

11-4-95 Joe Harrison 1998-69

ACCEPTED (7-0)

Wrong turn puts seabird in Louisville

By DAN BERKO
Camera Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE — When a cold front blew into town this week, it brought along an unusual hitchhiker — an odd, feisty, little arctic bird that looks a lot like a penguin.

The ancient murrelet is a dandy swimmer, but not much of a flier, which could explain how it got 800 miles off course and landed Wednesday morning at the intersection of Hoover and Sycamore lanes.

"The bird should have taken a right at Boise, but took a left instead," said Dr. Dan Keith, of the Animalhouse Veterinary Clinic, who cared for the bird after its rescue.

The murrelet has since been transferred to a local bird rehab center, where it is recovering. It will catch a flight to California Sunday.

While its Colorado detour is unusual, this is not the first time an ancient murrelet has made a stop in Colorado.

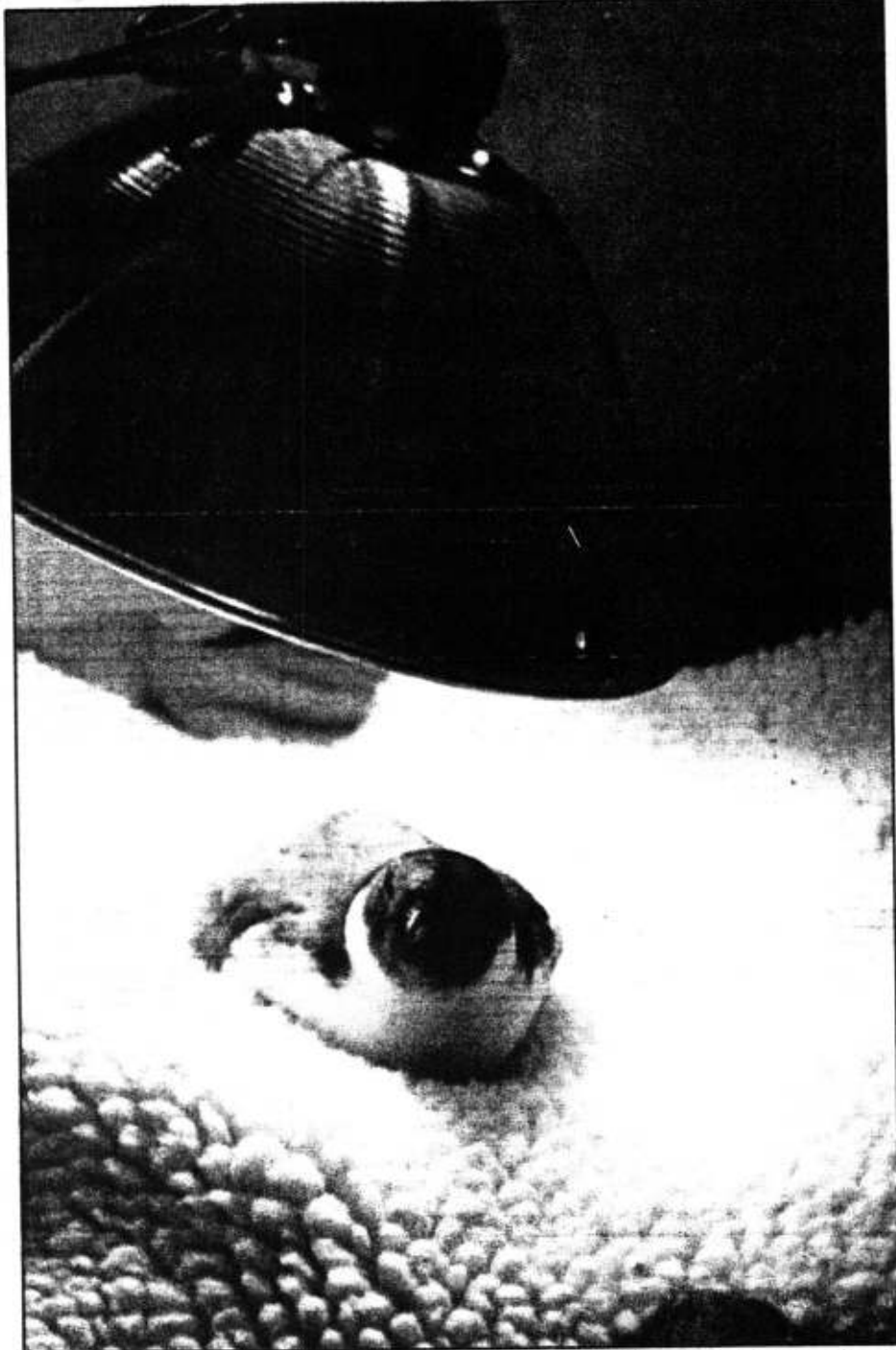
Keith said this was the third sighting of a murrelet in the state in the last 60 years. "The sightings have been in Longmont, Lafayette and Louisville." Interestingly, they all also occurred within the same seven-day period each year.

