

Purple Gallinule
22 May 1978
Ames, Story Co., IA
Lorna Volner, J. Dinsmore, Graham
Dinsmore and Graham 1979, Dinsmore 1992

Record Number: 93-CV
Classification: A-S

SPECIMEN

Iowa State University #1648

PHOTOGRAPH

T. H. Kent, of specimen, P-0113

REFERENCE

Dinsmore, J. J., and D. L. Graham. 1979. Purple Gallinule in Ames. IBL 49:87-88.

Dinsmore, J. J. 1992. Recent additions to the Iowa State University bird collection. IBL 62:1-8.

Photograph: IBL 62:4 (Dinsmore)

VOTE: 5 A-S

A-S, Color photograph shows purple head and underparts and metallic green back and wings. The white undertail coverts are shown in one photo. This bird appears to lack the pale blue frontal shield. Can anyone explain that? /thk

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Purple Gallinule in Ames - On 22 May 1978 Mrs. Lorna Volmer found an injured Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) in her yard in north Ames, only a few hundred meters from a wooded park adjacent to the Skunk River. The bird was easy to approach and eventually was given to Graham. He found that the right femur was broken, and set it with a steel pin. The bird weakened and died on 23 May. Graham then gave the bird to Dinsmore who prepared it as specimen No. 1648 in the Iowa State University collection of birds. The bird, a female, was emaciated.

Anderson (1907) considered the species accidental in Iowa, listing three early workers (Allen, Peck, and Krider) who mentioned the species although no specimens were collected. Fenton (1916) claimed one was shot in Floyd County in 1891 and another was seen near Charles City on 9 September 1915 but Gabrielson (1917) questioned the validity of those records. Brown (1971) mentions two more records: one in 1937 near Cedar Falls (Dix, 1937) and one photographed in 1964 south of Iowa City (Kent, 1964). More recently one was seen on a farm pond 7 miles south of Ottumwa in late summer and early fall 1974 (Ayres and Ayres, 1975; D. and C. Ayres, pers. commun.) and another was seen near Promise City on 10 May 1975 (Brown, 1975). Thus this constitutes the fifth unquestioned record of the Purple Gallinule in Iowa in this century and the first for which a specimen is available.

LITERATURE CITED

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1964. A Purple Gallinule in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 34: 50-51.
- JAMES J. DINSMORE, Dept. Animal Ecology, Iowa State Univ., Ames, and
DAVID L. GRAHAM, Dept. Vet. Pathology, Iowa State Univ., Ames 50011.

American Avocet: Laura Jackson of the D.N.R. found a dead avocet in a pond near Martensdale, Warren County on 13 September 1985. It apparently was killed by one of the few from Iowa.

Long-billed Curlew: One was shot near West Swan Lake, Emmet County on 12 November 1967. The bird was mounted and held privately until 1988 when Carl Priebe of Sidney became aware of it and had it donated to Iowa State University (#2496). Carol Henderson of the Minnesota D.N.R. gave Iowa State a study skin of a male (#2520) collected by Harold L. Bond of Tiffin, Iowa. Data on the tag indicate it was taken near Hornick, Woodbury County but the date on the tag is not completely legible and reads Ma_31, 1893; most likely it was taken in May (Fig. 4).

Western Sandpiper: Among the specimens received from Philip DuMont was a juvenile female taken by DuMont near Mitchellville, Polk County on 23 August 1933 (#2016, Fig. 6). DuMont has described this bird elsewhere (DuMont 1933a, b). Paul Bartsch collected three at Burlington on 15 October 1895 (DuMont 1933b).

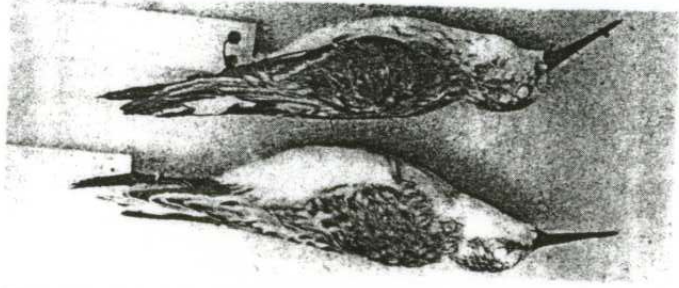


Figure 6. Western Sandpipers (top, #2016) found near Mitchellville, Iowa and for comparison (bottom, #569) from Lost Island Lake, Iowa on 28 July 1934.

