

Prairie Warbler  
5 Jun 1886  
Lee Co., IA  
Currier  
DuMont 1935

Record Number: 81-DX  
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

- DuMont, P. A. 1935. Additional Iowa birds substantiated by specimens. *Wilson Bull.* 47:205-208.  
DuMont, P. A. 1936. Old nesting records of rare birds in Iowa. *The Oologist* 53:8-10.  
Bent 1953  
VOTE (at meeting, 5 Sep 1981): 6-IV

erner and our friend G. M. Sutton which will be of much interest to those engaged in the study of ornithology of that territory.

Also an article by the publisher, Mr. K. L. Skinner, "The Nesting of the American Goshawk," being largely from the article in the January Auk by Mr. O. J. Groome. Also another article on "Bird Protection in U. S. A." based on the report of the A. O. U. Committee for Bird Protection in the January 1934 Auk.

We also find our friend Skinner and "Oologist Record" suffering from the same condition and situation which has afflicted the Oologist for some time past. He says "At the end of last year I was on the point of deciding to cease publication. I was urged not to take this step, and promised the assistance of others in securing the necessary matter for publication. Suitable matter has reached me lately in smaller quantities, though I do feel that many of our readers have much valuable information at their disposal which should be placed upon record. The present issue contains much that has already been published in other journals, although it may be that they are journals not at the disposal of our readers. Oologists should remember that it is not always the long articles that are the most interesting. Many will observe and note small matters that come under our eyes during their field rambles that are well worthy of record, and I should like to publish such short notes if only I could get them.

The present volume completes the 15th, and it is the last for which I shall myself be responsible. I require to be relieved of the work which would have been much easier had I

been helped more by the "rank and file" of oologists in this country."

It would indeed be a distinct loss to the oologists of the world to have the "Oologist Record" suspend publication and we truly trust no such step will be taken. It is the duty resting upon the shoulders of all of us, particularly the oologists in England to see that this catastrophe does not take place.—R. M. B.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

THE CONDOR, March-April 1935, contains one of the best written and informative articles on the subject of the nesting of birds that we have read in many a day; A. D. DuBois presents an article "Nests of Horned Larks on Long Spurs on a Montana Prairie."

This highly informative resume is the result of four years consecutive observation and apparently very close study of the nesting of the species noted, and tabulates in six tables the information gathered from observing 30 Desert Horned Larks; 31 McCoun's and 22 Chestnut Colored Longspurs' nests, with other observations and weather conditions and four half-half-tones. It is thoroughly scholarly and finely presented. We wish there were more like our friend DuBois.

—R. M. B.

#### OLD NESTING RECORDS OF RARE BIRDS IN IOWA

At the time Anderson wrote the "Birds of Iowa" Mr. Ed. S. Currier, then of Keokuk and now of Portland, Oregon, contributed a major portion of the data on the breeding birds of southeastern Iowa. Mr. Currier's records from Clark County, Missouri, just across the Iowa state line from Keokuk, occupied a prominent

place in Widmann's publication on Missouri birds.

In a letter from Mr. Currier on Jan. 16, 1935, he sent to the writer data on the former breeding of several rare birds in Iowa. These data are here quoted verbatim.

**Black and White Warbler.** I examined six nests of this species, five in Missouri and one in Lee County, Iowa. This nest was found June 4, 1901 and is now No. 4530 in my collection. The situation of all nests was the same; sunken in the leafy mold of the hummocks in heavy wooded bottom-lands. The nest that I took in Lee County contained three fresh eggs.

**Golden-winged Warbler.** In all my collecting in the Mississippi River Valley, I found but one nest of this species. This is nest No. 869 in my collection, taken May 28, 1888 near Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa. The bird was flushed from the nest and watched for quite a while, plainly seen many times. It was not shy, in fact bold, and very demonstrative.

The nest touched the ground but was built up and supported by a shrub and was very large. The outer structure was a sheath of old oak and elm leaves held together by their dampness and the inner nest was 4 1/2 inches deep by 1 1/4 inches in diameter at the top or entrance. The nest was lined with strips of weed-bark at top and fine fibres and some grass at bottom. This made the shape bulb-like with larger end reaching to the ground. The five eggs were perfectly fresh and nicely spotted. The nest was different from any of the Blue-winged Warblers I ever took and the location also was not the same. This was a high dry hillside very heavily

covered with second-growth oak and hickory.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler.** I have found 36 nests of this species, but only one in Iowa, and I still consider that a very unusual occurrence. This single Iowa nest was found May 29, 1898 and contained only one egg with both birds at the nest. I did not take it but went back June 5, and found it deserted with the single egg and I could get no trace of the birds. This nest was No. 3398 and I still have it and think more of it than any set in my large series from Cass County, Minnesota. This nest was placed 20 inches up in the forks of an Indian Currant bush in a thicket at the edge of a woodland.

**Northern Prairie Warbler.** My experience with this Warbler was very limited in Iowa. I heard the bird several times after I learned its song in southern Missouri but only found one nest in Lee County, Iowa. This was on June 5, 1886, and it is now No. 422 in my collection. The nest was located in a brushy tract on the hillside overlooking the Mississippi River just north of Keokuk. It was a showering day with bursts of sunshine following the showers and when the sun came out in one of those times I heard this Warbler singing in the general bird chorus that broke out. It was not long before I located the nest with the bird on. It was four feet up on the forks of a bush in a thicket. The nest contained two fresh eggs and as I could not get back there again for sometime I took it. The eggs were fresh and are still in my collection.

**Kentucky Warbler.** In my collecting in Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas, I found 110 nests of this

DuMont, P. A. 1935. Additional Iowa species of birds substantiated by specimens. Wilson Bull 47:205-208

PRAIRIE WARBLER. *Dendroica discolor*. Mr. Ed. S. Carrier of Portland, Oregon, wrote on January 16, 1935, that he had found only one nest of this species in Lee County, Iowa. That was on June 5, 1886. The eggs, which were fresh, are number 122 and are still in Carrier's Collection.

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Bent, A. C.: Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers.  
Bull 203 US Nat Museum, Washington, 1953. pp 436-437

*Breeding range.*—The prairie warbler breeds north to northeastern Kansas (Lake Quivira); central Missouri (Columbia); southeastern Iowa (Lee County); northeastern Illinois (Peoria and Chicago); central Michigan (Berrien County and Lovells); southern Ontario (Honey Harbor, Wasaga Beach, and St. Williams); central New York (Schenectady); southern New Hampshire (Concord and Manchester); and northern Massachusetts (Haverhill). East to the Atlantic coast from northeastern Massachusetts (Haverhill) to southern Florida (Miami and Key West). South to southern and western Florida (Key West, Fort Myers, and Cedar Keys); central Georgia (Macon and Columbus); south central Alabama (Autaugaville and Greensboro); and northern Louisiana (Monroe). West to central northern Louisiana (Monroe); central and western Arkansas (Hot Springs, London, and Winslow); northeastern Oklahoma (Tulsa and Ponca); and northeastern Kansas (Lake Quivira). Occurrences of the prairie warbler in summer have been recorded north to central Iowa (Polk County and West Liberty); southeastern Wisconsin (Madison and Appleton); northern Michigan (Hillman); central Ontario (Frank's Bay and Lake Nipissing); north-central New York (Holland Patent); and southern Maine (Sanford and Little Green Island). The first known occurrence in Ontario was in 1900, and it now breeds to the shore of Georgian Bay.

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