

Western Bluebird

< 1889

Record Number: 93-FX

Classification: NA

IA

Mr. Atkinson

Keyes and Williams 1889, Osborn 1890

REFERENCES

Keyes, C.R., and H.S. Williams. 1889. Preliminary annotated catalogue of the birds of Iowa. Proc. Davenport Acad. Nat. Sci. 5:113-161. p 161.

Osborn, H. 1890. Local problems in science. Proc. Iowa Acad. Sci. 1(Part 1):19-39.

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, This appears to me to be one of the few unsubstantiated records in the Keyes and Williams list. Almost all of their species were substantiated by personal records and not from western Iowa. It was copied by Osborn. /thk

FAMILY TURDIDÆ. THRUSHES, SOLITAIRES, STONECHIATS, BLUEBIRDS, ETC.

SUBFAMILY TURDINÆ. THRUSHES.

GENUS TURDUS LINNÆUS.

SUBGENUS HYLOCICHLA BAIRD.

[B 148, R 1, C 6, U 755.]

Turdus mustelinus Gmel. Wood Thrush. Abundant summer resident. Appears about the first of May, and remains until September. It frequents the cool, shady woodlands in the vicinity of streams, where it commences to breed two or three weeks after its arrival. The nest of this species seems to be the favorite of the cow-bird (*Molothrus ater*), as a repository for its eggs. So frequently is this the case, that one may collect for a whole season, and not find more than half a dozen sets of wood thrushes' eggs without these parasitic eggs—all the others having from one to four eggs of *M. ater* in addition to those of the thrush. Several instances have been noted in which the wood thrush was sitting on the eggs of the cow-bird, with none of its own; while, on the other hand, one nest contained four eggs of each species—eight in all.

[B 151, R 2, C 7, U 756.]

Turdus fuscescens Steph. Wilson's Thrush. Migrant, and summer resident. Several nests have been taken at Des Moines, which are thought to belong to this species.

[B 154, R 3, C 12, U 757.]

Turdus alicia Baird. Gray-checked Thrush. Migratory; common. Arrives the first week in May, and remains about three weeks. Usually found in company with the next, in woodland.

[B 153, R 4 a, C 13, U 758 a.]

Turdus ustulatus swainsonii (Cab.). Olive-backed Thrush. Migratory; abundant; sojourning two or three weeks on both the spring and fall migrations. It prefers the low, damp woodland bordering the streams, but is often seen in favorable localities along the bluffs, at a distance from the water-courses.

[B 149, R 5 b, C 10, U 759 b.]

Turdus aonalaschke pallasii (Cab.). Hermit Thrush. Migratory; rather common; arriving about the middle of April. It is generally seen in the woodland along the streams.

GENUS MERULA LEACH.

[B 155, part, R 7, C 1, U 761.]

Merula migratoria (Linn.). Robin. Summer resident; abundant. Our most familiar species, and one of the earliest harbingers of spring,

often appearing in February and remaining until November. Commences nesting about the middle of April. During the season of 1880, an unusually large set of six eggs was taken in north Des Moines. Its nest is often very firmly and compactly built, as is well illustrated by a nest examined several years ago. It was several hours after a rather severe rain storm, and the nest was still over half full of water, nearly submerging the three eggs it contained. Among the many curious phenomena of avian life, it is believed the following incident is somewhat novel: One morning during the spring of 1879, a great commotion was noticed among the birds a short distance from the house. On going out into the yard, the cause of their uneasiness was soon learned. A robin was suspended by means of a narrow strip of calico from a small branch, some fifteen feet from the ground. Further examination showed that the bird was dead, and that a foot or more of the calico (which was about three feet in length), had been swallowed by the unfortunate robin, and the other end of the strip had caught on the branch, leaving the bird suspended fifteen or twenty inches below.

GENUS SIALIA SWAINSON.

[B 158, R 22, C 27, U 766.]

Sialia sialis (Linn.). Bluebird. Abundant. One of the first of our summer residents to put in an appearance in the spring—sometimes even preceding the robin. Nesting frequently begins early in April; and two or three broods are raised in a season. May 22, 1882, nest was found in a small cavity in a hawthorn tree; it contained four eggs of the bluebird, and one of the house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*). Occasionally the bluebird builds its nest in the excavations made by bank swallows in the sides of gravel pits.

[B 159, R 23, C 28, U 767.]

Sialia mexicana Swains. Western Bluebird. Occasionally taken in western Iowa. Also recorded as having been taken in the State by Mr. Atkinson.

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Osborn 1892
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= Western Bluebird (TMR)

Sialia mexicana *Say* *Say*.