

Eskimo Curlew
20 Apr 1874
Northern Iowa, IA
S. G. Bowman
DuMont 1933, 1933

Record Number: 93-CX
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

DuMont, P.A. 1933. Extinct birds in Iowa collections. IBL
3:28-29.

DuMont 1933

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, No description and we have not substantiated that this specimen is in the Putnam Museum. Apparently, DuMont examined the specimens at the Putnam Museum. I wonder how well Bowman's specimens were labeled. I would be willing to accept this record if we can get some more information about the specimen and about Bowman. /thk

Extinct Birds in Iowa Collections.—It may prove of interest to the ornithologists of the state, to know where they may find specimens of the extinct North American birds such as the Passenger Pigeon, Heath Hen, Carolina and Louisiana Paroquets, and those others now nearly exterminated such as the Eskimo Curlew and Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

In the Davenport Public Museum there are three Passenger Pigeons, two of them taken in Scott County; two Paroquets without data, and two Eskimo Curlews. One of the latter was collected in Northern Iowa, by Dr. S. C. Bowman, April 20, 1874. I believe the paroquets were received from the University of Iowa Museum and were originally from the Talbot collection.

There is a mounted specimen of the Eskimo Curlew in the collection of the Museum at Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant. No data are available for this specimen.

In the Shaffer collection of birds, found in the Jefferson County Public Library, Fairfield, there are four Passenger Pigeons. They were probably all captured in Jefferson County before 1880. One is a juvenal, a plumage seldom seen in mounted groups.

The State Historical Museum, at Des Moines, has a pair of mounted Passenger Pigeons and a nest with two eggs. The pigeons were killed by Prof. Joseph Steppan from a flock of 18 in northern Michigan, June 14, 1887.

A mounted pair of Passenger Pigeons are in a case in the Science Building at Iowa State College, Ames. These birds, while lacking labels, were apparently part of the collection of Michigan birds which were purchased by the college, probably in the seventies. There is also a cracked specimen of the egg of the Passenger Pigeon.

In the collection of birds of the Sioux City Academy of Science, housed in the Sioux City Public Library, there is one Eskimo Curlew without data.

Oscar P. Allert has, in his collection at Giard, an Eskimo Curlew taken March 22, 1903, at Oakfield, Wisconsin.

There is a fully plumaged male Passenger Pigeon in the collection of O. M. Greenwood at Manchester. This specimen was collected by Dr. Wm. H. B. Greenwood, in Delaware County, on May 10, 1881.

In the Museum of the Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls there is a mounted pair of Passenger Pigeons. These birds were purchased about 1900, but the locality from where they were taken is not known.

There is a group of four Passenger Pigeons at the Bert Heald Bailey Museum, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, two Louisiana Paroquets which were formerly in the Talbot collection, and an Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

In the Museum of Wartburg College at Waverly, there is a mounted paroquet, but nothing could be learned of where it was secured.

The collection of the Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa, contains five mounted Passenger Pigeons; one mounted Ivory-billed Woodpecker and two others as skins, all from Florida; two mounted Heath Hens and a skin, from Martha's Vineyard, taken by J. E. Thaver in 1897; one Eskimo Curlew taken at Burlington, April 5, 1893, by Paul Bartsch; two Carolina Paroquets from Florida; and nine Louisiana Paroquets taken during 1882 in Indian Territory, by D. H. Talbot.—PHILIP A. DU MONT, Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa.

Phaeopus borealis (Forster). Eskimo Curlew

Extinct in Iowa. It had been greatly reduced in numbers before 1907, when Anderson wrote of it as follows: "The Eskimo Curlew is also a rare migrant in Iowa. It was listed by Allen (White's Geol. of Iowa, ii, 1870, 426), and John Krider says: 'I found it in Iowa in May, migrating westward' (Forty Years' Notes, 1879, 68).

"County records: Des Moines—Mus. No. 16803, taken at Burlington, April 5, 1893, by Paul Bartsch. Jackson—'rare transient' (Giddings). Johnson—specimens in University museum taken by Frank Bond (Nutting, Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci., 1892). Van Buren—'spring migrant, very rare' (W. G. Savage)." The specimen taken by Bartsch is now mounted in the University of Iowa Museum, but those taken by Bond cannot be found. There appear to be no Iowa records of the Eskimo Curlew after 1893. The writer recorded (1931) that a pair was shot by C. H. Schroeder at Des Moines, Polk County, about 1893. These specimens were presented to the Iowa State Historical Society, but cannot now be found. Besides the Bartsch bird the only other Iowa specimen is a female, No. 10158, in the Davenport Public Museum. It was collected by S. G. Bowman, April 20, 1874, in "Northern Iowa."

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