

American Swallow-tailed Kite  
May 1888  
Lime Springs, Howard Co., IA  
W. W. Searles  
Iowa Orn. 1:90, DuMont 1933

Record Number: 93-BS  
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

W. W. Searles. 1895. In "Notes and News". Iowa Ornithologist  
1:90

DuMont 1933

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, Searles gives no description and years for the various sightings are confusing. Here is one way of sorting out his records: (1) May 1888 for 3 days abundant; (2) ca 1888-90 (five years ago) one shot and mounted (perhaps one of the 1988 birds); (3) between 1888-90 and present (ca 1893-95) three specimens (perhaps taken by others since the next one is his first "in this locality" in 5 years); and (4) ca 1893-95 a fine specimen seen but not shot. The first volume of the Iowa Ornithologist contained material from 1994 and 1895, but the notes may have been sent in preceding years. I did not separate these records for voting, because I just found the original reference which indicates several sightings. If anyone wants to accept one or more of these, please specify such records separately. /thk

NA, (all records)./ wrs

lecting world, having been an enthusiastic collector of and dealer in Natural History specimens for the past 15 years. Mr. Bartlett is editor and publisher of the *Farmers Monthly* a successful agricultural journal, of large circulation and influence.

W. W. Searles, Lime Springs, Iowa, writes: While fishing the other day I saw a fine specimen of the Swallow-tail Kite but he did not come in range of my shot gun but just far enough away to be healthy for him. It is the first I have seen in this locality for four years. Five years ago I shot a fine specimen and mounted it. In May the spring of '88 for three days they were very abundant, but this was the first time I observed of a few of our common species, for each year, this will show the comparison at a glance.

1894  
 1895  
 March 2, March 29  
 Flicker, Blue bird, Robin, Meadow Lark, Red-winged Blackbird, Chewink, Song Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Pewee, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Purple Martin: April 7  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, " 13

## BIRD MIGRATION.

1894-'95 COMPARED.

In studying bird migration this spring in this County (Jackson), as compared with last season, two remarkable features present themselves; first the lateness of the arrival of the early migrants, except Ducks; and second the scarcity of some of our common species. I find that migration commenced about twenty days later in 1895 than in 1894, but afterward gradually caught up and the latter part of the season was in advance. The arrival of species the last few days of April were about the same both years. I give the dates of the arrival of a few of our common species, for each year, this will show the comparison at a glance.

Cowbird,	" 13	" 8	nest. It is to be hoped they will not be molested this time, that they may help bring back this species to its former abundance.
White-throated Sparrow,	" 17	" 28	Next in scarcity was the Yellow-rumped Warbler: the first one was seen this season May 5th. Nineteen days later than last season, and I only noted ten specimens throughout the Spring migration. The Wood Pewee is very scarce this season, though not as scarce as the two former species. They are usually quite abundant.
White-bellied Sparrow,	" 17	" 28	
Swallow,	" 14	" 20	
Brown Thrush,	" 17	" 21	
Whip-poor-will,	" 23	" 24	
Bank Swallow,	" 26	" 25	
Oven bird,	" 28	" 20	
Chimney Swallow,	" 28	" 30	
King bird,	" 28	" 29	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak,	" 29	" 28	
Wood Thrush,	" 30	" 28	
Olive-backed Thrush,	May 3	" 4	
Thrush,	May 3	" 4	
Cat bird,	April 30	" 4	
Indigo bird,	May 3	" 4	
Baltimore Oriole,	" 4	" 1	In the southern part of Van Buren County, Iowa, is a little patch of about three acres of hazel brush and other undergrowth, on three sides of this brush is considerable timber and on the side is an open field. Nearby is a small creek; thus making a paradise for birds that like such situations. On May 18, 1895, two of my friends and myself had occasion to pass through this thick-ct. It is perhaps 60 rods long, and in going this distance, scarce this spring the Blue birds are the most noticeable, as in fact they may be classed as one of our rare birds. Up to the 19th. of May, I had only seen four specimens, but on that date I found a nest with four eggs. Some-thing destroyed this set, however, the pair stayed about and now have a set of five eggs in the same
Warbling Vireo	" 14	" 11	
Wood Pewee,	" 14	" 11	
Night Hawk,	" 10	" 3	
Yellow-breasted Chat,	12	" 8	
Warbler,	" 10	" 3	
Chestnut-sided Tennessee Warbler,	10	" 3	
Redstart,	" 8	" 4	
Scarlet Tanager,	" 8	" 1	
Red-eyed Vireo,	" 6	" 3	
Orchard Oriole,	" 5	" 4	
Baltimore Oriole,	" 4	" 1	

