

Uria lomvia in South Carolina.—My young friends Rowland and Herbert Nowell have sent me a specimen of Brünnich's Murre taken near Anderson, S. C., Dec. 19, 1896. Anderson is the seat of the county of the same name, in the extreme northwestern portion of the State, lat. about $34^{\circ} 36' N.$, long. $5^{\circ} 38' W.$ from Washington, not far below the Blue Ridge, and about 196 miles from the nearest point on the sea-coast, which would be in the vicinity of Beaufort. The bird was captured about three miles southwest from the city, in an open field near a creek. It was found by a hunting dog, which pointed it and then ran up to it; the bird pecked at the dog, and also at the man who came to pick it up. It could not fly, though it showed no bruises or evidences of injury when, having been kept alive till the 23d, and fed on raw meat, it died and was skinned. The specimen is a bird of the year, identical with various others I have compared in the U. S. National Museum. Bill black, small, perfectly smooth, with a rather sharper gonydial angle than usual; eyes brown, feet light brown. Length 15.75; extent 28.75; wing 7.70; tail 2, rounded; culmen 1.20; gonys 0.63; height of bill 0.42; width 0.27; tarsus 1.30; middle toe and claw 1.96. (Fresh measurements by the Messrs. Nowell.) Plumage as usual for this age and season.

This is, I think, the first record of the species for South Carolina. The individual is one of what must have been a large flight of these birds about the middle of last December. 'Forest and Stream' of Feb. 6, 1897, notes one taken Dec. 17, 1896, and another Dec. 19, 1896, both at Cape Charles, Va., where also was a King Eider taken Jan. 2, 1897. I hear of a number of other cases of Brünnich's Murre beyond its ordinary range about this time; some of them will doubtless reach 'The Auk' with this one. On looking up the weather record, I find that there was an area of atmospheric depression at Charleston, S. C., at 8 A. M. of Dec. 15; it travelled rapidly northeastward on the 15th and 16th, and was severe along the coast from N. C. to Maine on the night of the 15th, on the 16th, 17th, and part of the 18th. This storm-center evidently caused the dispersion of comparatively large numbers of northern sea-birds inland, far beyond their normal flights. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

The Terns of Dyer's and the Weepeeket Islands.—On June 23, 1896, I landed on Dyer's Island in Narragansett Bay, a small island of some twenty acres in extent and covered on the lowlands with beach grass and on the uplands with blackberry (*Rubus canadensis*) and bayberry (*Myrica cerifera*).

Before landing I could see a few Terns hovering above the island; there proved to be, however, some ten pairs inhabiting it, as a number of counts made twenty birds in the air after I landed, and I believe that they do not wander far during the day.

The Terns were all Wilson's (*Sterna hirundo*), and I found but one nest on the island, which contained three eggs; it was a typical nest, — a few grasses on the sand amid the beach grass. The eggs would have hatched

in another two days. This small colony has inhabited the island for a great many years and as they are not disturbed will undoubtedly continue to do so. It is the only colony in Narragansett Bay.

On June 27, 1896, I visited the Weepectet Islands in Buzzard's Bay. There are three islands in this group—Great and the two Little Weepectets. I landed first on the most eastern of the two little ones, an island of about an acre in extent. This island has been slowly cut away by the action of the sea until now it presents a plateau-like appearance, some ten feet high, surrounded by a narrow rocky shore. Although as I approached the island at least fifty Terns arose from it, I found but three nests, all containing two eggs each; these nests were placed on the edge of the plateau and were quite well hidden among grass and poison ivy (*Rhus toxicodendron*).

The Roseate Terns (*Sterna dougalli*) were apparently the only inhabitants of this island, their long tail-feathers, bills, and harsh cries, beside the appearance of the eggs, proved their identity.

I next landed on the other Little Weepectet, an island resembling almost exactly its neighbor in size, topography, etc., and from which rose about the same number of Terns; however, there proved to be a few Wilson's in addition to the prevailing species, the Roseates, inhabiting this island, as was proved by my finding a typical set of three eggs on the beach above tide water. Three other nests were found, all Roseates (?), and containing two eggs each; one of these was on the beach and the other two along the edge of the plateau and buried among scrubby poison ivy which covered thickly and entirely the whole crest of the island. The two sets on the beach were perfectly fresh.

It was not until June 30 that I landed on Great Weepectet, the most western of the three islands and of some twelve acres in extent. Its uplands are covered with scrub sumac (*Rhus copallina*?), low barberry, blackberry, mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and beach grass (*Ammophila arundinacea*). The southeastern shore of the island is a continuous beach, while the northwestern side is a steep bank cut away by the action of the sea. The southerly and northerly ends of the uplands are composed entirely of sand and covered with a sparse growth of beach grass. These sandy points, and in fact almost all the upland, are inhabited by a great many mice and their runways are to be seen in every direction. I was unable to get any specimens for identification. Beside a few Song Sparrows (*Melospiza fasciata*), Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*), a nest of which contained four hard set eggs, and a pair of Kingfishers (*Ceryle alcyon*), whose nest my companion dug out and found to contain eight pin-feather covered young, the Terns were the sole inhabitants of the island.

I checked off the eggs on the uplands and found, two nests containing no eggs; three nests containing one egg each; seven nests containing two eggs each; twelve nests containing three eggs each; one nest containing four eggs, and one dropped egg, and one Wilson's chick (?) in down.

On the beach I found three nests containing one egg each; two nests containing two eggs each; three nests containing three eggs each; total thirty-five nests, two empty, one containing a chick, six containing one egg each, nine containing two eggs each, fifteen containing three eggs each, and one containing four eggs, and one dropped egg, — seventy-four eggs all told.

The nests on the uplands were in almost every case placed near or at the base of the scattered boulders, and on the beach on the sea weed. The colony consisted of perhaps two hundred Terns, the majority Roseates; but as the Terns on the three islands all gathered over one when walking about the island, and others are off fishing, a correct estimate is impossible. As far as I could ascertain there were no Arctic (*Sterna paradisæa*) breeding on the islands.

The whole Weepecket colony, including the three islands, had therefore forty-two nests and eighty-nine eggs on them.

In 'The Auk,' Vol. IX, 1892, page 226, in an article entitled 'Habits of the American Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) in New England,' by Mr. George H. Mackay, there is an account of a nest of the Herring Gull having been found on the middle Weepecket Island, though I believe this record may be questioned.

Through the kindness of Mr. Edward Sturtevant I was enabled to land on these islands. — REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

The Nostrils of Young Cormorants.— Acting upon a suggestion recently made by Mr. Frederic A. Lucas (*Auk*, XIII, p. 172), I examined on July 16 a very large colony of Farallone Cormorants nesting on San Martin Island, Lower California, to ascertain, if possible, at what age the nostril becomes closed.

This colony had been so often disturbed by the guano schooners that even at this late date many nests contained fresh eggs; while young birds, ranging from those but just hatched to nearly full grown, were found by thousands.

In the newly hatched young, which were blind, the nostril was a mere slit, scarcely noticeable, but those a few days old showed a well developed orifice, which exhibited no sign of closing in the largest young I could find, nearly as large as their parents, but not half fledged.

As the Cormorants were driven from their nests a horde of screaming Western Gulls, which followed us all about the island, swooped down upon the nests carrying off eggs or young, as they might happen to contain. A preference was shown for squabs but a few days old, which were instantly swallowed whole.

So great was the destruction caused by our presence that I withdrew from the nesting ground sooner than I otherwise would have done.

At some distance from the Cormorant rookery I found a three-quarters grown Western Gull endeavoring to swallow a young Cormorant that had doubtless been brought by the old Gulls from some of the nests I had but just visited. — A. W. ANTHONY, *San Diego, Cal.*