

Species: HORNED PUFFIN

Record No. 014-77-04

Location: CAPE LOOKOUT, TILLAMOOK CO.

Date(s): MAY 14, 1977

Observers	details	slides	prints	tapes
<u>CRAIG ROBERTS</u>	<u>A</u>			

Specimen no. & location _____

Accepted 8-1

Not accepted _____

verified _____

origin questionable _____

Single rept. sighting ✓

exotic not estab. _____

Multiple rept. sighting _____

Records split _____

Records combined _____

Disposition

Secretary's File

Duplicate File

Main File A

details A

Slide File _____

slides _____

Print File _____

prints _____

Tape File _____

tapes _____

Date observer(s) notified: _____

1980-19

014-77-041A

SWOC TALK

3 23 3 m/577

A Horned Puffin (Fratercula Corniculata) was found May 14, 1977 off Cape Lookout, Tillamook County, Oregon. It has been seen subsequently at least once, in mid-June by Jeff Gilligan; initial observer Craig Roberts sends this account of finding the bird : (edited for SWOC TALK)

"On the way back from the end of the cape, about five members of the George Fox College ornithology class stopped at a particularly panoramic viewpoint about 1/2 mile from the end. Good views were afforded of Guillemots and Puffins flying in to the cliffs below. Steve Duke, after comparing some swimming Puffins to illustrations in 'Peterson', announced that he saw a Horned Puffin.

"In studying the bird through my 7X binoculars I could see that:

- A) It was slightly smaller than the two Tufteds it was with.
- B) The head and breast were extensively white, separated by a black band.
- C) The back was dark.
- D) The feet were reddish. (Editorial note: this is a characteristic common to other North American Puffins, but not shared by such sea ducks as Oldsquaw, a male of which in non-breeding plumage was seen at the same spot in mid-June by Mark Egger)
- E) The sides were white.

No bill color was visible through the 7X binoculars, and color on bills of the two nearby Tufted Puffins was only faintly visible.

"Steve noted a slight orange color on the bill and a dark stripe down the crown, using 14X zoom binoculars. The birds were in sight for about twenty minutes until they drifted out of sight, concealed by the overhang of the cliff. The next most similar species to consider, arbitrarily eliminating Common Puffin, a species of the north Atlantic, would be Bufflehead, which could be eliminated for several reasons. "

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(Editorial note: Oldsquaw is a species worth considering in this circumstance also, but can be safely eliminated, though the species' propensity for odd plumages and unwillingness to conform to seasonal plumage data in the field guides is phenomenal---A.C.)