. W. BUTLER.

THE following notes upon Indiana birds will doubtless be of service, not only to persons interested in the bird-life of that, but also to those who are studying especially the birds of neighboring political divisions. While one may for certain reasons confine most of his efforts to regions circumscribed by man-made boundaries birds do not obey the laws of any commonwealth, nor are they confined within any limits man may set.

A list of the birds of a locality or of any number of localities can only give the knowledge acquired up to its date. Nothing can be prophesied as to the future. A species which has regularly appeared may change this habit. A form which has not before been observed may be noted. The most unexpected may be the thing which happens. Herein I have noted for the first time five species which are additions to the fauna of Indiana. They are *Uria lomvia*, *Macrorhamphus griseus*, *Tringa canutus*, *Buteo borealis harlani*, and *Fregata aquila*.

Uria lomvia. BRÜNNICH'S MURRE.—While at Indianapolis the last week in December, 1896, Prof. W. S. Blatchley, State Geologist of Indiana, told me of a strange bird that had been taken near there. His information was it was some sort of a Guillemot. I learned it had been sent for mounting to Mr. J. E. Beasley, at Lebanon, Ind., and that the same taxidermist had received others. Upon my return home I found a letter from my friend Mr. Ruthven Deane informing me that Mr. F. M. Woodruff of the Chicago Academy of Science had received a Murre from Indiana. A few days later this information was supplemented by a letter from Mr. Woodruff informing me that the specimen was *Uria lomvia*.

In looking over my accumulated mail I found a report from Mr. A. W. Hamilton, Zanesville, Ind., of the capture of a specimen near there. Prof. E. S. Moseley wrote me of the capture of four specimens near Sandusky, O., and Mr. J. E. Beasley, in a note, said he had received four specimens. Thus the total number of records received in a few days was ten. I give herewith data concerning the specimens.

The first specimen mentioned above was brought to Mr. F. M. Noe, a dealer in natural history specimens, of Indianapolis, Dec. 17, 1896, by a

boy who told him that it had been taken alive the preceding Sunday, Dec. 13, near Schofield's old mill, on Fall Creek, about seven miles north of that city. The specimen is now in the collection in the State Geologist's office at the capitol. The specimen reported by Mr. Hamilton was taken by Mr. J. W. Roe of Zanesville, Ind., in the northern part of Wells County, Dec. 18, 1896. It was first observed slowly moving about in an open field and was shot at long range.

On Dec. 28, Mr. J. E. Beasley wrote me that he had in his possession four of these birds from four different Indiana localities. One was the specimen sent by Mr. Noe. Another was brought to him alive by Mr. David Johnson, from Hazelrigg, Boone County, Dec. 18. Mr. A. W. Beck, of Hazelrigg, informs me that it was captured alive about Dec. 15. Mr. Johnson was driving along the road near that town and saw the bird in a field near by. He caught it and kept it two or three days. It was a persistent diver when put into the water; would offer to fight when approached, and did not make much effort to get away. The third bird was sent to him by Mr. J. F. Warner of Fowler, Benton County. Mr. Warner has written me the bird was captured on the road about three miles west of Fowler by a teamster, whose name is unknown to him, about Dec. 20. He adds that he never saw but one other bird of this kind. It was caught near Reynolds, White County, Ind., by Mr. Linck, a night watchman on the Panhandle R. R., in March, 1869. He adds, "it lived three or four days and died in my possession, but was not preserved."

The fourth was received by the taxidermist, about Dec. 20, from Mr. A. C. Littleton, Pickard, Ind. It was caught alive by Mr. Abel Christy, about three fourths of a mile north of that place, Dec. 10, and was kept alive until it was sent to be mounted, but died on the road.

Prof. E. L. Moseley, Sandusky, O., informs me that the four specimens he reported were taken within 20 miles of Sandusky, Dec. 19, 1896.

A fine adult male was taken by a twelve year old boy on the Iroquois River, Iroquois Township, Newton County, Ind., one and a half miles from Foresman, near what is known as the old Indian ford, Dec. 31, 1896. It was shipped to a firm on South Water Street, Chicago, where Mr. F. M. Woodruff obtained it, and it is now in his collection. He obtained the information given above from the postmaster at Foresman, Ind., and kindly sent it to me.

The 'Bulletin' of the Michigan Ornithological Club, January, 1897, p. 10 refers to a Murre identified as *Uria troile*, which Mr. N. A. Wood informs me is shown by reëxamination to be *Uria lomvia*. The specimen is an adult male and was shot from a flock of several near Gibraltar, Mich., Dec. 26, 1896, by some duck hunters. The specimen is, I understand, in the museum of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In the same publication, on page 8, is a reference to two "Black Guillemots" taken at the St. Clair Flats near Detroit, Mich. From a letter received from Mr. W. A. Davidson, Detroit, Mich., I gather that one of the two birds noted is in the possession of Mr. C. Havens of that city. The other

belongs to a lighthouse keeper, whose name he does not know, at the St. Clair Flats. Evidently both specimens are *Uria lomvia*. It is possible a careful examination of the specimens will show that these also belong to this species.

