

Carolina Chickadee  
1974

Record Number: 81-GH  
Classification: NA

at home, MO  
H. and F. Diggs  
IBL 45:49, Silcock 1977, Digg 1975

REFERENCES

Layton, K., and I. Layton. 1975. Iowa bird banding summary for 1974. IBL 45:49-52.

Silcock, W.R. 1977. Annotated list of foray birds. IBL 47:123-132.

Diggs, H., and F. Diggs. 1975. Specials in our 1974 banding activity. IBL 45:86-88.

VOTE (1981): 1-IV, 1-V, 3-VI, 2-not IA

VI, not sure in Iowa.

VI, Probably Diggs in Mo. No excuse for not giving locations and photographs.

VI, No measurements, no description, and from a bander yet. Maybe in Mo. -- see Silcock's comment.

almost positively Missouri birds. I have asked Mrs. Diggs about these and she was very evasive. [same comment given for records 5, 6, 7.]

IV, No details -- merely statement that 'Diggs dug up 3 Carolina Chickadees'. In reference to records 4-7: I assume these were all by Diggs, about 10 miles s. of Hamburg in Missouri. Dr. Easterla at N. Mo State is highly doubtful about Carolinas in sw Iowa area, but apparently had a student collecting a series -- no further info however. It is something that needs checking carefully in sw Iowa. I have talked to them, and they have banded C. Chicks in c. Missouri, and were positive these were Carolinas. I have my doubts however if they band this many, why haven't they been heard more regularly in sw Iowa? (There are indeed some records by [illegible] in Fontenelle Forest). Diggs have said that they banded one in Fontenelle Forest.

Layton, K. and I. Layton. 1975. Iowa bird banding summary for 1974.  
Iowa Bird Life 45:49-52 (p 49)

Bank Swallows are down, our colonies have simply dried up. Diggs dug up 3 Carolina Chickadees for possible the most unusual species to be added to the Iowa list this year. (As far as I am able to determine this is a first). The same as their most unusual Poor-will appears to be yet another first and how about the MacGilvrays Warbler? Nice going folks. Pete added another first for Iowa with the Chukar.

Silcock, W. R. 1977. Annotated list of foray birds. Iowa Bird Life 47:123-132  
(p 128)

\* Carolina Chickadee. Care was taken to listen for the four-noted song of this species but without success. It has been reported in Fontanelle Forest (IBL 45:49, 88 and 46:54; NBR 37:52, 38:63, and 42:57) and apparently banded in Iowa; the 1974 Bird Banding Summary in IBL lists 3 Carolina Chickadees, but these were banded by Diggs and Diggs "at home" in Missouri (IBL 45:88). However, in 1975 and 1976 the Summary listed 6 and 5 Carolina Chickadees respectively, but no further details were provided. The nearest accepted breeding area for this species is central Missouri and extreme southeast Kansas, although the possibility of intergrades or strays does exist. There are two accidental records of this species for Iowa, in Buchanan and Lee Counties (see AOU 5th).

## Carolina Chickadee

Diggs, H. and F. Diggs. Specials in our 1974 banding activity. Iowa Bird Life 45:86-88.

## Specials in our 1974 Banding Activity

HAZEL AND FITZHUGH DIGGS  
HAMBURG, IOWA

Even though we banded 961 birds of 71 species in Nebraska, bringing our total up to 3,568 birds for 1974 and getting 7 Belted Kingfishers, 3 Great Horned Owls, 2 Red Crossbills (in July) at Fontenelle Forest, 326 American Goldfinch and 2 Solitary Sandpipers in Lincoln, our specials were taken here at home and in Iowa.

At dawn on April 27 we netted a bird of the goatsucker family. Since Fitzhugh had to go to Carson, Iowa, for repairs for our machinery, we had little time to study the bird. We called our friends in Lincoln, Mabel and John Ott, to meet us at the Embers parking lot in Nebraska City. First, we had to make sure it wasn't a Whip-poor-will as we had netted them before but never a Poor-will. We read all our books, studied the pictures, the bird's feather markings, measured him, etc. If it were a Whip-poor-will it would have had to have been a female, but female Whip-poor-wills have buffy throat bands but no white on the tail. The white on the tail of this bird was quite limited and the bird measured 7¼" in length, much shorter than the Whip-poor-wills we had previously banded. It also had fewer and shorter whiskers than the Whip-poor-wills. The Poor-will generally hunts close to the ground, so this may account for him being very low in the net. The Audubon Water Bird Guide by Richard H. Pough and the National Geographic Society - Water, Prey and Game Birds of North America both say they breed from west or S. W. Iowa, E. Kansas and C. Texas west to the Pacific. One was banded by Dr. Esther Bennett, City Naturalist, in Lincoln October 9th.

May 1, 1974, we netted a MacGillivray's Warbler. After we had identified it, banded it and taken pictures, we called Genevieve DeLong at Lamoni. We knew she had banded MacGillivray's in Colorado. We described it a bluish gray hood much like the Mourning Warbler (with which we were familiar) and it had a broken eye-ring. Then, when asked what she thought we had, she replied, "It sounds to me like you have a MacGillivray's Warbler". We told her that was how we had identified it but wanted her opinion.

On our way home from Bellevue, Neb. August 22 where we netted a Ringed Turtle Dove, we saw shorebirds and many swallows enjoying a miniature peninsula in one of the lakes along I-29 near the Pacific Junction exit. The next evening we went up to make a survey of the area and decided to see what we could band on Saturday. Being there at daybreak we soon netted 2 Spotted Sandpipers, 7 Least Sandpipers, and 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers, all the while studying other shorebirds and wishing them into the nets. We finally got the Semipalmated Plover. He was a very impressive bird with his dark back and white collar. His bill was orange and black and his legs were orange. The Otts of Lincoln, Ruth Green of Bellevue and Rose Anderson of Omaha, all good birders, were banding with us. Before leaving in the evening we netted a Lesser Yellowlegs. Our problem seemed to be what to do with his long legs when we photographed him. Another first for us. The swallows weren't nearly as numerous as the evening before when they had swarms of gnats to feed on. When they weren't sitting on the leaders of the nets chattering among themselves, a few kept flying about so we banded Bank, Barn, Cliff and Rough-winged Swallows and a Purple Martin. During the fall migration October 25, we netted a Cape May Warbler, another very nice first for us.

The surprise of surprises came when we found an American Woodcock in a net early the morning of October 25. He was caught in the lowest trough of the mist net and bouncing on the ground. The woodcock's predominant diet is earthworms. Since we had just had an inch of slow, pattering rain, he must have found in this shaded area a wealth of earthworms to feed on. By means of their highly specialized bills they can extract worms up to a depth of 3", using the flexible outer end of the upper mandible when the beak is inserted full length in the ground. By touching his beak gently we had a first hand performance of this act. He curved the upper mandible up much as if he were laughing at us. It was afternetting him we understood what was making the holes in the ground in this area.

A line about the Carolina Chickadees. We have felt for several years we were getting Carolina Chickadees in this area but not being too familiar with them and no one else seeing them, we let them go as Black-capped Chickadees. After making several banding trips to central Missouri, banding and studying them, were we sure. The first thing you notice is the small size when you get them in your hands. July 16, the Otts and we were banding in Fontenelle Forest when we had 2. We had 10 Black-caps the same day, enough for a fair comparison. We really studied these birds. The others were netted here at home.