

ADDITIONAL IOWA SPECIES OF BIRDS SUBSTANTIATED
BY SPECIMENS

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In a recent review¹ of "A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa"² it was stated that twenty-seven species of birds included in this list were unsubstantiated by specimens. Attention is directed to a mimeographed report³ issued by the writer to bird students in Iowa enumerating thirty-five species as those actually deficient of specimens at the time of publication. These were as follows: Red-throated Loon, Western Grebe, Water Turkey, Man-o'-war-bird, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Wood Ibis, Cinnamon Teal, American Scoter, Harris's Hawk, Black Rail, Hudsonian Curlew, Black-necked Stilt, Louisiana Paroquet, Burrowing Owl, Great Gray Owl, Nuttall's Poor-will, Red-shafted Flicker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, American Raven, Common Rock Wren, Eastern Mockingbird, Sprague's Pipit, Sycamore Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Northern Prairie Warbler, Western Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, Greater Redpoll, Lark Bunting, McCown's Longspur, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Of this list of thirty-five species twenty-nine were formerly represented by collected specimens believed to be unsaved or since have been destroyed. One species (Western Blue Grosbeak) of the six heretofore unrepresented by specimens has been collected since the publication of the list. Therefore, only the Western Grebe, Wood Ibis, Lewis's Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, and Lazuli Bunting have been credited to Iowa without the actual taking of a specimen or the securing of an authentic set of eggs.

Since the publication of "A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa" in 1933 specimens or the eggs of twelve species of birds which were taken in Iowa and which were included in that list have been found or collected.

RED-THROATED LOON. *Gavia stellata*. The mounted specimen reported as being in Keokuk and taken on the Des Moines River near Ottumwa, Iowa, has been found in the collection of mounted birds in the Keokuk High School. This specimen was examined by the writer on May 10, 1934. Mr. E. H. Purcell of Keokuk, in checking the data, wrote that this bird, a male in winter plumage, was taken by Heiser on April 28, 1873.

¹WILSON BULLETIN, XLV, No. 4, pp. 206-208.

²Univ. Iowa Studies, Nat. Hist., XV, No. 5, pp. 1-171.

³Mimeographed bulletin, 60 copies issued from Spencer, Iowa, on February 22, 1934.

LITTLE BLUE HERON. *Florida caerulea caerulea*. Two juvenile males were secured by Logan J. Bennett and Gerald B. Spawn, both of Ames, on July 24, 1934, along the south side of Elk Lake in Clay County. Both of these specimens are in the collection of the Department of Zoology, Iowa State College, Ames, and have been examined by the writer.

CINNAMON TEAL. *Querquedula cyanoptera*. An adult male is contained in the Stempel collection at Macedonia, Iowa. M. A. Stempel advised me he had killed the bird from a flock of about fifteen Blue-winged Teal, three-quarters of a mile west of Macedonia, Pottawattamie County, during late April in the late '90s. The specimen was examined by the writer on November 9, 1934.

AMERICAN SCOTER. *Oidemia americana*. On April 6, 1934, Prof. W. E. Praeger of Kalamazoo, Michigan, wrote that the specimen of American Scoter which was "probably shot on the Des Moines Rapids" on October 31, 1894, was still in his possession.

HUDSONIAN CURLEW. *Phaeopus hudsonicus*. On April 3, 1935, P. A. Taverner, Curator of Birds at the National Museum of Canada at Ottawa, wrote that the specimen of Hudsonian Curlew which Rudolph M. Anderson had collected on the prairie west of Crystal Lake, Hancock County, May 25, 1895, had been deposited in their museum where it now is, in good condition. It is No. 17464 in the museum catalogue. Taverner stated that there was no question as to the identity.

LOUISIANA PAROQUET. *Conuropsis carolinensis ludovicianus*. On January 24, 1934, Prof. Myron H. Swenk wrote as follows: "In the United States National Museum collection are specimens of the Louisiana Paroquet (*Conuropsis carolinensis ludovicianus*) that were taken on 'Bald Island' by Dr. F. V. Hayden in the spring of 1856, I believe it was. I have identified 'Bald Island' through Lieutenant G. K. Warren's map with McKissock Island at the Otoe-Nemaha County line, which now has been cut off from Nebraska and lies entirely east of the Missouri River though technically still a part of Nebraska."

