

Rock Wren
Oct 1872
Decatur Co., IA
T. M. Trippe
Trippe 1872, 1873

Record Number: 81-BM
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Trippe, T.M. 1872. Notes on the birds of southern Iowa. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. 15:229-243.

Trippe, T.M. 1873. Occurrence of the Rock Wren in Iowa. The Am. Naturalist 7:566.

Coues 1874, 1887

Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway 1874

Cooke 1888

Anderson 1907

DuMont 1933

Keyes and Williams 1889

Goss 1981

Osborn 1892

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

IV, 15 in one month seems to much for me.

VI, Habitat wrong, no other sightings, likely error in identification.

V, Trippe was associated with the Boston Society of Natural History. Might the specimen he collected be deposited with that organization?

VI, no details.

VI, too many seen.

V, Second hand reports from Trippe that this species is of common occurrence in southwestern Iowa in 1870's. No description. No specimen extant.

III, Location in s.w. Iowa seems satisfactory. Convincing is the occurrence on railroad tracts. See the recent sighting on the railroad tracts at Fontenelle Forest, Omaha.

Trippe, T. M. 1872. Notes on the birds of southern Iowa. Proc Boston Society of Natural History 15:229-243. p 236

81. *Salpinctes obsoletus*. A specimen taken in October, in Decatur County, and several others seen. Not observed in Mahaska County.

Trippe, T. M. 1873. Occurrence of the Rock Wren in Iowa. The American Naturalist 7:566.

OCCURRENCE OF THE ROCK WREN IN IOWA.—*Salpinctes obsoletus*, not previously found east of the Rocky Mountain region, was observed by the writer last fall in Decatur county, Iowa. It was seen on several occasions, far out on the prairie, running over the ties on the railroad track, retreating when alarmed, into the dense prairie grass.—T. M. T., *Garden Grove, Iowa*.

Baird, Brewer and Ridgway. 1874. Birds of North America. Land Birds, Vol 3 p 503

"*Salpinctes obsoletus* (I, 135). The range of this species has been remarkably extended by the capture of a specimen in Decatur County, Southern Iowa, where others were seen, by Mr. T. M. Trippe. See Proc. Boston Soc. N. H., December, 1872, p 236."

Coues, E. 1874. Birds of the North West. Washington, U S Gov't Printing Office. p 28

Since writing the preceding I have received an interesting communication from Mr. T. Martin Trippe, who informs me of the common occurrence of this species in Southwestern Iowa, where he states that he saw or shot altogether some fifteen individuals during the month of October, 1872. This occurrence, which Mr. Trippe meanwhile has published, as above, gives a decided extension to the previously known range of the species.

Coues, E. 1887. Key to North American Birds 3rd ed p 276

that of the rump, however, being always well marked. Western U. S., E. to Iowa; common, haunting rocky places, where it is conspicuous by its restlessness and loud notes; nest of any rubbish in a rocky nook; eggs numerous, 5-8, of crystalline whiteness, sparsely sprinkled with reddish-brown dots, 0.75×0.62 .

Cooke, W. W. 1888. Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley 1884-5.
US Dept Agriculture. Division of Economic Ornithology, Bull 2. p 270

715. *Salpinctes obsoletus* (Say). [5S.] *Rock Wren*.

The Rock Wren occurs from the Plains to the Pacific, and is supposed to breed throughout most of its range. A few notes concerning it were received from the western part of the district, and it is known that the species migrates principally west of the 99th meridian. It has been taken once in Decatur County, Iowa, and there is a record that a "Cañon Wren," probably this species, was shot among the rocky bluffs of the river at Kansas City, Mo. In the western part of Kansas it is found at Ellis as a common summer resident. At San Angelo, Tex., it was given merely as a winter resident, arriving from the North September 10, in 1883, and leaving May 10, in 1884. Some distance southeast, near Boerne, a female was shot March 4, 1880 (Brown).

329. (715). *Salpinctes obsoletus* (Say). *Rock Wren*.

The Rock Wren is a Western bird which has very rarely been observed in Iowa. It was first recorded from Iowa by T. Martin Trippe, who took a specimen in October, and saw several others, in Decatur county (Proc. Bost. Soc., xv, 1872, p. 236). He states: "It was seen on several occasions, far out on the prairie, running over the ties on the railroad track, retreating, when alarmed, into the dense prairie grass" (Am. Nat., 1873, p. 566). This record is also quoted by Coes, Birds of the Colo. Val., p. 161; Birds of the N. W., p. 28; Key to N. A. Birds, p. 276; Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway, Land Birds, iii, p. 503; Cooke, Bird Migr. in Miss. Val.,

Anderson 1907
p 367

Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus (Say). *Common Rock Wren*

A casual summer resident along the western border of the state. Anderson (1907) stated that it was first recorded from Iowa by T. Martin Trippe who took a specimen in October, and saw several others, in Decatur County. Trippe recorded: "It was seen on several occasions, far out on the prairie, running over the ties on the railroad track, retreating, when alarmed, into the dense prairie grass" (Am. Nat., 1873, p. 566).

DuMont 1933
p 107

Rock Wren

Keyes and Williams 1889
p 157

[B 264, R 58, C 65, U 715.]

Salpinctes obsoletus (Say). Rock Wren. Not common. Mr. Trippe also notes a specimen taken in Decatur County.

Goss, N. S. 1891. History of the Birds of Kansas. Topeka, Geo. Crane Co.
p 606

Salpinctes obsoletus (Say).

ROCK WREN.

PLATE XXXIV.

Summer resident in the middle and western part of the State; common in suitable localities. Arrive early in April; begin laying the first of May; leave in the months of September and October.

B. 264. R. 58. C. 65. G. 22, 309. U. 715.

HABITAT. The arid regions of the western United States; north occasionally into British Columbia; east into western Iowa, middle Kansas and Texas; southward through Mexico to Guatemala and the Gulf of Fonseca; breeds largely throughout its range.

Osborn 1892
p 9

**Salpinctes obsoletus* (Say).