

Magnificent Frigatebird
SP 1904
Burlington, Des Moines Co., IA
Henry K. Coale
Coale 1910, DuMont 1933

Record Number: 81-AC
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Coale, H.K. 1910. A new bird for Illinois. Auk 27:75.
Anderson 1907
DuMont 1933

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Tom Kent to Records Committee, 13 Sep 1993

VOTE (1981): 1-I, 5-IV, 1- no vote

IV, Could 2 & 3 have been the same bird? Stories get confused when passed on.

no vote. Possibly same as above, if so it supports the previous record. My current thinking is that it is a separate bird and supports the offhand record of Bartsch mentioned in Anderson 1907.

IV, provenance of specimen uncertain. Is this the same bird as # 2?

IV, Coale's report is entirely second hand as to the circumstances of the observation. Although a specimen was reportedly taken, its whereabouts is unknown. The fact that a specimen was taken and mounted and observed by Coale elevates this record to a IV category in contrast to Peck's where no specimen was involved.

IV, Mounted specimen seen, but no background on Mr. Coale's ability -- no photograph of specimen exists, and specimen also lost. Thus would be in category of record #1 above.

REVOTE (1993): 6 NA, 1 no vote

no vote, Probably same bird as 81 AB.

NA, There is no extant evidence for this bird. The specimen was not photographed (assuming that it is not the same bird as 81-AB), and no description or measurements given. It is possible that this specimen is the same as 81-AB, and that it somehow moved from the Lone Tree Club in Illinois to a store in Burlington, but we'll never know.

NA, I subscribe to the same bird theory. Specifics probably lost in secondhand accounts.

NA, Same as 81-AB.

NA, Perhaps the same bird? No way to know if the stories are accurate as to date and circumstances. The specimen could have been moved from one business to another.

81-AC

13 September 1993

To: IOU Records Committee

From: Tom Kent

Re: Request for reconsideration of record

Records: 81-AC Magnificent Frigatebird (see also 81-AB)

Reason for request: Reevaluation of evidence with 81-AB.

Comment: One specimen was photographed by Bartsch. The questions are whether the hearsay evidence of this bird being in Iowa are correct and whether the two reports refer to the same bird. I don't remember whether I was one of the dissenters on the original votes, but am now inclined to accept 91-AB as having been in Iowa. I also suspect that the stories may apply to the same bird. I would accept 81-AB, not 81-AC.

Family FREGATIDÆ. Man-o'-war Birds

Anderson 1907
p 163

The Man-o'-war or Frigate Bird is an almost strictly maritime, predaceous bird, with wonderful powers of flight. Only one species occurs in America, and is not uncommon on southern coasts. W. W. Cooke (Bird Migr. in Miss. Val., 1884-5, 60) reports two instances of its occurrence at a distance of eight hundred miles from the nearest salt water; one killed in Osborne county, Kansas, Aug. 16, 1880; and one killed a few miles north of Milwaukee, Wis., in August, 1880.

Genus FREGATA Cuvier.

26. (124). *Fregata aquila* (Linn.). Man-o'-war Bird.

The Man-o'-war Bird is only an accidental visitant in Iowa. Morton E. Peck (Iowa Orn., ii, 2, 1896, 34) reports the occurrence of a specimen at LaPorte, Iowa (Blackhawk county), and Dr. Paul Bartsch told me of a specimen taken near Burlington, Iowa, by a gunner in the latter part of September, 1903, but as it was not known whether obtained on the Iowa or Illinois side of the Mississippi River, the latter may hardly be considered as an official Iowa record.

22 IOWA STUDIES IN NATURAL HISTORY

Family Fregatidae

Fregata magnificens Mathews. Man-o'-war-bird

Dumont 1933
p 22

Accidental. Anderson (1907) gives the following records: "The Man-o'-war-bird is only an accidental visitant in Iowa. Morton E. Peck (Iowa Orn., ii, 2, 1896, 34) reports the occurrence of a specimen at LaPorte, Iowa (Blackhawk County), and Dr. Paul Bartsch told me of a specimen taken near Burlington, Iowa, by a gunner in the latter part of September, 1903, but as it was not known whether obtained on the Iowa or Illinois side of the Mississippi River, the latter may hardly be considered as an official Iowa record."

Relative to the above observation Morton E. Peck on October 12, 1932, wrote that the specimen was not taken, but that the bird observed could hardly have been anything but this species.

In the Auk (XXVII, p. 75), Henry K. Coale of Highland Park, Illinois, records that while passing through Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa, he saw a mounted Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata aquila*) in a store window. Upon inquiry he was told that the bird was killed in the spring of 1904. It was first noticed by some hunters as it flew along the Illinois shore of the Mississippi, who shot at it, when it turned and flew across the river into the city of Burlington where it struck an electric light wire and was killed. Coale believed it to be the first record for Iowa and for Illinois. Another occurrence, referred to by Anderson, was recorded by Paul Bartsch (Auk, XXXIX, pp. 249-250) who stated that on a visit to the Lone Tree Club, near Gladstone, Illinois, on October 10, 1903, he saw a mounted specimen of a Man-o'-war-bird. Inquiry revealed that the bird had been found in an exhausted condition on the Iowa bluffs of the Mississippi, immediately south of Burlington, in August of the same year, and although it had been fed, they had succeeded in keeping it alive for a few days only. He believed this to be the first Iowa record for the Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata magnificens rothschildi*).

Magnificent Frigatebird

81-AC

Coale, H. K. 1910. A new bird for Illinois. Auk 27:75.

A New Bird for Illinois.— While passing through Burlington, Iowa, recently, I saw a mounted Man-o'-war-bird (*Fregata aquila*) in a store window. Upon inquiry I was told that the bird was killed in the spring of 1904. It was first noticed by some hunters as it flew along the Illinois shore of the Mississippi, who shot at it, when it turned and flew across the river into the heart of the city of Burlington where it struck an electric light wire and fell into the street. The next day it died and the man who picked it up had it mounted and exhibited in his window. This is the first record for Illinois and also for Iowa, as far as I know.—HENRY K. COALE, Highland Park, Ill.