

A New Record of Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia* (Charadriiformes, Alcidae) in Korea

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ABSTRACT

This work is a report about the first record of alcid species, Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) in Korea. Four individuals of Thick-billed Murre captured by crab net were obtained in Deajin Port and near the Munam Port. three individuals of Thick-billed Murre searching food were observed at an area two miles away from Munam-Port. We describe characters of Thick-billed Murre with illustrations.

Key words: Alcidae, Thick-billed Murre, *Uria lomvia*, Korea

INTRODUCTION

Species belonging to Alcidae are marine and wing-propelled diving birds with stocky body, short wings and tail, mainly black or dark grey above and white below, and legs placed far back for swimming (del Hoyo et al., 1996). These oceanic species come to land only to nest. The living Alcidae comprise 24 species in eleven genera (Dickinson, 2003). Two species, Common Murre (*Uria aalge*) and Thick-billed Murre (*U. lomvia*), are recorded in genus *Uria*, which are all blackish above white below and long-billed and occur in both Atlantic and Pacific Ocean. They nest on open ledges on rocky cliffs (del Hoyo et al., 1996; Harrison, 2003). Thick-billed Murre breeds in Arctic zone usually late June to early July, migrate to winter southward and winters offshore and along sea coasts mainly in low Arctic waters, but some in N part of boreal zone S to Gulf of Maine, around Hokkaido (Sibley, 2000; Harrison, 2003).

In Korea, the family of Alcidae includes six genera, eight species. Only one species, Common Murre, is already recorded in genus *Uria*, but Thick-billed Murre have not reported in Korean Peninsula (Lee et al., 2005) so far.

The purpose of this work is to report Thick-billed Murre unrecorded species in Korea.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNTS

Phylum Chordata Bateson, 1885

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Class Aves Linnaeus, 1758

Order Charadriiformes Bonaparte, 1867

Family Alcidae Leach, 1820

Genus *Uria* Brisson, 1760

¹**Uria lomvia* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Fig. 1)

Alca lomvia Linnaeus, 1758, p. 130.

Uria lomvia: Monroe Jr. and Sibley, 1993, p. 115.

Material examined. Two individuals, Deajin Port (38° 30'08"N, 128° 25'41"E) captured by crab net, 21 Jan. 2006, specimens were rotten; two individuals, Munam-ri, Goseung-gun (38° 18'10"N, 128° 33'54"E), 8 Feb. 2006, specimens were measured. The specimens now preserved in National Biological Resource Center (Fig. 1A).

Diagnosis. 39-45 cm wingspan 65-73 cm. largest extant alcid; blackish head and upperparts, white underparts; white-tipped secondaries; legs and feet grayish black, tinged yellowish beneath. similar to *U. aalge*, but slightly larger in body size, with longer wings, shorter and heavier bill, and thicker head and neck; differs in whitish line along cutting edge of upper mandible near gape, and the more acute-angled peak of white extending from upper fore-breast into neck-throat region; has no bridled or ringed morph (Sibley, 2000; Alsop, 2006).

Description. Short bill with decurved culmen, gonydeal angle near midpoint and broad wings. legs and feet grayish black, whitish line along cutting edge of upper mandible, the acute-angled peak of white extending from upper fore-breast into neck, short tail (Fig. 1A-D). Male was larger than female except tail (Table 1).

On 22 Jan. 2006, we observed three individuals Thick-billed Murre at an area (38° 26'16"N, 128° 34'16"E) two

