

General Field Notes

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First Record of Black Guillemot in North Carolina

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On 24 April 1993 during the Wilmington, NC, Spring Bird Count, a Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*) was found along the north jetty of Masonboro Inlet at Wrightsville Beach, NC. Hardwick and Galizio discovered the bird at dawn and studied it closely from a boat for over an hour. After concluding that it was indeed a Black Guillemot, Parnell was notified and was able to observe the bird later that day. During the week of 25 April the bird was subsequently seen by many observers, but no recognizable photographs were obtained. The bird was last seen on 30 April.

The bird was in first-winter plumage as described by Harrison (1983). We noted dark wings with a clear white wing patch. The bird's mantle and back were white with some mottling. The head and neck were mostly white with a dark crown, nape, and eye patch, and a black bill.

The bird usually stayed on the water in close proximity to the rock jetty, dabbling at the algae that covers the rocks. It was wary and dove on approach. Through extended observation, however, we were able to see the white

underwing and red legs at close range when the bird preened and lifted its wings. All three of the authors are familiar with Black and Pigeon Guillemots (*Cepphus columba*) and concluded that this bird was a Black Guillemot, particularly because of its white underwing coverts.

Although Black Guillemots normally winter in the northwestern Atlantic, they are described as casual south to Long Island and New Jersey by Harrison (1983). There are at least three sightings of Black Guillemot from South Carolina (Potter, Parnell, and Teulings, 1980), including a recent find documented with a photograph (Buerger, 1993). However, we have been unable to find any prior reports from North Carolina.

The North Carolina Bird Records Committee accepted the written description of this bird provided by Sam Cooper, placing the species on the Provisional list (North Carolina Bird Records Committee, 1994).

Literature Cited

- Buerger, T T. 1993. First documented record of Black Guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*) in South Carolina. *Chat* 57:94-96.
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- Potter, E F, J F Parnell, and R P Teulings. 1980. *Birds of the Carolinas*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

Mobbing of South Polar Skua by Cory's Shearwaters off the North Carolina Coast

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In the ornithological literature, mobbing is a poorly understood phenomenon involving the collective harassment of predatory or kleptoparasitic birds by potential prey or victim species. Mobbing has not been recorded in Procellariiformes, despite voluminous literature on this group (*e.g.*,