

Carolina Parakeet  
14 May 1834  
below Weeping-water [Niobrara] River, NE  
Maximillian Wied-Neuwied  
Anderson 1907, Reise 11:345

Record Number: 81-MW  
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

- Reise 11:354 [quoted in Anderson]
- Anderson 1907
- VOTE (1981): 3-III, 2-IV, 2-V
  - IV, Max not as reliable as Audubon.
  - IV, really in Iowa vs. Neb.
  - III, easy bird to id.
  - V, extirpated status.
  - III, ditto, although observer reputation not as illustrious --  
however birds were present at that time.

172. (382). *Conurus carolinensis* (Linn.). Carolina Paroquet.

The beautiful Carolina Paroquet formerly ranged in flocks as

far as the northern part of the state, but has not been observed in the state for at least thirty years and has practically been exterminated throughout the United States. Frank M. Chapman gives four reasons for its disappearance: "First, it was destructive to fruit orchards, and for this reason was killed by agriculturists; second, it has been trapped and bagged in enormous numbers by professional bird-catchers; third, it has been killed in myriads for its plumage; and fourth, it has been wantonly slaughtered by so-called sportsmen" (Birds East. N. A., p. 222).

Thomas Say states that the "Carolina parroquet" was seen several times during the winter of 1819-20 at Engineers' Cantonment (Long's Exp., 1, pp. 265-270). Prince Maximilian on May 14, 1834 (a little below "Wheeping-water River"), records: "Auch Papageien wurden gesehen, deren Gardner schon oben an l'eau qui court [Niobrara River] bemerkt hatte," etc. (Reise 11, 345). Audubon noted the species several times along the Missouri (Journals 1, 476); (May 8, 1843), "we saw Parrakeets and many small birds but nothing new or very rare" (southwest corner of Iowa), (Ibid, 477, Bellevue, Sarpy county, Neb., May 9, 1843); (Ibid, 481, near Council Bluffs, May 10, 1843), "Parrakeets and Wild Turkeys plentiful;" they were also heard by Bell between Ft. George and the Great Bend of the Missouri September 15, 1843 (Ibid, 11, p. 165). As late as 1863, F. V. Hayden noted the Paroquet as "very abundant in the Mississippi Valley along the thickly wooded bottoms as far up the Missouri as Fort Leavenworth, possibly as high as the mouth of the Platte, but never seen above that point" (Trans. Am. Philos. Soc., xii, 1863, p. 154).

The last Iowa record is that given by Dr. Coues in his "Birds of the Northwest," (1874 p. 296). "In Iowa, according to Mr. Trippe, the Parrot still occurs. 'A resident of Decatur county told me that he had several times seen a flock of Parrots in the southern part of the county on a tall, dead cottonwood tree, known to the neighboring inhabitants as the "parrot tree," from its having been frequented at intervals by the same flock for several years . . . and that he had shot one of them on one occasion' (Pr. Bost. Soc., xv, 1872, p. 233)."

Paul Bartsch, in an article on "Birds Extinct in Iowa and Those Becoming So" (Iowa Orn., 11, 1895, pp. 2-3), states that the Paroquet formally ranged as far north as Spirit Lake, where it would frequently remain until the cold snow would drive it southward. Its food in winter consisted chiefly of the seeds of the cocklebur. Its nature was so peculiar that when one of the number was killed or wounded, the others would gather around it with shrill cries and in this way the entire flock could easily be annihilated.

Dr. Rich states that many years ago the Paroquets were noticed just across the river from Sioux City, in Nebraska. Some were captured and kept as cage pets. A series of about a dozen specimens in the University museum were taken by D. H. Talbot's collectors at the mouth of the Arkansas River in 1882.

Anderson 1907  
pp 269-271

1  
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3  
not included  
Iowa record  
TK

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