

Rock Wren
1 Apr 1910
Sioux City, Woodbury Co., IA
Walter W. Bennett
Bennett 1925

Record Number: 81-BO
Classification: A-D

REFERENCE

Anderson 1907

Bennett, W.W. 1925. The Rock Wren in Iowa. Wilson Bull. 37:93.

VOTE (1981): 6-III, 1-VI

III, good description, likely location, respected observer.

III, details good, single observer.

III, nice detail for the period.

VI, single observer record, reported 15 years after
observation. Key tail marks not seen. Rock Wren does have a 2-3
note call that might sound like yellowlegs - but Bewick's Wren
also has short calls.

III, good description.

Anderson 1907

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 Coues, 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., p. 270; Keyes and Williams, Birds of Iowa, p. 157; Goss, Birds of Kansas, p. 606.

Dr. Guy C. Rich writes from Sioux City: "The Rock Wrens were here and bred for two or three years, but I have not seen them now for several years. A nest of eggs were discovered on June 25, 1898, badly incubated. On May 28, 1899, the birds were again seen. On June 1, 1899, I saw two and possibly three birds. They sing a great deal. Found no nest, though. I thought them to be breeding. On June 10, 1900, the birds were discovered in another deep dirt-cut along railroad; no nest found. On September 15, 1901, had a bird brought in from another locality. I have also seen the measurements of two birds shot June 22, 1898."

Bennett, W. W. 1925. The Rock Wren in Iowa. Wilson Bull 37:93.

The Rock Wren in Iowa.—A recent discussion of the status of the Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus*) in Iowa, where it appears to be quite rare, brought to light the record of one of these birds that was observed during the late afternoon of April 1, 1910, at Talbot's farm, now Stone Park, about five miles northwest of Sioux City, Iowa. The following is quoted from the personal notes of the writer:

"When first seen it was sneaking along in a shallow washout at the side of the road, but at one time it remained in plain sight about six feet away for about half a minute. On account of its thin curved bill and general form it was thought to be a wren. In length it was about six inches. Below, it was a dirty white having about ten rather indistinct black streaks on the throat. Its sides were washed with rusty. Above, including back and wings, it was a slaty-brown spotted with a very light color. A light colored line above the eye and a darker one through it. Rump was a dark rusty brown, tail same color as back with a rather distinct and noticeable white band. Its note was a two-syllabled whistle. (In the notebook this is written on a staff as a high F and D, the first note strongly accented and about twice as long in duration as the second). The bird had a peculiar manner of bobbing its head up and down somewhat like the Yellowlegs."

The only other Sioux City record known was reported by Dr. Guy C. Rich, a former resident. His notes describe a nest of the Rock Wren collected June 25, 1898, by Stanley Hills near Riverside. The eggs were about to hatch. The nest and eggs were turned over to the museum of the Sioux City Academy of Science by Dr. Rich.—WALTER W. BENNETT, *Sioux City, Iowa.*