

## The Great Auk



- **Last flightless bird in the Northern Hemisphere**
- **Also referred to as Penguins**
- **Closely related to Razorbills, Murres and Puffins**
- **No relation to Antarctic penguins**
- **About 1 meter tall and weighed about 5 Kg [12 pounds]**
- **Funk Island was their largest known colony**
- **Beothuk canoed to Funk Island to collect their eggs**
- **Basque mariners used them as indicators of the New World fishing banks**
- **Were exploited for food and bait from 1500s through 1700s**
- **Slaughtered for down for mattresses and quilts in the late 1700s**
- **Gone from Newfoundland about 1800**
- **Extinct in 1844 when last known breeding pair was killed in Iceland**
- **Today Great Auks are international conservation symbols**