Least Tern: The left wing of an adult bird was found by Steve Dinsmore of Ames at the Iowa Power and Light Ponds, Pottawattamie County on 30 May 1988 (#2478)(Bendorf and Kent 1991). It appeared to be the remains of a bird killed by a predator. I also received a study skin (#2519) from the collection of Harold L. Bond of Tiffin, Iowa. This bird was taken on a sandbar in the Missouri River in July 1894 (Fig. 7). Stiles (1938) took two adults on the Missouri River near Sioux City in 1937 but those specimens cannot be located. Thus, these two are the only specimens of this species from Iowa.

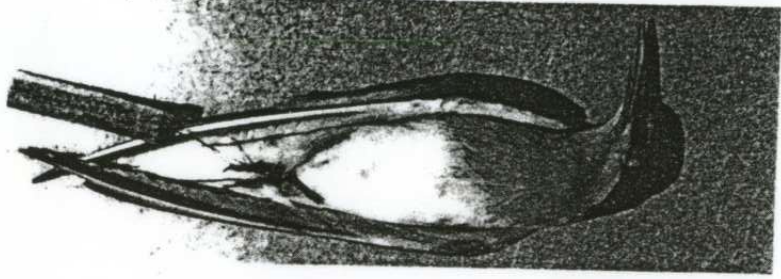


Figure 7. Least Tern (#2519) taken on the Missouri River.

Dinsmore of Ames at the television towers near Alleman, Polk County on 21 September 1985 (#1897, IBL 55:124). An immature male was found dead in Cherokee by Dick Bierman of Cherokee on 20 October 1987 (#2424, IBL 58:18). An unsexed bird found dead by Carl Kurtz near St. Anthony, Marshall County on 4 April 1991 (#2544, IBL 61:114) is the earliest spring report of the species in Iowa.

Purple Gallinule: A female with a broken leg (#1648) found by Lorna Volmer of Ames on 22 May 1978 died the next day (Dinsmore and Graham 1979). It is the only specimen of this species from Iowa (Fig. 4).

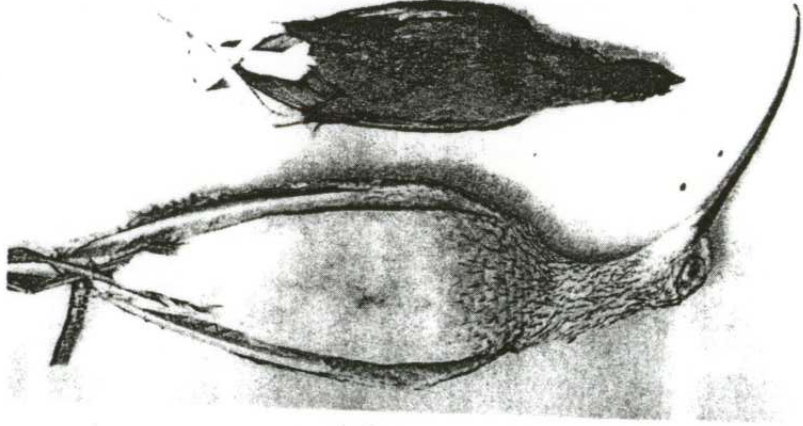


Figure 4. Long-billed Curlew (#2496) from Hornick, Iowa and Purple Gallinule (#1648) from Ames, Iowa.

Sandhill Crane: Bob Kurtz of the D.N.R. found an injured male at Otter Creek Marsh, Tama County on 13 November 1979; it died on 24 November 1979 (#1651, IBL 49:112).

Piping Plover: Babs and Loren Padelford of Bellevue, Nebraska found a male dead at the Iowa Power and Light Ponds near Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County on 11 June 1983 (#1771, Fig. 5). There are few Iowa specimens of this endangered species.



Figure 5. Piping Plover (#1771) found dead near Council Bluffs, Iowa.