

Eskimo Curlew  
SP 1866  
northwestern Iowa, IA  
John Smith  
Hough 1901, IBL 65:82

Record Number: 94-AF  
Classification: A-D

REFERENCE

Hough, E. 1901. The dough bird again. Forest and Stream 56:146.  
Records Committee: IBL 65:82

VOTE: 6 A-D, 1 NA

A-D, In contrast to my usual policy of not accepting anecdotal records, I have no reason to doubt this record. Eskimo Curlew is known to migrate with Golden Plovers, and the date (May) and circumstances of the sighting fit Eskimo Curlew. Sad that this type of record is all we have of Eskimo Curlew.

A-D, The market value of this bird, the ease with which it was shot, and the date and habitat support this record.

A-D, The evidence although not descriptive is convincing that John Smith would make the right ID. My only concern would be the highly improbable mistaken ID with the much larger Long-billed Curlew.

A-D, Observer recognized difference from plovers so assume identification was correct.

A-D, Inclined to accept without descriptive details because story seems correct in terms of what we know about this species.

NA, No description given but an intriguing idea of what might have been possible in mid to late 1800's in Iowa.

A-D, Although no info on plumage, habits and timing of migration (including comparison with east coast) leave little doubt as to ID.

and stormed, but Wednesday and brought home the remainder of I could tote. We are now enjoying boils, stews, etc., and I am willing

## AND THE WEST.

### Illinois Game Laws.

14.—Last week I mentioned some changes in the Illinois game law, at the fight at Springfield on these terms as the months go by. There is a feeling of dissatisfaction with the strict protectionists and among spring shooting abolished. Secure intelligent legislature for the fowl the Monmouth Gun Club has the legions who have been in favor of a policy of spring shooting. Fred Allen, known shooter of lower Illinois good fellows, has been the leader of the Club. I wish that he might have a chance to see that this attitude of him is not only selfish one. In order to protect themselves in the spring, they have adopted a policy which is damaging to the shooters. Now, Fred Allen would not say they have had a chance to let us have rotation in office and a chance.

### Shooting in Nebraska.

of Grand Island, Neb., writes the matters in his part of the world: "I have endeavored to introduce and spring shooting, to which our sportsmen have the simple reason that in spring, ducks pass over our country, we have not the birds, as in the fall they are, but pass over us, generally of the going south. Twenty years ago we have here, but *tempora mutantur*, and geese and ducks." "I have endeavored on spring shooting is precisely the Monmouth Gun Club and of those who are standing out for the deeper St. Clair and other waters. It is not to say, selfish. Now if all our sportsmen abolish spring shooting it would be as another. We would certainly place or another in the fall, and if these ducks would stop within the Nebraska, in Michigan, or in any other place we can have shooting in our own way. We all of us, whether in Nebraska, have got to count on getting to those less settled regions and breeding grounds for the fowl. It is non-resident shooting is to be a part of our population, a non-resident may come to sit pretty heavily on the shooter, yet he must simply accept the expense, which is inevitable in the days, and charge up his license and fare. Every man in Nebraska, whether a constable, or coroner, officers or immediate vicinity. Very good. It is to a President of the United States officer supposed to be useful to the whole country? It is the same game protection. We ought to own dooryard in finding the appropriate measure. For the men of Michigan to say that they want localities because otherwise they are simply to say they think the officer for them, that they do not like the United States, and that their whole country. Now, this arguing sometimes gets very bitter. I am anything to its bitterness, but I am a sportsman, such as I am sure Mr. Allen's present code of game laws our sportsmen about as fast as it can. The object is to mitigate the unceasing re- it is pursued. It is thought by many to do some of this mitigating in the mating season.

### Load of Quail.

There remain the only two States shipped, yet it is pleasant to be able that she now and then takes a calmer. Mr. Mayer incloses the the way a big Chicago provision

though B. C. Eldridge, of South

and came across a mountain lion, which they treed. They had no gun or other weapon with them—nothing but a lariat, which they intended to rope their horses with. After the lion ran up the tree, Owens, Sr., climbed up after it, roped it, threw the rope over a limb, pulled the lion out and hanged him. Not very much fight in that lion, was there?"

