

these birds breed exclusively. They lay usually three eggs in some exposed situation, or in the cleft of some rock, making no nest, and seem to let the sun do the greater share of the hatching; they are oblong and ovoid in shape, tapering suddenly, the ground color being from greenish to pure white, and the varied streaks and blotches or spots scattered more or less thickly all over their surface, especially so in a concentric ring around the tip of the egg, are of black or various shades of brown. Nearly all the birds of this family have what are apparently purplish spots upon their eggs, but these are black primarily and appear purple only from a slight covering of the white line of the shell itself. If the line be scraped away the spots will show up black.

COMMON or FOOLISH GUILLEMOT MURRE

Lamvia troile. — (L.) BRDT.

BEFORE reading the present remarks upon this species one should compare the notes as given upon its congener the razor-billed auk. The egg is noted for its variable size and the nature of its markings. I have taken them all the way from pure white, though an endless series of blotches, and waved lines of black, purple, and brown, to almost pure green and even a delicate pink barely spotted or marked at the larger end. The people on the coast cannot tell whether either the turre or murre lays more than a single egg, or whether they sit upon their eggs or allow the sun to hatch them. I have been told, on apparently good authority, that they *do* sit upon their eggs, and consequently are furnished with a large, bare place upon the lower belly, where they have picked the feathers from themselves in order to make the proper hollow in their downy covering for the egg to rest in; but I failed to notice the spot upon any of the birds shot. I could not ascertain, either, the period of incubation. While laying to, one morning, off the Fox Islands, near the Mecattina Islands, several of us landed and filled our pails with murre's eggs, while