

Long-billed Curlew  
CA 1875  
Clay Co., IA  
F.W. Calkins  
1865-1875; Stephens 1943

Record Number: 93-DJ  
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Stephens, T.C. 1943. Early bird life in Clay County Iowa. IBL  
13:65.

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, I guess we can assume that Stephens copied or paraphrased Calkins' letter correctly. We do not know whether Calkins was writing from memory in 1917 or from notes that he had made earlier. Settlement of Clay County occurred at about that time (1865-1875). I would be inclined to use the data if it fits with other information on the decline of this species. /thk

Stephens, T. C. 1943. Early bird life in Clay County Iowa. IBL 13:65.

**Early Bird Life in Clay County, Iowa.**—Some interesting information on the early bird life of northern Iowa is contained in a letter to the writer (dated, August 30, 1917) from Franklin W. Calkins. These comments on various bird species by Mr. Calkins apply to Clay County, Iowa, between the years 1865 and 1885.

Snow Goose. Small flocks were occasionally seen from 1865 to 1880.  
Baldpate, or Widgeon. Great numbers passed through in the spring and fall migrations.

Pintail. Flocks of thousands passed northward in the spring at least up to 1884; but never in autumn.

Canvas-back. They were occasionally seen from 1866 to 1880.

Ruffed Grouse. They were never seen in Clay County.

Wild Turkey. Only a single turkey was heard of in Clay County, and that was in Gillett Grove in 1867.

Whooping Crane ("White Crane"). Not known to nest, but thousands in annual flight, April and November.

Sandhill Crane. Great numbers passed through in autumn; many nested in Clay County from 1865 to 1880.

Golden Plover. Thousands of them in migration from the last of August to the first of October.

Black-bellied Plover. Never observed in Clay County.

Woodcock. A few in the larger groves along the Little Sioux River.

Long-billed Curlew. Nested in Clay County from 1865 to 1875, but was never numerous. ]

Upland Plover. Very numerous all summer up to 1876; literally shot out after the coming of the railroad.

Wild Pigeon. One flock of 27 was seen in 1866.

Little Green Paroquet. Was never seen in Clay County.—T. C. STEPHENS, Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa.