

sued in a boat by a number of men, who amused themselves by throwing the oars and pieces of wood, together with the ballast of the boat, at it, and yet not a single missile hit its mark since the bird was able to dodge each article thrown at it by diving and appearing in a most unexpected direction; the bird was scarcely a dozen yards away, yet it escaped unharmed. I have noticed nearly all the changes of plumage in this bird that I have seen in the pigeon guillemot during the first year, though the head, so far as I have seen, is always black. It is a familiar little fellow, and seldom killed, unless scarcity of food demands even this small morsel.

BLACK GUILLEMOT PIGEON

Uria grylle. — (L.) BRUNN.

MY notes read: Friday, the 15th. I became quite well acquainted to-day with the "pigeon," as it is here called, otherwise known as the black guillemot. This little bird is one of the most abundant of the waterfowl, next to the eider ducks, puffins, and murre, that we have upon the coast. Near St. Augustine we saw this bird for the first time, though it is found in Winter all along the Atlantic seaboard as far south as New Jersey, growing more and more rare as it approaches the latter place. I have seen them everywhere in the waters in and about the islands, though never very far from land, from the opening of the bay in the spring until the ice closes the last open waters early in December. I have found several stages of plumage of this bird (referable to the different ages) which takes three years to mature. A very extraordinary form marks the second year's growth. The whole plumage is inky black, both above and below, and with white blotches imperfectly rounded, the size of an ordinary thimble head, scattered irregularly all over its body; the bill is blackish carmine; the legs and feet dusky carmine; the wings with a pure white patch as usual. I think the white tail feathers were present, but am not sure on this point. I cannot learn if