

Long-billed Curlew

CA 1876

Sac Co., IA

Smith collection

spec, P-0080, Spurrell 1917, DuMont 1933

Record Number: 93-DK  
Classification: A-S

SPECIMEN

Rockwell City [as of 1982/THK]

PHOTOGRAPHS

T. H. Kent, of specimen, P-0080

REFERENCES

Spurrell, J.A. 1917. Annotated list of the water birds, game birds and birds of prey of Sac County Iowa. Wilson Bull.

29:141-160.

DuMont 1933

VOTE: 5 A-S

A-S, I photographed the specimen at Rockwell City in May 1982 after the Smith collection had been moved from Odebolt. The label gives the species name only and may have been added later. As with the other specimens in the Smith collection, I accept Spurrell's statements about the origin. The collection is not contaminated by other specimens that might be confused with Smith's. /thk



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Longbilled  
Curlew

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WESTERN

Long-billed Curlew P-0080  
Sac Co.  
CA 1876 H. B. Smith collec

93-DK

11-033

Spurrell, J. A. 1917. Annotated list of the water birds, game birds and birds of prey of Sac County Iowa. *Wilson Bull* 29:141-160.

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*). Specimen in the Smith collection. Mr. Smith said they were rare after he came in 1876. Mr. Lee reported seeing none of late years, but that formerly they were common and nested, the last nest about 1885. ]

*Numenius americanus americanus* Bechstein. Long-billed Curlew

Very rare migrant. Formerly a common summer resident, breeding in the northern part of the state. However, there are no nesting records since 1890, or a little earlier. The observations during the past twenty-five years are very few. The following notes from the Sioux City region were contained in a letter from T. C. Stephens, January 30, 1933: "A. J. Anderson, taxidermist, told me of seeing two of these curlews alight on a sandbar in the Missouri River about opposite Crystal Lake on October 25, 1914. He said that the two birds had bills of different lengths, which he attributed to age. He was quite positive of his identification. On May 14, 1921, Anderson told me of seeing a Long-billed Curlew (on this date) at a slough between Salix and Sergeant Bluff." Fenton (1923-24) said that he saw two birds in Floyd County, April 14, 1918, that were without doubt of this species. One was seen by Walter Rosene and Robert Walker of Ogden, Boone County, on May 15, 1932, in a marshy pasture four miles north of Ogden. Rosene, well acquainted with this bird on its breeding ground in western Nebraska, recognized the call immediately and observed it for several minutes which allowed a study of head markings and a comparison of size.

Few Iowa specimens with data are preserved. A female, No. 10662, in the University of Iowa Museum, was taken at Wolf Creek Slough, Woodbury County, April 8, 1884 by D. H. Talbot. The exposed culmen measures 198.1 mms. One in the Shaffer collection was taken in Jefferson County by C. S. McElhinny, but no date was recorded. The great length of the bill would indicate that it was a female. One in the Odebolt High School was collected by H. B. Smith in Sac County. The exposed culmen measures 200.6 mms. One in the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences was taken in Dickinson County, June 10, 1881, by W. L. Abbott. No. 10151, in the Davenport Public Museum, was taken by S. C. Bowman in Iowa. ]

DuMont <sup>1933</sup> 1934  
pp 66-67