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100 Years Ago in The Auk



Excerpt from "General Notes" (1890, *Auk* 7: 203-204):

"The Great Auk in the U.S. National Museum.— The Great Auk in the collection of the U.S. National Museum has recently been remounted by Mr. N. R. Wood, and is thereby greatly improved in appearance. Although the specimen is more than fifty years old, the skin proved to be in fair condition, although naturally so venerable a bird needed careful manipulation.

"Like nearly all mounted specimens of the Great Auk this was far too long, and even now that it has

been shortened between two and three inches still remains at least so much longer than in life.

"Measured along the curve the length of the stuffed specimen is a little more than twenty-nine inches from tip of beak to root of tail, while a large skeleton, similarly measured, is but a trifle more than twenty-five inches in length.

"A life-sized, colored photograph of the bird as it appeared before remounting is preserved in the collection.—F. A. LUCAS, *Washington, D.C.*"