

FIELD NOTES

American Avocets in Buffalo Harbor. On the mud flats of Times Beach near the Coast Guard station I discovered five Avocets at noon, August 22, 1972. This species is casual and very rare in Western New York waters. The only other report in the area was a bird reported by Brownstein and Schaffner at Fort Erie, Ontario on August 8, 1964 four miles northwest of Buffalo Harbor. (Beardsley & Mitchell, Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region, 1965)

Photos were taken through a spotting scope at ranges of forty to fifty yards. The birds were seen by other observers for the remainder of the day.



Avocets occur casually in the Northeastern states, so occasional reports of their presence in New York can be expected.

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A Razorbill near Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. On 5 November 1972, an immature Razorbill (*Alca torda*) was found by Mr. Chuck Gallo near the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca County, New York. The bird was swimming in a small drainage ditch on the Jackson muckland less than one mile south of the New York State Thruway and less than one mile east of the Refuge. When it was approached, the bird attempted to dive in the few inches of water in the ditch.

The bird was caught by hand and taken to Mr. Reynolds Martz, who lives north of the Refuge, and placed on a small pond used by captive waterfowl. The bird reportedly dived repeatedly in this pond but whether the bird obtained food was not determined. On 9 November, the weakened bird was removed from the pond by Refuge personnel and taken to Refuge headquarters where photographs were taken. Although attempts were made to force-feed the Razorbill with minnows, it was dead the next morning. When skinned, the alcid was found to be in a very emaciated condition; there was no evidence of gunshot wounds. The mounted specimen will remain on display in the headquarters of the Refuge.