

The white in the underwing extended from 50 mm distally from the shoulder until it became dark for the distal 100 mm. The bird was prepared as a study skin (Charleston Mus. No. CB 2) and sent to George E. Watson who confirmed the subspecific identification (Watson, pers. comm.; 16 August 1973).

The bird showed molt well underway, although the extent of molt in the primaries and tail was too ill-defined to describe. The extensive molt, and the fact that the bird was far from its breeding grounds, led Watson to conclude that this was a young, prebreeding female, of indeterminate age because the age of first breeding is unknown in this species. Usually breeding adults in the Mediterranean would be feeding small young in late July and would begin to molt in early fall (Watson, pers. comm.; 16 August 1973, 20 April 1976).

The Mediterranean race has been reported from only 2 North American locations: 5 specimens in 3 different years off Long Island, New York, and 4 birds off the Florida Keys (Murphy, *Auk* 39:58-60, 1922; Murphy, *Serial Atlas of the Marine Environment: Distribution of North Atlantic Birds*, Am. Geogr. Soc. 1967; Bull. Birds of New York, Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1974:60). The present record suggests that this species may be more widely distributed in the western Atlantic than previous records indicate. A systematic examination of collections from North American waters should be made to delineate the distribution of this subspecies.

That the specimen was an immature bird supports the hypothesis that birds summering in the western Atlantic are prebreeders (Bourne, p. 157 in *Handbook of N. A. Birds*, Vol. 1, Palmer, ed., Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, Connecticut, 1962). Recent observations of Cory's Shearwaters during June-July off South Carolina (P. Laurie, pers. comm.) indicate that the species is more common in this area than was earlier thought (Sprunt and Chamberlain, *South Carolina Bird Life*, Univ. South Carolina Press, Columbia, South Carolina, 1970:63).

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The use of measurements in sexing Common Murres from Newfoundland.—The Common Murre (*Uria aalge*) is a widely distributed species that shows substantial geographic variation based on coloration (Salomonsen, *The Atlantic Alcidae*, Göteborgs Kungl. Vetenskaps- och Vitterhets-Samhälles Handlingar, Sjätte Följden, Ser. B., Band 3, No. 5, 1944) and measurements (Tuck, *The Murres*, Can. Wildl. Serv. Monogr. No. 1, 1961; Witherby, H. F., Jourdain, F. C. R., Ticehurst, N. F. and B. W. Tucker, *Handbook of British Birds*, Vol. V, H. F. and A. Witherby, London, England, 1965). The subspecies occurring in Newfoundland is *U. aalge aalge* (see Tuck 1961). When studying the breeding biology of any species, the ability of investigators to distinguish between adult males and females obviously gives a more complete picture of the roles played by each sex. When a breeding biology and behavioral study of Common Murres was started in 1977 in Newfoundland, efforts were made (using data collected during an earlier study of the helminth parasites of auks conducted there [Threlfall, *Can. J. Zool.* 49:461-466, 1971]) to determine whether or not the murres could be sexed using only meristic characters. Birkhead (*Breeding Ecology and Survival of Guillemots (Uria aalge)*, Ph.D. thesis, Oxford Univ., Oxford, England, 1976) was

TABLE 1
MEAN WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS OF 238 COMMON MURRES FROM NEWFOUNDLAND

	Weight (g)	Wing (mm)	Culmen (mm)		Tarsus (mm)	Tail (mm)
			Length	Depth		
Male (N = 121)	Mean \pm SD	200.9 \pm 5.4	44.3 \pm 2.2	14.3 \pm 1.0	40.1 \pm 3.2	48.6 \pm 3.9
	Range	180.0-213.0	40.0-49.0	11.5-16.5	34.0-49.0	40.0-59.5
Female (N = 117)	Mean \pm SD	202.3 \pm 5.1	42.4 \pm 2.0	14.1 \pm 0.9	39.2 \pm 2.9	49.7 \pm 4.4
	Range	188.0-217.0	36.0-46.0	11.5-16.0	29.5-50.0	34.0-66.0

able to sex some birds after observing copulation and noted that males had larger beaks than females.

Common Murres were shot, or obtained from gill-nets in which they became trapped and drowned. The birds were weighed and measured (wing, culmen [length and depth], tarsus, tail) using the methods outlined in Witherby et al. (1965), and sexed while being examined for endoparasites. A total of 238 birds (121 males, 117 females), were taken in the Witless Bay Sea Bird Sanctuary (228 birds) and on Funk Island (10 birds), Newfoundland from May–July of 1966–1968. Data were analyzed using an IBM370/158 computer and an SPSS package, to obtain basic statistical values (Table 1). A Stepwise Discriminate Function Analysis (BMD 07M; Automatic Computation No. 2, Dixon, W. J., ed., Univ. Calif. Publ., 1970) was also performed. Only those specimens for which all values were available were used in the latter analysis (109 males, 105 females). It proved impossible to sex this species on the basis of measurements with any degree of certainty. When the measurements of 109 known males were analyzed the results indicated that 74 birds were males and 35 were females. In the case of 105 known females, 74 were identified as females and 31 as males.

No differences in the plumage of the 2 sexes were noted, a fact that has been pointed out by others. However, behavioral actions and patterns may be of use in sexing the species, when much more is known about them.

The measurements of *U. a. aalge* obtained during the present study expand the known size range for the subspecies, e.g., male wing length range = 180.0–213.0 mm (contra 195–210 mm [Witherby et al. 1965]); female wing length range = 188.0–217.0 mm (195–207 mm [Witherby et al. 1965]).—WILLIAM THRELFALL AND SHANE P. MAHONEY, *Dept. Biology, Memorial Univ., St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 3X9, Canada.*