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A REVISED LIST OF THE BIRDS OF IOWA

This complete and authoritative list of approximately 200 pages, with map and index, embodies the latest nomenclature, present status, and distribution of all species of birds known to have occurred in Iowa.

Many changes have taken place in the bird life of the state during the twenty-seven years since Dr. Rudolph M. Anderson wrote "The Birds of Iowa" which has been out of print for some time. There has been a steady increase in ^{the number} population. The draining of lakes and tiling of many marshy areas has resulted in destroying the feeding grounds and nesting areas of water-fowl. The improvement of highways has made almost every hunting area in the state accessible to the motorist. While the numbers of water-birds, game-birds, hawks, and owls have been steadily decreasing, certain smaller birds such as the grackle and English sparrow have increased until they have crowded out some of the more desirable species.

The historical development of ornithology in Iowa occupies a prominent part in the introduction. The first bird observations were made by Marquette and Joliet at the time of their journey down the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers in 1673. A hundred and thirty years elapsed before Lewis and Clark made their trip up the Missouri River. This was followed shortly by explorations by Thomas Say, Stephen Watts Kearny, Prince Maximilian, and John J. Audubon. The observations of J. A. Allen in the western part of Iowa during 1867 constitute the first systematic study of birds in the state. Following this period the names of Trippe, Krider, Abbott, Cooke, Keyes, Bartsch, Anderson, and Bailey all stand out in the history of Iowa ornithology.

The change in status of breeding species which has taken place during the past twenty-five years is discussed with respect to the decrease and final disappearance of certain water and game-birds, the increase of several of the smaller birds, the influx of Carolinian species, and the entrance of some of the prairie forms from the northwest.

In the preparation of this list the writer examined all the principal collections containing Iowa specimens. A special effort was made to locate all specimens which constituted records of rare or accidental occurrences. Papers relating to Iowa ornithology were reviewed and questionnaires were sent to various observers throughout the state. A summary of this information has resulted in accurate statements of abundance and distribution.

An effort has been made to determine all the subspecies of birds occurring in Iowa. Tables of measurements for several species are included. This paper should prove of value as a guide for the identification of all subspecies found in the Upper Mississippi River Valley.

Three hundred and sixty-four species of birds are noted in this list and eighteen others are placed in a hypothetical list because of insufficient evidence for inclusion in the body of the paper. Thirty-five species are included which were not listed by Anderson. Of these, fourteen are recognized as Iowa records for the first time. An appendix contains such species as have been incorrectly claimed as Iowa records, and details are listed regarding such removals.

The selected bibliography will prove especially useful as a directory of the local lists of birds. This, together with the enumeration of the numerous museums and private collections containing Iowa specimens, will prove of value to the schools and bird clubs of the state.