### Prairie Chickens in Illinois.

Mr. A. W. Russell, of Wheaton, Ill., sends the following note regarding a bunch of Illinois chickens, which he has discovered within twenty miles of Chicago: "While riding yesterday two miles south of Wheaton I met a bunch of eighty-one prairie chickens back of a barnyard. They were tame and in fine condition, and I was told by the farmer that they came over every morning, and had their roost in a small grove half a mile from his barn."

### San Francisco Fly-Casting Club Expels Mr. Lovett.

The end of a very bitter and unpleasant factional fight in the San Francisco Fly-Casting Club is announced in the following dispatch, which is printed in the Record of this city:

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 13.—For "conduct unbecoming a gentleman and clubman" Alvah E. Lovett was expelled last night from the San Francisco Fly-Casting Club. The trouble grew out of the national fly-casting tournament in Chicago last August, when Lovett was a representative of the San Francisco Club. He was accused of tampering with the lines of W. D. Mansfield, president of the club, who was thereby rendered unable to enter the contests. Lovett was his rival.

Unpleasantness developed between these two gentlemen during their presence at the tournament of the Chicago Fly-Casting Club here last summer, and since then each gentleman has applied to members of the Chicago Fly-Casting Club with letters asking for evidence on the one side or the other.

### Chicago Fly-Casting Club.

The annual meeting of the Chicago Fly-Casting Club was held at the Monroe restaurant on the evening of Feb. 11, following the annual banquet. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, W. T. Church; Vice-President, H. G. Hascall; Secretary-Treasurer, N. C. Heston; Captain, A. C. Smith; member of Executive Committee, H. Wheeler Perce. There were thirty members present, and the usual enjoyable time was experienced. Dr. Armstrong told his usual merry stories. Mr. B. H. Bradley described his bass fishing trips on the Kankakee, Mr. Leonard Goodwin pulled off a series of fish stories and the new president, Mr. Church, made a general talk in very agreeable fashion.

### Illinois Fish Exhibit.

Dr. S. P. Bartlett, of the Illinois State Fish Commission, is in Chicago for the purpose of arranging the aquaria for the exposition of the International Forest, Fish and Game Association, which begins on Feb. 27. Dr. Bartlett is as hale and hearty as he was fifty years ago, and is as much to-day a friend to the carp as he ever was. I asked him if he intended giving a generous exhibit of carp at the show, and he said he knew no reason why that noble creature should not have a full representation.

"The trouble with you fellows is, you don't understand the carp," said Dr. Bartlett. "He is just as good a fish to eat as any other fish, if you know how to cook him. Of course, you can't broil or fry or bake or boil a carp. You have got to know how to cook him right. Now, you don't like to eat a raw cucumber, do you? Yet if you take the same cucumber and make it a vehicle for certain sauces and condiments, you find that the cucumber is very good indeed. It is the same way with the carp."

I suggested to Dr. Bartlett that perhaps the time of the Illinois State Fish Commission might be very well spent in planting cucumbers and not carp, but he seemed to think that this work was not germane to the purposes of the Commission.

"You newspaper men are all alike," said he. "I remember once taking this thing up with Gene Field while he was alive. Gene used to come out with a column or so every once in a while on 'How to Plant Carp.' He said that some people thought they were better planted in hills, but he himself held they should be planted in rows."

With this latter opinion I think the sportsmen of the country would be very apt to agree.

Dr. Bartlett, none the less, will have a splendid exhibit of Illinois fish at the exposition, and indeed the entire fish exhibit will be a great feature. Matters are beginning to hum here now, and a number of exhibits are headed for Chicago, which will reach here early in the week, including a number of the trout and ouananiche from the Canadian Provinces.