The ancient murrelet is a member of the auk family, the same family as penguins. It lives on islands in the northern Pacific. Like the penguin, it dives for food, its swimming style described as "flying in the water." In the fall, the ancient murrelet migrates to California, going as far south as Baja California.

Though the bird is a weak flier, its migratory flight takes it to high altitudes. Keith suspects it probably got caught in the jet stream during the storm. "I think it landed because it thought the black ice was water."

Judy Francis, who lives north of Fort Collins, was on her way home from a friend's house when she saw the bird sitting in the middle of the street. It couldn't fly away, so Francis picked it up, wrapped it up in her jacket and took it to Keith.

"The bird was in perfectly good health," Keith said. "What hap-



DAVID R. JENNINGS / For the Camera



AUK-WARD LANDING:

This ancient murrelet, above, is being cared for at the Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Foundation in Louisville after it inadvertently landed in town Wednesday. It will be flown to California and released Sunday. Sigrid Ueblicher, left, runs the rehab center and has been tending to the bird.



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

- Showers
- T-storms
- Rain
- Flurries
- Snow
- Ice

UV INDEX

City	Yesterday		Today		Tomorrow	
	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Amsterdam	48	39	64	48	73	54
Atlanta	64	57	72	52	75	52
Berlin	63	41	55	42	36	22
Buenos Aires	37	28	34	28	34	30
Calgary	81	68	96	57	91	60
Frankfurt	78	60	52	36	50	41
Geneva	38	20	77	70	81	72
Havana	40	34	59	39	59	43
Jerusalem	45	34	87	75	90	75
Kiev	88	72	70	65	71	60
London	66	53	68	50	68	49
Madrid	38	32	44	35	36	24
Mexico City	54	37	43	30	45	36
Montreal	46	40	73	54	75	52
Moscow	63	54	75	52	75	52
New Delhi	70	41	36	22	36	22
Paris	37	28	34	28	34	30
Rio	84	68	96	57	91	60
Rome	81	68	96	57	91	60
Singapore	78	60	52	36	50	41
Sydney	40	34	59	39	59	43
Tokyo	45	34	87	75	90	75
Toronto	88	72	70	65	71	60
Vienna	66	53	68	50	68	49

SUN & MOON

Nov. 7	Nov. 15
Full	Last
Nov. 22	Nov. 28
New	First
SUNSET	Saturday 4:55 p.m.
SUNRISE	Sunday 6:33 a.m.
MOONRISE	Saturday 3:35 p.m.
MOONSET	Saturday 3:51 a.m.

WHERE TO CALL

Local Forecast: INFOCALL 938-9090, # 8900
National Weather Service 398-3964
Time and Temperature: Boulder 443-1910
Atomic Clock 499-7111
Road Conditions: Metro 639-1111
State Conditions 639-1234
Pollution Advisory: INFOCALL 938-9090, # 9663
(updated at 6 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily)

National Extremes

87 at Miami, Fla.
-22 at Shirley Basin, Wyo.

FROM PAGE 1A

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pened is that it has webbed feet — it's an ocean bird. It needs to run very fast along the water to build up speed." It couldn't get the momentum it needed on the icy street.

Keith gave the bird water and tried to feed it. He found by trial and error that the murrelet fancied raw shrimp and scallops. "We even built it a pond, which it didn't appreciate that much. It didn't like human intervention."

Thursday afternoon, the bird was taken to the Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Foundation in Louisville.

"I had no idea what it was," said Sigrid Ueblacker, who runs the center.

She started making calls to other wildlife organizations to find out how to take care of it and what to feed it. "That's the nice thing about being part of a network like this: You can call anybody and everyone is bending over backward to help."

The bird is kept in a quiet cage. Friday night was the first time it ate on its own. "A pet shop owner donated some feeder fish, and the bird just gobbled them down. I'm going to buy fish like crazy tomorrow," Ueblacker said.

"My only goal is to keep it alive the next two days."

One of her Ueblacker's friends, Joe Harrison, and the bird are scheduled to leave for California at 2:37 Sunday

afternoon on a United Airlines flight. The bird will be transported in a small carrier that will fit under Harrison's seat.

The bird likely will be released near San Diego the same day, Ueblacker said.

"I consulted experts and literally before deciding to take it when it was going to winter instead of farther north where it maybe could come back in another storm."