In answer to my letter of June 18 to the U. S. National Museum endeavoring to determine the present existence of a substantiating specimen from this point of intersection for Nebraska-Iowa-Missouri, Mr. J. H. Riley, Assistant Curator of Birds, sent the following reply on June 21: "There were originally eleven specimens of paroquets received through Lt. Warren, all presumably from Bald Island. The locality of three of these is in doubt, however, as it was not so speci-

fied in the catalogue. Baird, Pacific Railroad Reports, Vol. 9, 1858, p. 68, gives twelve specimens, but one of this number is duplicated and the specimen marked 'fresh', and it may not have been saved. Three of his numbers are also not definite as to locality, one simply marked 'Nebraska' and other two blank. Of the eleven specimens only one skin remains in the study series of the National Museum, though a few may have been used in an old mounted group of which the individual data have been lost. Seven were exchanged or given away. Four were sent to Verreaux, Paris, two to the University of Michigan, and one to Dr. Henry Bryant, later becoming the property of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and the type of *Conuropsis carolinensis interior* Bangs, Proc. New England Zool. Club, Vol. 4, 1913, p. 94. The skin remaining in the study series is a typical *Conuropsis carolinensis ludovicianus*." (See also the full account of the occurrence of this bird along the Missouri River Valley, as contained in the *Nebraska Bird Review* II, pp. 55-59).

WESTERN BURROWING OWL. *Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*. A male and a female in the study collection of the Department of Zoology, Iowa State College, Ames, were secured by Logan J. Bennett one-half mile north of Elk Lake, Clay County, July 13, 1933. These specimens were recently examined by the writer.

RED-SHAFTED FLICKER. *Colaptes cafer collaris*. Mr. Frank C. Pellett of Hamilton, Illinois, wrote on December 6, 1933, that the specimen which he secured near Atlantic, Cass County, September 25, 1896, still remained in his private collection at Atlantic. A male of this species was collected by J. R. Harlan, in Van Buren County, on October 22, 1933. On December 26, 1934, the writer collected an adult male Red-shafted Flicker along Walnut Creek in Des Moines, Polk County. The moustache marks of both this specimen and the one secured by Harlan show only a trace of black basally and the quills of wings and tail are bright orange.

PRAIRIE WARBLER. *Dendroica discolor*. Mr. Ed. S. Currier of Portland, Oregon, wrote on January 16, 1935, that he had found only one nest of this species in Lee County, Iowa. That was on June 5, 1886. The eggs, which were fresh, are number 422 and are still in Currier's Collection.

HOODED WARBLER. *Wilsonia citrina*. In Mr. Ed. S. Currier's letter of January 16, 1935, from Portland, Oregon, he stated that in his

collecting along the Mississippi River that he had found a total of twenty-five nests of this species, two being in Lee County, Iowa, and the others were in Missouri. The nests taken in Iowa were on June 24, 1894, in the bottom-land not far from the mouth of the Des Moines River. These two sets are numbered 2274 and 2275 in the Currier Collection.

WESTERN BLUE GROSBEEK. *Guiraca caerulea interfusa*. Mr. Wm. Youngworth of Sioux City, Iowa, collected one of two birds, a male, found two and one-half miles north of Sioux City along the Big Sioux River in Plymouth County, June 23, 1934. Youngworth had observed birds of this species in the vicinity on previous occasions. This is believed to be the first Iowa-taken specimen. It remains in the Youngworth collection (see WILSON BULLETIN, XLVI, p. 257) where the writer was allowed to examine it on July 1, 1934.

MCCOWN'S LONGSPUR. *Rhynchophanes mccowni*. There are three mounted specimens, two males and a female, contained in the private collection of the late Dr. George E. Stempel of Macedonia, Iowa. These birds, in spring plumage, were taken by Dr. Stempel near Macedonia, Pottawattamie County, about 1886. This collection, displayed in the town hall, is now under the custodianship of M. A. Stempel, a son, who supplied these data at the time the writer examined the collection, November 9, 1934.

The "Revised List of the Birds of Iowa" contained 364 species of birds known to have occurred in the state as well as eighteen others whose occurrence was considered hypothetical. The taking of a Black Vulture (No. 365) was appended in a footnote on page 44 (see also the WILSON BULLETIN, XLV, p. 203). The securing by the writer of what is probably the only Iowa specimen of Shufeldt's Junco is related in the WILSON BULLETIN, XLVI, pp. 200-201.

The writer has prepared notes on the recent discovery of an Iowa specimen of the European Widgeon, the taking of specimens of the Brown-headed Nuthatch during 1893 in Lee County, and the recent capture of a Chuck-will's-widow in the same county. Unfortunately, specimens of neither of the last two species were saved.

Therefore the Iowa list of birds now totals 369 species and subspecies of which all but twenty-five are represented by preserved specimens.

DES MOINES, IOWA.