## A Favorite Place.

H. J. GIDDINGS.

Two nests of the Field Sparrow. One nest of the Brown Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, and Chestnut-sided Warbler. How was this for a short walk?  
 D. L. S.

*Elanoides forficatus forficatus* (Linnaeus). Swallow-tailed Kite

Very rare. This beautiful bird was formerly a fairly common summer resident throughout the state, but by 1880, apparently, it was considerably reduced in numbers and was thereafter observed most frequently as a migrant. The last migratory flight of any size is mentioned by W. W. Searles, of Lime Springs, Howard County (Iowa Ornithologist, I, 1895, p. 90) who found them abundant for three days during May, 1888.

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DuMont 1934  
pp 45-46

Records of this bird in Iowa since 1900 are indeed few. An adult specimen taken during the fall of 1901 by D. J. Bullock in Jasper County, is now in the Bullock collection, Des Moines. An immature male was collected at Cedar Rapids, Linn County, September 20, 1903. It is now in the Coe College collection. Another taken in Sheridan Township, Poweshiek County, September, 1907, is in the collection at Grinnell College. The collector is unknown. Spurrell (1917) says: "Mr. Lee reported the swallow-tailed kite as rare, with the last one seen in 1908." Nauman records (Palimpsest, V, p. 137) seeing one flying over the town of Sigourney during the summer of 1910. Bailey (1918) states: "The last recorded observation of this bird in Iowa was made by J. H. Scott, of Iowa City, on Wapsipinicon River near Independence in August, 1912." One of the two specimens of Swallow-tailed Kite in the Shaffer collection, Jefferson County Library, Fairfield, was killed by B. F. McElhinny in 1913, in Jefferson County. Fenton (1923-24) records one seen by C. H. Belanski and himself at Hackberry Grove, Cerro Gordo County, May 28, 1916. Myron H. Swenk records (Wilson Bull., XLIV, p. 182) a specimen killed by a farmer early in July, 1931 along the West Nishnabotna River, a few miles southwest of Oakland, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. The specimen was mounted by Karl Schwarz of Omaha, and is now in Swenk's collection, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Besides the five Iowa specimens mentioned above there are several others taken prior to 1900. One in the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., was taken at Sioux City by D. H. Talbot. Another Talbot specimen was collected by J. F. Baker at Sioux City, Woodbury County, April 8, 1883. It is a male, and is in the collection of the University of Iowa Museum. A mounted specimen, taken by J. B. Atkins in Jasper County, is in the Parker Museum at Grinnell College. Three specimens from Scott County, without dates, are in the collection of the Davenport Public Museum. Two of the specimens were taken by S. C. Bowman and the other by W. L. Allen. A second specimen in the Shaffer collection, Fairfield, was probably taken in Fairfield County by J. M. Shaffer, sometime before 1900. Fenton (1923-24) states that there is a specimen in the Miles collection, Charles City, which was probably taken in Floyd County. Spurrell (1917) records that one in the H. B. Smith collection, Odebolt, was taken in Ida County.

Bailey (1918) recorded this species as a former breeder in Woodbury, Crawford, Carroll, Greene, Decatur, Blackhawk, and Benton counties.