

Long-billed Curlew
10 Apr 1885
Emmetsburg, Palo Alto Co., IA
Rev. C. E. Cline [listed from there]
Cooke 1886, Anderson 1907

Record Number: 93-DQ
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Cooke, W.W. 1886. Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley
1884-5. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Division of Economic
Opportunity Bull. 2. pp 44,98.

Anderson 1907

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, We have date, location, and presumed observer (Cline was listed as contributor from that location) but no description. Long-billed Curlew would be more likely than Whimbrel in mid-April. Although not acceptable as an individual record, I believe it and would be inclined to use the data to describe the occurrence of this species. /thk

264. *Numenius longirostris* Wils. [558.] *Long-billed Curlew.*

Occurs over the whole of the Mississippi Valley, and is known to breed throughout most of its range. It winters in the southern States,

where it is resident, and occasionally is found in winter in southern Illinois. Colonel Goss states that in Kansas it is a rare summer resident, but a common migrant. Mr. Lloyd says that in Texas it winters in Coucho county, but not in Tom Green county. It migrates early, and March 11, 1884, at Darlington, Ind. Ter., hundreds were seen in three flocks. For a few days it flew east and northeast at night, and in the opposite direction in the morning. April 3 it reached Alda, Nebr., and two days later Vermillion, Dak.; April 16 it reached Argusville, Dak., and April 24 Menoken, Dak. By May 4 it had come to Larimore, Dak.; and May 9 was reported from Oak Point, Manitoba. It passed Saint Louis April 1, and through central Iowa April 15.

During the winter of 1884-'85 the Long-billed Curlew remained at Eagle Pass, Tex., where it was seen January 7 and February 9.

In the spring migration of 1885, from April 10 to April 15, it was noted at Emporia, Kans.; Emmetsburgh, Iowa; Heron Lake, Minn.; Grand View, Dak., and Huron, Dak. It reached Larimore, Dak., April 26. In the fall of 1885, the returning flocks appeared at Emporia, Kans., August 5, and at San Angelo, Tex., August 20. At Fernwood, Ill., the last were seen October 13.

116. (264). *Numenius longirostris* Wils. Long-billed Curlew.

□ The Long-billed Curlew is the largest of our species of *Limicola* and is known by its sickle-shaped bill, four to eight inches long. It was formerly a common summer resident in Iowa, but now appears to be only a migrant, having disappeared from its former summer haunts with the breaking up of the original prairie sod.

Thomas Say mentions the arrival of the Long-billed Curlew at Engineers' Cantonment April 1, 1820 (*Long's Exp.*, i, 266-270).

J. A. Allen stated that it was common in spring in western Iowa, and doubtless bred about the marshes (*Mem. Bost. Soc.*, i, 1868, 501). T. M. Trippe says "a few seen in spring in Decatur county, where I was informed that formerly it bred quite commonly" (*Proc. Bost. Soc.*, xv, 1872, 241). In 1884 the species passed through central Iowa April 15, and in 1885, from April 10 to 15, it was noted at Emmetsburg, Iowa, Heron Lake, Minn., etc., (Cooke, *Bird Migr. in Miss. Val.*, 1884-85, 97-8). Keyes and Williams give it as "migratory, rather common. A few remain during the summer and nest on the open prairies" (*Birds of Iowa*, 1889, 123).

In early May, in the '80's, J. W. Preston found the species nesting in northern Iowa. He says "Lying away to the west were the dim flats of Kossuth county. Not a sound, no shrubs for sighing winds, the wheels rolled muffled in the prairie grass. At one point, where the ground lay more rolling and dryer, were many Long-billed Curlews guarding their nests, and hovering near the wagon, uttering that peculiar mellow whistle so characteristic of the wild free prairie. Soon I was delighted to see an old Curlew flutter from the horses' feet, leaving the four speckled eggs exposed. Further on a mother Curlew led her mottled downy chicks from danger." ("*Some Prairie Birds*," *O. & O.*, xviii, 1893, 82).

Dr. Trostler reports the Long-billed Curlew as a common migrant in Pottawattamie and Mills counties. A. I. Johnson reports it as a migrant in Sioux county, northwestern Iowa, saying: "I do not know of its nesting since I came to the state in 1890. Have only known of them during migration, and not very many at that." All others who reported list the species as a rare migrant.