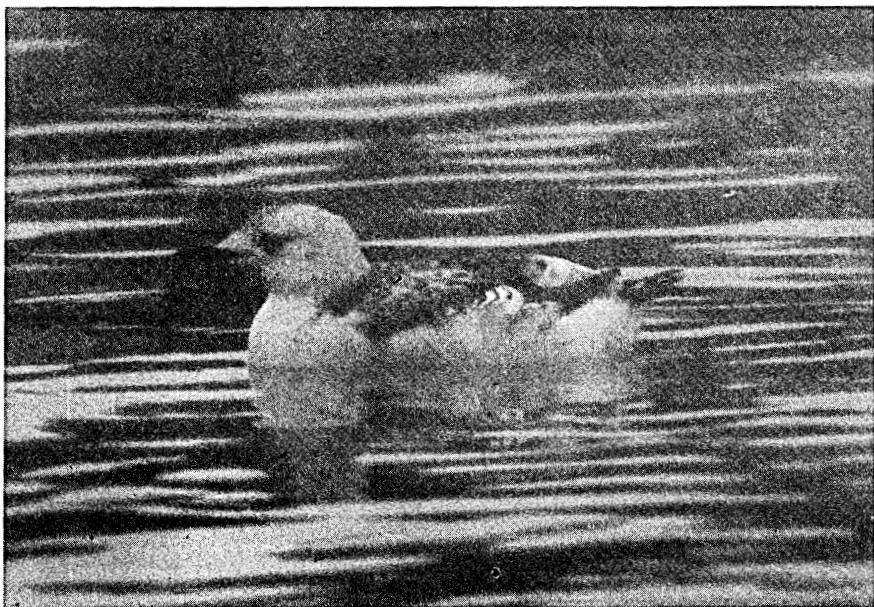


PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES. 27. BLACK GUILLEMOT

ROBERT P. YUNICK

New York records of the Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*), a species that breeds on islands and coasts of the Arctic Ocean south to Maine and rarely winters beyond its breeding range, are almost exclusively confined to coastal Long Island. Bull (1964, 1974) collectively refers to "more than two dozen occurrences" for Long Island, three of which are specimens, a sight record for Westchester Co. and some unverifiable inland records given by Eaton (1910).



BLACK GUILLEMOT
Westport Harbor, Essex Co.

7 January, 1978

Photo by Ronald P. LaForce

The photograph presented here represents the only published, verifiable proof of an inland record of this species for New York State. This bird was found and identified on 7 January 1978 at the State boat launch site at Westport, Essex Co., on Lake Champlain,

by a group of Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club members consisting of Robert Budliger, William Gorman, Edward Koch, Carolyn and Ronald LaForce, William Lee and Walton Sabin. They called the bird to the attention of Geoffrey Carleton and John Peterson, both of Essex County. The bird remained close to shore until 10 January, at which time the bay froze and the bird disappeared.

In addition to the photograph presented here, taken by LaForce, 35mm color negatives were taken by Koch, and 8mm movie film was taken by Gorman. LaForce shot this picture under total overcast with a 500mm Nikon lens and camera, with a 2X extender at 65 ft. and 35mm color transparency film.

Bull's *Supplement* (1976) notes the presence of three individuals at Montauk, Suffolk Co., from 11 December 1971 to 15 January 1972, not listed in his previous works (1964, 1974). However, he incorrectly refers to these three as the first state occurrence of more than one individual. This Montauk occurrence is the second record of more than one bird, with the first having been of three birds at Jones Inlet on 23 March 1964 (Post and Tudor, 1964). In approximately the past 20 years, *The Kingbird* has listed, in addition to these two sightings of three birds each, the following Montauk sightings: 12 February 1962 (Elliott, 1962); 26 January 1964 (Post and Tudor, 1964); 11 January 1969 (Davis and Morgan, 1969); and 8 December 1973 and 12 January 1974 (McGuinness, 1974).

Inland records for this species are very few. Eaton (1910) refers to a February 1888 Lake Ontario record, and some other vague Lake Ontario records with no details. Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) reported that the 1888 specimen was no longer in existence. Reilly and Parkes (1959) refer to an interior record, without details, and undoubtedly are referring to the lost 1888 specimen. Judd (1907) reports a winter record for Albany Co. without any further comment. None of these represents adequate verification for an authentic inland record, and other than a 30 January 1932 record from Rye, Westchester Co. (Bull, 1974), there are no other earlier acceptable state records outside of Long Island.

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