

Red-naped Sapsucker  
14 Apr 1966  
Sioux City, Woodbury Co., IA  
Wm. Youngworth  
Youngworth 1966, IBL 66:97

Record Number: 95-AA  
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

Youngworth, W. 1966. The Red-naped Sapsucker ? at Sioux City.  
Iowa Bird Life 36:52.

Records Committee: IBL 66:97

VOTE: 2 A-D, 5 NA

NA, Red feathers on the nape have proven to be unreliable in separating this species from aberrant Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (see Birding XXIII #1). Kaufman in Advanced Birding (page 177) states that all out of range Red-naped Sapsuckers should be closely studied "with special attention to throat and back." The description by Youngworth even states he noticed no difference between the two sapsuckers except for the nape, and had doubts about the validity of the identification.

NA, Without a notation of throat color, this could have been a hybrid.

NA, Apparently some Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers can have some red on the nape. A more complete description might have helped tip the balance.

A-D, This bird had what appears to be a fair amount of red on the nape, making this a diagnostically marked Red-naped Sapsucker.

NA, Confusion with eastern red naped types makes it hard.

NA, The only mark noted is the red nape on one of the two "male" birds seen. No mention was made of the red (vs. white) throat of the "Red-naped", nor any comment about the black edging of the throat. The absence of comment on the red throat especially (taking the observer's word that this was indeed a male) is troubling; this should have been obvious. If the observer in fact had a female Red-naped, which has at least some red on the nape and reduced red in the throat area, the ID is more intriguing. Timing is perfect for migrating Red-naped. However because of the lack of detail and the fact that a few Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have red coloration on the nape, I am voting NA. The North Platte, Nebraska, sighting reported was undocumented.

La Doux, Spirit Lake; Fred Leshar, LaCrosse, Wisc.; Peter Lowther, Burlington; Howard McKinley, Russell; Ron Muilenburg, Webster City; Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Davenport; Don Peterson, Ames and Decorah; Barton Sutter, Hanlontown; Myron Swenson, Ames; Mrs. Duane Williams, Jesup. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa, 50312.

CORRECTION — The Whistling Swans reported by Fred Leshar on p. 18 of the March issue were seen at Lock and Dam 7 rather than 9.

### GENERAL NOTES

The Red-naped Sapsucker ? at Sioux City—On April 14, 1966, I noticed two male sapsuckers in our old apple tree. Several of the larger branches have been punctured over the years and these birds were working on the old holes. Tiring of this they both dropped down to the ground. We have a semicircle of abalone shells around the front of the bird bath and usually pour some water in the upturned cups when we fill the bath. The two sapsuckers seemed very thirsty. As they were drinking, mirrored against the lovely iridescence of the shells, I thought what beautiful birds they were.

It was then that I really noticed the difference in the two males. The one was a typical Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, but the other one, equally gay in his spring outfit, had a red patch of feathers on the nape of the neck. The question is, was this bird a Red-naped Sapsucker of the western mountains or was he a mutation that is extremely rare in the Eastern Yellow-bellied Sapsucker? Forbush, in *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, reports that sapsuckers with this red-nape patch are very rarely reported in that area.

In recent years specimens of the Red-naped Sapsucker have been taken in western Kansas. Miss Doris Gates reports a sight record of the Red-naped Sapsucker at North Platte, Nebraska, in 1953, see *Nebraska Bird Review*, 21:38-39. The two sapsuckers were around for a few minutes and then were gone, so that further viewing was not possible and this sight record is given for what it is worth. WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, 3119 E. 2nd St., Sioux City.

One Day Eagle Count on the Mississippi River — February 19 or 20, 1966 — Areas covered were as in former years, mostly the Mississippi River from the source to below St. Louis, also most rivers in Illinois and some refuges. Portions of Kentucky and one area in Nebraska were also covered. Some reports are by Pools and some by Locks and Dams.

LOCATION	ADULTS	IMMATURES	NOT AGED	TOTAL
Pools 4, 5, 5A and 6	38	5	0	43
Pools 7 and 8	2	0	0	2
Pool 9	16	3	0	19
Pool 10	6	0	0	6
Pool 11	16	0	0	16
Savanna Ordnance Depot	122	13	2	137
Lock 12 and west	21	4	0	25
Lock 13 to Princeton, Iowa	18	1	0	19
Palisades State Park, Ill.	6	2	0	8
Albany, Ill.	6	1	1	8
Cordova, Ill.	4	0	0	4
Cordova to Lock 14	16	3	0	19
Locks 14 and 15	7	1	0	8
Lock 16 and Muscatine, Iowa	6	3	0	9
Lock 17	12	2	0	14
New Boston, Ill.	27	0	0	27
Keithsburg, Ill.	9	0	0	9
Oquawka, Ill.	11	3	0	14
Lock 18 to Burlington, Iowa	29	1	0	30
Lock 19	27	6	3	36
Lock 20	5	0	0	5
Lock 21 and below	9	4	0	13
Lock 22 south	15	10	1	26
Lock 24 south	28	42	0	70
Lock 25 south to St. Louis	53	11	42	106
St. Louis	15	3	1	19
Sub-total	524	118	50	692
Percentage	.816	.184		
Illinois River	27	9	1	37
Crab Orchard Refuge	2	0	0	2
Chautauqua Refuge	11	3	0	14
Sub-total	564	130	51	745
Percentage	.816	.184		
Kentucky	19	23	7	49
Nebraska	3	3	0	6
Totals	586	156	58	800
Percentage	.788	.212		
1965 totals	580	191	97	868
Percentage	.754	.245		

Each year the National Audubon Society has a similar count, mostly flying up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Alexander Sprunt, IV, conducts this count. This flight count was taken January 17 and 18th. A comparison is most interesting. This is a quote from his letter, "I am amazed at the closeness of the two counts. We got 680, you got 692 total and the percentage of adults and immatures was within a few tenths of one percentage point both ways. Must indicate that both methods have either the same built in bias or that they are accurate, one or the other." His totals for the comparable portion of the count are adults 547, immatures 133. Percentages are 80.4% to 19.6%. ELTON FAWKS, 2309 5th Ave., Moline, Ill.