

Northern Hawk Owl

Dec 1903

near Cedar Rapids, Linn Co., IA

George H. Berry

Anderson 1907

Record Number: 81-IF  
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Anderson 1907

VOTE (1981): 1-IV, 5-V, I-VI

V, unreliable.

IV, one seen - no detail.

V, May be correct, but no details.

Hawk Owl

Anderson 1907  
p 267

170. (377). *Surnia ulula caparoch* (Müll.). American Hawk Owl.  
The American Hawk Owl can only be considered as an exceedingly rare straggler in Iowa, in the winter time. It has been reported rarely in southern Minnesota by Roberts (Geol. and Nat. Hist. Surv. of Minn., 1880, 471), and in Southern Wisconsin by Kumlien and Hollister (Bds. of Wis., 1903, 72).

George H. Berry reports the Hawk Owl as a rare winter visitant in Linn county. He states that he has taken one specimen in Iowa and also observed one specimen in December, 1903, near Cedar Rapids, but did not secure it. ] 2  
3

DuMont 1933  
p 156

*Surnia ulula caparoch* (Müller). American Hawk Owl  
Anderson (1907) listed it on the basis of a statement by George H. Berry that he had taken one specimen in Iowa, and had observed one in December, 1903, near Cedar Rapids, Linn County. The latter ]  
was not-secured. The writer has been unable to find a specimen. 2

- \*Anderson, R. M., Birds of Winnebago and Hancock Counties, Iowa, p. 9, 1897. (Buffalo Center.)
- \*Keyes, Charles Reuben, The Iowan Raptores: The Iowa Ornithologist, Vol. 3, No. 2, p. 20, April, 1897.
- Balley, B. H., Two Hundred Wild Birds of Iowa, p. 62, 1906.
- Woodruff, F. M., Birds of the Chicago Area, p. 106, 1907.
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- Widmann, Otto, A Preliminary Catalogue of the Birds of Missouri: Trans. Acad. Sci., St. Louis, pp. 112, 113, 1907.
- Cory, C. B., Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin, p. 497, 1909.
- Bruner, L., Wolcott, R. H., Swenk, M. H., A Preliminary Review of the Birds of Nebraska, p. 56, 1909.
- A. O. U. Check-List, p. 176, 1910.
- Bunker, C. D., The Birds of Kansas, p. 148, 1913.
- Chapman, F. M., Birds of Eastern North America, p. 315, 1912.
- †Tinker, A. D., Notes on the Ornithology of Clay and Palo Alto Counties, Iowa: Auk, XXXI, pp. 70-81, 1914.
- Ridgway, R., Birds of North and Middle America, Part VI, Bull. 50, U. S. Nat. Mus., p. 768, 1914.
- Fenton, Carroll Lane, Preliminary List of the Birds of Floyd County, Iowa: Wilson Bulletin, XXVIII, pp. 130, 138, 1916.

Genus *Surnia* Dumeril.

32. *SURNIA ULULA CAPAROCH* (Muller). 377a.

Hawk Owl.

*Field Characters.*—A medium sized, hawklike, grayish brown owl, with long rounded tail; to be seen hunting in the day-time.

*Description.*—Above, grayish brown; head and neck spotted, and back barred with white; tail long, rounded, and indistinctly white-barred, the central feathers considerably longer than the lateral ones. Below, with dusky streaks on sides of neck and upper breast; throat with dusky spot, the remainder of the under parts barred with reddish brown. Feet and toes completely feathered.

*Measurements.*—Length, 14.75 to 17 inches; wing, 8 to 9 inches; tail, 7 to 7.25 inches.

*Range.*—Northern North America, breeding generally north of the United States. South in winter to Nebraska, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, etc.

This diurnal owl is of very rare occurrence in Iowa. R. M. Anderson says, "George H. Berry reports the Hawk Owl as a rare winter visitant in Linn county. He states that he has taken one specimen in Iowa, and also observed one in December, 1903, near Cedar Rapids, which he did not secure." It is spoken of as an owl with the feeding habits of a hawk and fully as capable of hunting by day.

