

Brown Pelican

26 Apr 1959

Brenton Sl., Polk Co., IA

Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley

also 2 May; Peasley and Peasley 1960, IBL 61:83

Record Number: 89-AC

Classification: A-D

REFERENCES

Peasley, H. R., and Mrs. H. R. Peasley. 1960. Brown Pelican record near Des Moines. IBL 30:47.

Records Committee: IBL 61:83

VOTE: 4 A-D, 2 NA

A-D. Observers are familiar with species and a pelican that plunges into water to feed is, in all probability, a Brown Pelican.

A-D. Again, no written description of plumage. However, "characteristic plunge" and date of observation, suggesting adult bird, should rule out White Pelican, the only other possible contender for this easily identified species.

NA. No details of bird. I am, however, tempted to accept this bird due to the fact that many persons saw it and because it should be easy to identify.

A-D. Barely acceptable. The only description is of plunge diving--a good feature for Brown Pelican. The ease of identification and experience of the observers convinces me beyond doubt. This is definitely a judgement call, as I might reject other records with the same amount of evidence.

NA. While observers were convinced of ID and had seen species in S. Carolina, there is no description of bird. Probably correct record, however.

REVOTE AT MEETING: 7 A-D

89-ac Brown Pelican; 26 Apr 1959; Brenton Sl., Polk Co., IA; Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley; also 2 May.

Peasley, Dr. and Mrs. H. R. 1960. Brown Pelican record near Des Moines. Iowa Bird Life 30:47.

**Brown Pelican Record near Des Moines.**— April 26, 1959, a raw, cold, rainy day with a strong wind blowing, didn't appear to be a good birding day. Nevertheless we decided to drive to Brenton's Slough to look for water birds. We invited Dorothy Anderson to accompany us. When we arrived at Brenton's Slough, northwest of Des Moines, we were astonished to find a Brown Pelican on one of the ponds in the area. It flew from one pond to another during the two hours we were there. We watched with interest while the bird made its characteristic plunge into the water while feeding.

We had seen our first Brown Pelican at Savannah Beach, South Carolina, in September, 1958, and had enjoyed watching its interesting feeding habits. Only two previous records of the Brown Pelican in Iowa can be found, the last in 1930. We studied the bird carefully through a 20-power scope and 8-power binoculars. It was observed by many members of the Des Moines Audubon Society and was still present in the area May 2, 1959, the day of the spring bird count.

Other birds observed on April 26 included three Common Egrets, ten Willets and three Wilson's Snipes. On May 2 the number of Egrets had increased to five.—DR. AND MRS. HAROLD R. PEASLEY, 2001 Nash Drive, Des Moines, Iowa.