

Eskimo Curlew
3 May 1901
Davenport, Scott Co., IA
M. Abbott Frazar
Hodges, J.

Record Number: 93-DC
Classification: A-D

REFERENCE

Hodges, J. 1950. Specimen of the Eskimo Curlew for Iowa discovered. IBL 20:26.

VOTE: 5 A-D

A-D, Thanks to Jim Hodges for locating this specimen. We should attempt to photograph the specimen at Charleston, SC. Hodges raises some concern about the origin, but at least there is a date and place. This could be our only A-S record. /thk

Hodges, J. 1950. Specimen of the Eskimo Curlew for Iowa discovered.
Iowa Bird Life 20:26

Specimen of the Eskimo Curlew for Iowa Discovered.—A local ornithologist, Donald Davison, told me that when he visited Arthur T. Wayne in South Carolina a good many years ago he noticed that Mr. Wayne's collection contained a skin of the Eskimo Curlew taken in Iowa. Upon securing this information I instigated a search for the specimen, which was found in the Charleston Museum at Charleston, South Carolina. This specimen was purchased from the estate of Arthur T. Wayne in 1930 and is number 30.147.229 in the Charleston Museum collection. The original label reads as follows:

Numenius borealis. Female

May 3, 1901. Davenport, Iowa.

Reverse: Bought of M. Abbott Frazar.

The original tag on the specimen reads:

Female. Davenport, Iowa

May 3-01.

Reverse: aan. \$6.50

This specimen is significant on several counts. It is one of the few Iowa specimens the exact location of which is known. DuMont (A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa) lists only three known specimens; thus this is the fourth. DuMont also records that there appear to be no Iowa records of this species after 1893, the species being extinct in Iowa. The Charleston specimen advances the last record eight years.

However, the data on the specimen still leave some information to be desired. Who collected the bird and how did M. Abbott Frazar secure it? Since the bird is now extinct, it would be of interest to know the exact location where the bird was collected, though it was probably at or near Davenport.

I wish to express my appreciation of the following individuals who aided my quest for this specimen: Donald Davison, Davenport, Iowa; Alexander Sprunt, Jr., National Audubon Society; James L. Peters, Museum of Comparative Zoology; and E. Milby Burton, Director of the Charleston Museum.—
JAMES HODGES, Davenport, Iowa.