

The Extraordinary Common Murre



- Stands erectly about 1 foot tall and 1 Kg in weight
- Walks like a penguin
- 10 – 15 % have white spectacle and eye line (center murre above)
- Long-lived – 20 – 30 years or more
- Species' largest extremely dense colony is on flat ground on Funk Island
- Generally mate monogamously for life
- Lays a single large pyriform egg
- Egg is incubated on rock [no nest] for about 1 month
- Highest wing-loading [weight/area] of any bird that flies
- Flies under water to capture fish
- Deepest diving bird of any bird that flies – maxi depth = 200 m
- Only penguins dive deeper
- Main food is capelin – both parents carry 1 fish at time to chick (below)
- At ~3 weeks the chick goes to sea with the male; female stays at colony
- Fledgling is independent after about 2 months
- Target of a traditional winter hunt in Newfoundland and Labrador

