

NOTES

FIRST OREGON RECORDS FOR THICK-BILLED MURRE

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Thick-billed Murres (*Uria lomvia*) have been recorded wintering as far south as Vancouver Island, British Columbia (AOU Check-list, 1957) and have been found off the central and southern California coast (see Yadon, Calif. Birds 1:107-110, 1970, for records up to 1970 and DeSante and Remsen, Am. Birds 27:110-119, 656-662, 1973, for more recent records). They have not, however, been reported from either Washington or Oregon.

During the process of cataloging the Overton Dowell Jr. ornithological collection into the Oregon State University collection, a specimen labeled as a Common Murre (*U. aalge*) was identified as *U. lomvia*. The specimen is O.S.U. No. 10,483 and was collected dead on the beach on 30 January 1933 near Mercer, Oregon (Lane Co.) by Overton Dowell Jr. The bird was a male in winter plumage and the following measurements (in mm) were recorded: wing flattened 195, exposed culmen length 27.7, depth of bill at gonydeal angle 10.1, tarsus 39.8, gonydeal angle to tip of bill 14.0 and bill depth at base of culmen 10.1

A second Thick-billed Murre was found dead near the south jetty of the Columbia River (Clatsop Co., Oregon) on 15 September 1972 by Harry B. Nehls. Direct comparison with texts, figures and *U. aalge* indicated that it was an adult bird going from summer to winter plumage. The specimen was badly decomposed so determination of sex was not possible. Unfortunately, only the upper and lower mandible were saved (O.S.U. No. 10,917). Identification of both specimens was confirmed by the staff of the National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C.

The dates of these specimens fall well within the extremes (27 August-9 April) for previous southern records. These specimens represent the first and second records of *U. lomvia* for Oregon. The lack of additional records is undoubtedly due to the difficulty in distinguishing *U. lomvia* from *U. aalge* as has been previously suggested (Yadon, Calif. Birds 1: 107-110, 1970).