A peculiarity of its flight is its dropping from the perch to near the level of the ground or bushes, and on approaching another perch, ascending almost perpendicularly to it.

It is spoken of as an unsuspecting bird, not at all shy, and ready to defend its nest. The nesting site is usually a cavity in a tree, in which no lining is placed. The eggs are three to seven in number and measure about 1.50 by 1.23 inches.

Dr. Elliot Coues in his "Birds of the Northwest" says, "It feeds chiefly upon field mice (*Arvicolae*) which swarm in the sphagnum vegetation of arctic lands; also upon small birds, grasshoppers and other insects."

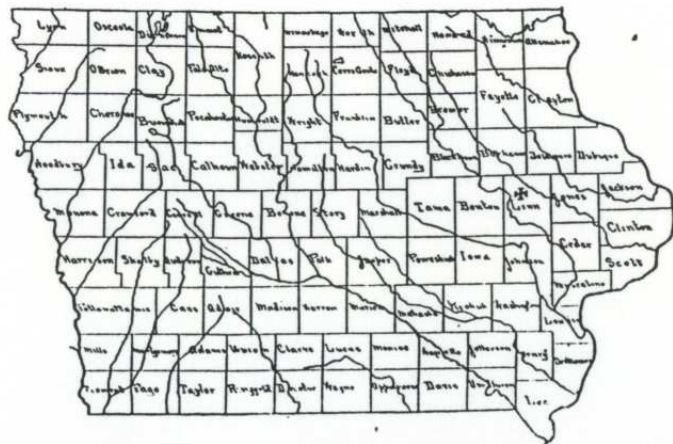


Fig. 91.—Map showing the distribution in Iowa of the Hawk Owl.

*Surnia ulula caparoch* (Muller).

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A. O. U. Check-List, p. 177, 1910.

Chapman, F. M., Birds of Eastern North America, p. 316, 1912.

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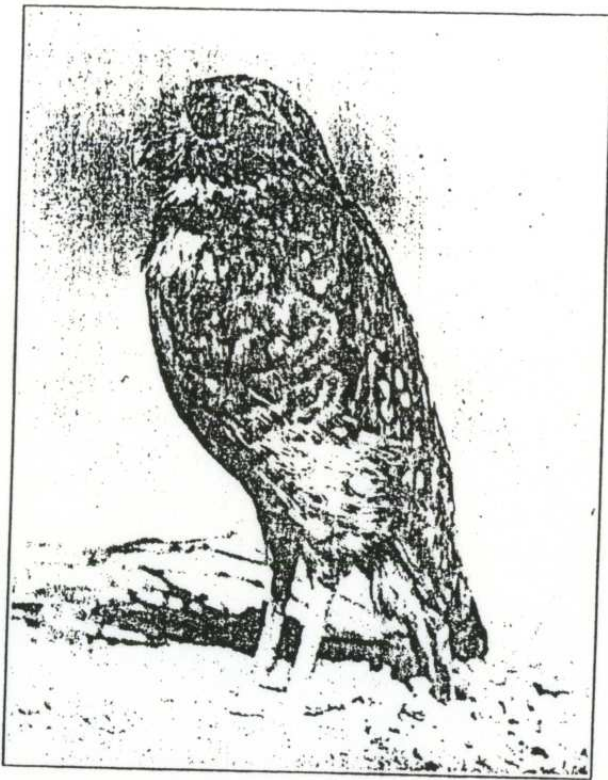


Fig. 92.—The Burrowing Owl.

Genus *Speotyto* Golger.

33. *SPEOTYTO CUNICULARIA HYPOGÆA* (Bonaparte). 378.

Burrowing Owl. Ground Owl.

*Field Characters.*—A small, rather long-legged owl brownish in color, with yellow eyes. Seen on the prairie, usually near a burrow or hole in the ground into which it retreats, and where its nest is made.

*Description.*—Above, brown with whitish and buff spots, and with buff barring on the flight feathers of the wings. Tail with about

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