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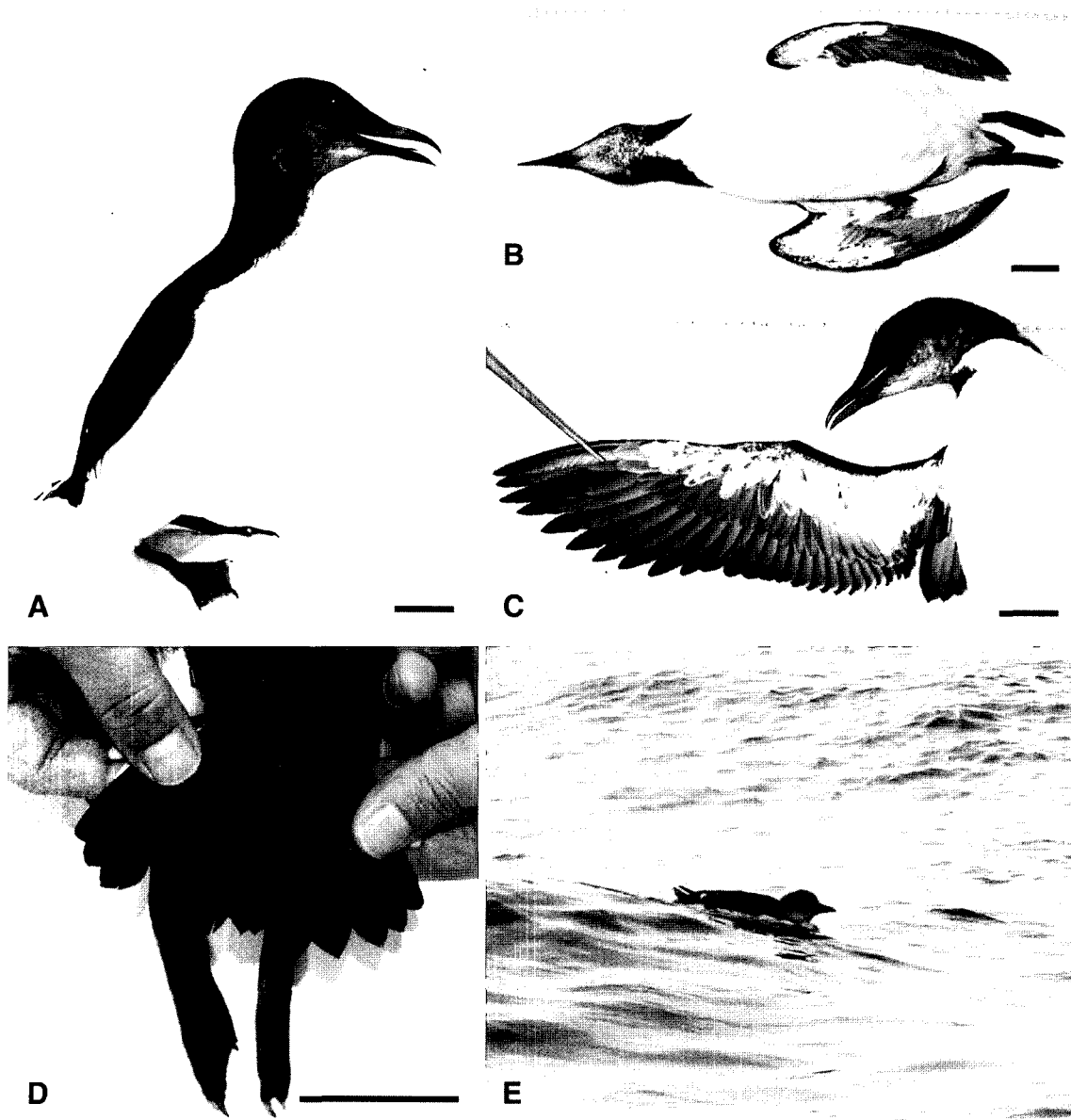


Fig. 1. Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*). A, Male whole body; B, Abdominal body; C, Wing; D, Tail; E, Juvenile bird. Scale bars=5 cm (A-D).

Table 1. Weight and length of Thick-billed Murre

	Weight (kg)	Length (cm)						
		Body	Bill	Head-Bill	Wing	Wing Span	Tail	Tarsus
Male	1.51	45.5	43.6	123.73	25.5	86	63.7	41.3
Female	1.16	44.5	39.6	113.15	24.8	83.5	63.9	39.6

miles away from the Munam-Port. Two were adult shape and one had juvenile style. The juvenile had dark chin, throat and small bill (Fig. 1E).

Breeding and Movement. Thick-billed Murre start of laying egg in Artic water, East Canada in spring and winters mostly offshore at sea, mainly in low Arctic waters, but

some in North of boreal zone South to North Sea and North Europe, Gulf of Maine, Gulf of Alaska and British Columbia, and North East Sea (Jonsson, 1993; Alsop, 2006).

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