### Notes of the Show.

Joe Kipp, of the Blackfoot reservation, one of the best known characters of Montana, writes that he will be on

The proposal to decorate the interior of the Coliseum with pines has proved a tremendous undertaking, though since it has been started it will be completed. Two enormous Norway pines will be erected outside the door of the Coliseum, and odd enough they will seem on the street of the busy city, where never a tree has stood for a generation. The artists needed a large number of Norway pines for the columns to face the interior arches, and they chose this tree on account of its orange colored bark and its wide and bushy top. Charlie Norris, boss of the woods crew, who has started in early this week at State Line, Wis., to get these trees, is meeting with a great deal of difficulty. Each tree of the dimensions specified weighs over six tons. Each tree has to be let down with a block and tackle, for at this season the branches are as brittle as icicles. The tops have to be sawn off and brought in separately. It will take a train of twelve cars to bring the trunks of the trees, and there will be vast quantities of spruce, balsam, pine and oak trees used as well.

While Cy DeVry, animal keeper, was down at the Caton deer park at Ottawa, to take charge of some of the deer which the Caton estate has been good enough to lend this exposition, he was unfortunate enough to allow three of the ten deer to escape, and the probability is that they will never be recaptured.

Mr. Evans, who will have charge of the several hundred pheasants which will be shown at the show, also had a misfortune this week. There was one beautiful imported hen for which \$70 had been paid, but which broke a wing in the crate. The wing was amputated, but the bird died three days after.

### The Dough Bird Again.

Mr. John G. Smith, of Algona, Ia., long time president of the Iowa State Sportsmen's Association, and a sportsman of experience, adds to the information regarding the dough bird in a recent letter, which reads as below: "I notice in the FOREST AND STREAM of Jan. 26 an article 'All About the Dough Bird.' Years ago I went to Eastham, on Cape Cod, shooting almost every year. I generally arrived at Eastham about Aug. 24. Between that time and Sept. 1 the golden plover and Esquimaux curlew were likely to come on from the north. Ten of us rented about 400 acres of old pasture land and burned it over, as the birds liked the burnt ground. We dug holes in the sandy ground and put out about fifty decoys. We often had fine shooting both at the golden plover and dough birds. Both came to the decoys very nicely, and many times I have had them come in flocks of a hundred or more. The dough birds were always very fat and were considered the best table bird sold in the Boston markets. They seldom sold at less than one dollar each. At that time I could contract, if I wished, every dough bird I could kill at one dollar each. At that time I supposed that they were a seashore bird, and not to be found inland.

"In the spring of 1866 I discovered my mistake. I saw more dough birds in May of that year in northwestern Iowa than I had ever seen before in all my life. They were on their way north. Thousands of them were to be found on the burnt prairie with the golden plover. I shot a few, but none of them were in good order. The plover were in fine condition. I have never seen a dough bird in the West except in the spring, and never yet killed one here that was fat enough to be good eating. I think very few if any pass through Iowa on their way south. I have reached the conclusion that most of the dough birds go south via the sea shore. They will decoy here very nicely to golden plover decoys. Their habits seem to be much the same as the golden plover, but I do not think they can fly as fast. I recollect one morning on Cape Cod. A large flock of dough birds came to the field. They went to the decoys of a genleman by the name of Curtis, from Quincy, Mass., and he killed fifteen with his first barrel. He caught them on the turn over the decoys, and I think it was the finest shot I ever saw. I think fifty were killed before they left the field. There must have been two or three hundred in the flock."

E. HOUGH.

HARTFORD BUILDING, Chicago, Ill.

## New York Game Bills.

THE NEW YORK STATE FISH, GAME AND FOREST LEAGUE.—To all Clubs, Associations and Members of the New York State Fish, Game and Forest League: In compliance with the recommendations of the League, adopted at its annual meeting on Dec. 6, 1900 the Legislative and Law Committee has prepared and had introduced in the Assembly, through Hon. J. L. Barnett, the following measures:

Bills Nos. 351 and 356 provide for an increase of the number of the protectors from thirty-eight to fifty and for an increase in their salaries. The number of protectors authorized by law is inadequate to the work of efficiently enforcing the forest, fish and game laws of the State, composed of sixty-one counties, and the character or their work is such that they are poorly rewarded.

Bill No. 352 amends the present section in regard to explosives by requiring all persons selling dynamite or other explosives to keep a record of all sales thereof

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