

Clark's Nutcracker  
23 Sep 1894  
near Boone, Boone Co., IA  
Cal Brown, Carl Fritz Henning  
Nutting 1894, Henning 1895, DuMont 1933

Record Number: 93-EY  
Classification: A-D

REFERENCES

Nutting, C.C. 1894. Report of the committee on state fauna.  
Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci. 2:43-51. [specimen donated to University of  
Iowa, not found by thk?]

Anon. 1895. Notes on the birds of Iowa. The Iowa Ornithologist  
1:55-66.

Coue's. Key. p 418. [quoted by anon.]

Anderson 1907 [gives specimen #10753]

Stoner, D. 1920. Bird records for the season 1919-1920 in the  
vicinity of Iowa City. Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci. 37:379-384.

DuMont 1933

Bent 1946

VOTE: 4 A-D, 1 no vote recorded

A-D, Only Stoner gives a little description and it isn't very  
conclusive. Never-the-less, the chain of evidence is good and the  
bird was seen by many competent observers. Apparently, Mike  
Newlon and I didn't find this specimen. It is worth another look.  
/thk

Nutting, C. C. 1894. Report of the Committee on state fauna. Proc Iowa Acad Sci 2:43-51.

Clarke's crow, *Picicorvus columbianus*, (Wils.) Boone, Iowa. September, 1894. Carl Fritz Henning. This is the most surprising record reported this year. Mr. Henning kindly sent the specimen for identification, and donated it to the university museum.

Henning, C. F. 1895. Clark's Crow or Nutcracker. The Iowa Ornithologist 1:62-63

in Notes on the birds  
of Iowa pp 55-66  
the author

491. *Picicorvus columbianus*, (Wils.)

CLARKE'S CROW,  
or NUTCRACKER.

*Adult*: Gray, often bleaching on the head, wings glossy black; most of the secondaries broadly tipped with white, tail white including the under coverts; the central feathers and usually part of the next pair together with the upper coverts black. Bill and feet black; iris brown. Length 12.50; extent 22.00; wing 7.00, 8.00; tail 4.00, 4.50; tarsus 1.35; bill averaging 1.67; feet from 1.25, 1.75. Sexes alike in color, but female smaller than male. Young similar but browner ash. There is great difference in the shade in adults, the plumage when fresh being more glaucous ash wearing browner and also bleaching espe-

ially on the head. *Hib.* Coniferous belt of the West. North to Sitka, South to Mexico, East to Nebraska, West to the Coast Ranges. (Coue's Key, page 418.) "On Sept. 23, 1894, a Clarke's Nutcracker was shot by Cal. Brown, 4 miles South of this city and sent to me for identification. (This specimen was also identified by Prof. C. C. Nutting, chairman of the committee on State Fauna of the Iowa Academy of Sciences.) The bird was alone when shot in small tree, in pasture. This specimen is now in the Iowa State University Collection, and according to letters received by me from C. C. Nutting, it is the *first record* of its occurrence in Iowa." (Carl Fritz Henning.)

211. (491). *Nucifraga columbiana* (Wilson). Clarke Nutcracker.

The Clarke Nutcracker is essentially a bird of the coniferous forests of the West, occasionally straggling eastward to Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. "Dr. Ageisborg took a specimen at Vermillion, S. D., in October, 1883 (Cooke, Bird Migr. in Miss. Val., p. 159), and a specimen was shot in the western outskirts of Milwaukee in the fall of 1875 (Kumlien and Hollister, Birds of Wis., p. 86). In Nebraska, "in fall and winter, spreading south and east to Sidney, Kearney, North Platte, and even to Omaha" (Rev. Birds Neb., p. 72).

The only Iowa record is a specimen in the museum of the University of Iowa, No. 10753, shot by Cal Brown four miles south of Boone, Iowa, September 23, 1894, and donated to the museum by Carl Fritz Henning. (Recorded by Nutting, Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci., 1894, p. 44; and by Henning, Iowa Orn., i, 3, 1895, p. 63).

Anderson 1907  
pp 297-298

DuMont <sup>1933</sup> ~~1934~~  
p 100

*Nucifraga columbiana* (Wilson). Clark's Nutcracker

Accidental. This bird of the western mountains has occurred in Iowa upon three occasions, in each instance the record being substantiated by a specimen. No. 10753 in the University of Iowa Museum was shot by Cal Brown four miles south of Boone, Boone County, September 23, 1894. This specimen was donated to the Museum by Carl Fritz Henning (Nutting: Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci., 1894, p. 44). A mounted bird in the same collection was secured by A. W. Hemphill, at Tiffin, Johnson County, November 27, 1919. One in the Smith collection, Odebolt High School, was taken by H. B. Smith in Sac County.

Stoner, D. 1920. Bird records for the season 1919-1920 in the vicinity of Iowa City. Proc Iowa Acad Sci 37:379-384.

12. Clarke's Nutcracker. *Nucifraga columbiana* (Wilson). On November 30, 1919, an adult male was taken by A. W. Hemphill, near Tiffin in Johnson county about eight miles west of Iowa City. This is a bird of the western coniferous forest areas of North America and, so far as the writer is aware, this is the second specimen recorded from the state. The first record of the occurrence of this form within our borders was published by Prof. C. C. Nutting in 1895 (Proc. Ia. Acad. Sci., II, 1894, 44). The single specimen recorded at that time was taken at Boone, September, 1894, by C. F. Henning. It is now in the collection of the museum of the State University. The specimen here recorded is deposited for the present in the University Museum. General color almost uniform gray, a little lighter on the head and without brownish tinge.

Bent, A. C.: Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows and Titmice. Bull 191 US Nat Museum, Washington, 1946. pp 321-322

*Casual records.*—Although not a regular migrant, the nutcracker is given to erratic wanderings that sometimes take it considerable distance from its normal range. In Alaska it has been recorded on the southeast coast at Sitka and north to the Kowak River. Other Alaskan records are: Nushagak, November 5, 1885; Takotna, October 1, 1919; Farewell Mountain, September, 1921; Chatanika River, September 1922; and McCarthy, November, 1922. According to Taverner, it also has been collected at Robinson, Yukon. On the coast of British Columbia it has been recorded from Comox, February 18, 1904, and wintering on Graham Island in 1919-20. During the period from October 1919 to April 1920 it appeared in considerable numbers on the coast of southern California as at Pacific Grove, Carmel, and Santa Cruz Island, while one was killed near Hayward on February 16, 1923. One was taken at Coachella, Calif., 44 feet below sea level on September 24, 1935.

There are several records for the Great Plains region east to Manitoba, Margaret, October 1910; Iowa, Boone, September 23, 1894; Wisconsin, Milwaukee, fall of 1875; Illinois, Gross Point, October 9, 1894; Missouri, near Kansas City, about October 28, 1894, and Louisiana, October 12, 1907; and Arkansas, Earl, April 1, 1891.