

Brown-headed Nuthatch  
9 May 1893  
Keokuk, Lee Co., IA  
Ed S. Currier  
to 13 May; DuMont 1935

Record Number: 81-GP  
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

DuMont, P.A. 1935. An old record of the Brown-headed Nuthatch in Iowa and Illinois. Wilson Bull. 47:240.  
Bent 1948.

VOTE (1981): 1-III, 3-IV, 1-V, 2-VI

VI, Red-breasted would be much more likely.

V, Probably impossible to tell from Pygmy Nuthatch. Brown-headed range may have been closer to Iowa at that time.

VI, specimens not preserved. No data given to distinguish from *P. pygmaea*.

IV, This interesting record of the occurrence of several birds in Keokuk - some were collected but were too mutilated for specimen prep. No details of plumage characteristics given. In light of extreme difficulty in separation *S. pygmaea* from *S. pusilla*, this record is difficult to assess.

IV, Undescribed, but DuMont's comments suggestive of correct identification.

## Brown-headed Nuthatch

Bent, A. C.: Life Histories of North American Nuthatches, Wren, Thrashers and their Allies. Bull 195 US Nat Museum, Washington, 1948. p 41

*Casual records.*—Several were seen near Keokuk, Iowa, in May 1893; a specimen was taken at St. Louis, Mo., on May 6, 1878; a specimen was obtained at Elmira, N. Y., May 24, 1888; while one was observed closely at Haddonfield, N. J., during the winter, about 1876.

DuMont, P. A. 1935. An old record of the Brown-headed Nuthatch in Iowa and Illinois. Wilson Bull 47:240

**An Old Record of the Brown-headed Nuthatch in Iowa and Illinois.**

In a letter from Ed. S. Carrier of Portland, Oregon, on November 27, 1934, he related having found the Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla pusilla*) at Keokuk, Iowa. Carrier wrote as follows:

"I cannot find where the Brown-headed Nuthatch has ever been recorded from Iowa and therefore I will report an unusual flight or visit of these birds to Keokuk during May, 1893. On May 9 early in the morning I saw one in town and in the afternoon, while out of town a few miles, I saw five others. I shot two of them but the shot were too large and mutilated them so they could not be made into skins. On May 10 I saw three more in town during the early morning. On May 12 two were seen in Hancock County, Illinois, across from Keokuk. Two were seen in Keokuk on May 13. These are my only Iowa observations."

Due to the repeated opportunity which Carrier apparently had to observe these birds and the added verification of specimens having been collected, I see no reason why this species should not be recognized on the Iowa bird list. These records of Carrier's are believed to constitute the only known Iowa occurrence of this species. It is a rare permanent resident in southern Missouri and has occurred casually in Ohio and New York. PHILIP A. DuMONT, *Des Moines, Iowa.*