Brünnich's Murre has, as I have been informed, been reported the present winter from other interior localities. It has I believe, however, never before been authentically reported far from the ocean. Mr. Robert Ridgway informs me that they have this winter ranged down the Atlantic coast as far as South Carolina. It would seem probable that some storm had driven them far out of their usual range. Evidently those noted herein were carried inland and dispersed about the same time, perhaps by the same storm. They were all taken within a few days. Only twenty-one days elapsed from the date when the first was obtained until the last was in the hands of a naturalist. This is its first record from Indiana, except that reported by Mr. Warner which, unfortunately, is not verified by the specimen. It will be of interest to hear of other records of the occurrence of this species inland. It will be noted that there is a specimen preserved in a public museum in Indiana and in Michigan to verify the records from those States. It is to be hoped that one of the Ohio specimens may be secured for a like purpose.

2. **Numenius longirostris.** LONG-BILLED CURLEW.—Last fall there was a specimen of this bird in the store of Mr. Fletcher M. Noe, Indianapolis, which he informed me was taken by Mr. Herman Eckert, Apr. 2, 1896, in a swamp near Jasper, Dubois County. Mr. Frank M. Woodruff, notes a specimen from Liverpool, Ind., in his collection, in 'The Auk' for April, 1896, p. 181.

3. **Macrorhamphus griseus.** DOWITCHER.—Mr. F. M. Woodruff writes me that he has a bird of this species in his collection taken at Liverpool, Ind., Sept. 9, 1892. When shot it was flying alone over the Little Calumet River. First Indiana record.

4. **Tringa canutus.** KNOT.—To Mr. F. M. Woodruff I am indebted for the first record of its occurrence in Indiana. He informs me that he found a single specimen in a flock of Sandpipers on the beach near Millers, Lake County, Indiana, Aug. 24, 1896. The specimen is "in the light grayish juvenile plumage, with scale like markings on the back of pure white."

5. **Tringa bairdii.** BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.—The first specimen of Baird's Sandpiper, so far as is known, that was taken in Indiana was obtained by Mr. W. O. Wallace at Wabash, Ind., Aug. 26, 1893. Mr. Woodruff writes me that among a flock of Sandpipers seen at Millers, Ind., Aug. 24, 1896, there were several, probably five, of these birds. From Michigan there are but two records (The Auk, April, 1896, p. 174 and July, 1896, p. 225). From Ohio there are perhaps a half dozen records (Wheaton, Birds of Ohio, 1882, p. 473-475).

6. **Ampelis garrulus.** BOHEMIAN WAXWING.—Mr. J. E. Beasley, of Lebanon, Ind., who formerly lived in Indianapolis, says about forty years

ago, one spring, he took 19 Bohemian Waxwings in one day near the latter city. They were in one flock and were flying forward and backward over White River catching insects after the manner of Flycatchers.

7. *Ionornis martinica*. PURPLE GALLINULE.—Prof. E. L. Moseley informs me of the capture, near Sandusky, O., of a Purple Gallinule April 28, 1896. Although it has several times been reported from that State, I believe this is the first time its capture in the vicinity of Lake Erie has been noted.

8. *Buteo borealis harlani*. HARLAN'S HAWK.—Mr. R. B. Williams, Lebanon, Ind., has in his possession a fine specimen of this Hawk. It was shot and its wing broken, by Mr. W. H. Moler of the same city, in Perry Township, Boone County, Indiana, in September, 1887. He brought it while it was alive to Mr. Williams, who mounted it. This is the first record of the Black Hawk from Indiana. In Illinois, Mr. C. K. Worthen shot one of a pair on the Mississippi River near Warsaw, Hancock County, in 1879. I have in my collection the skin of a specimen taken several years ago by Mr. W. S. Everhart of Toledo, Cumberland County, Ill., in that county, and by him presented to me.

9. *Fregata aquila*. MAN-O'-WAR BIRD.—I had the pleasure last fall of examining in the office of Mr. J. E. Beasley, the well known taxidermist at Lebanon, Ind., a fine specimen of a young male of this species. It was killed by Mr. W. S. Patterson, near Shelbyville, Ind., July 14, 1896, and the next day was received by Mr. Beasley. The following are the measurements taken from the mounted specimen. Length, 36 in.; wing, 24 in.; tail, 16 in.; depth of fork, 7 in.; bill, 4.25 in. This is the first record for Indiana. The only other record for the Ohio Valley is a specimen taken in Fairfield County, O., in the spring of 1880 (Davie, Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, 1889, pp. 59, 60).

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF GUILLEMOT FROM THE KURIL ISLANDS.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

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WHILE visiting some of the Middle Kuril Islands during the summer of 1896 I was much puzzled by a black-winged Guillemot, which at first I mistook for Pallas's *Cepphus carbo*, especially