

Magnificent Frigatebird

. CA 1896

La Porte City, Black Hawk Co., IA

Morten E. Peck

Peck 1896, DuMont 1933

Record Number: 81-AA

Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Peck, M.E. 1896. Note. Iowa Ornithologist 2:34.

Anderson 1907

DuMont 1933

VOTE (1981): 1-II, 3-IV, 3-V

V, Could be IV if more known about Peck's ability

IV, Peck was a good observer, with collecting trips to Central America and the frigatebird is hard to mistake; obviously more information on the sighting would have been desirable.

V, no details.

II, Distinctive bird. Term 'specimen' in Anderson's day not always used to mean skin or mount.

V, Unclear whether Peck actually saw the bird or whether it was second hand report. NO description of the bird given NOR any account of the circumstances of its sighting. No specimen taken.

IV, rather than V as appears to have been accepted by DuMont. No written description of bird exists.

Peck, M. E. 1896. Note. Iowa Ornithologist 2:34.

81-AA

NOTE—During the discussion which followed the reading of the paper, Mr. Morton E. Peck reported the occurrence of the Ring-billed Gull and the Man-'o-War Bird at LaPorte, his home place. Mention was made also of the Least Tern, the species having been seen in Winnebago county.

## 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*).