

Sprague's Pipit
16 May 1954
Polk Co., IA
G. O. Hendrickson
Crossley 1954, Brown 1958, Brown 1971

Record Number: 81-CT
Classification: NA

REFERENCES

- Crossley, Mrs. G. 1954. The Des Moines Convention. IBL
24:38-42.
Brown, W.H. 1958. A sight record of Sprague's Pipit. IBL
28:41.
Brown 1971
VOTE (1981): 1-III, 2-IV, 4-V
V, no detail, all second hand info.
III, saw this bird myself. Made some notes in Peterson guide,
but it has been discarded.
V, no data.
IV, I have serious doubts about some of the species listed on
these field trips, however same locality as one seen by Brown and
Berkowitz --see 6.

81-CT

Bird Watch Record Set; 157 Species

By Julie Zelenka.

Members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union spotted 157 species of birds, a new high for the group's one-day field trips, during a watch that started at 5 a. m. Sunday and ended about 1 p. m.

Albert C. Berkowitz, president of the Des Moines Audubon Society, the group which was host to ornithologists from throughout the state, said a number of unusual birds were seen.

Sprague's Pipit.

A Sprague's Pipit was observed for the first time in this area by Dr. George Hendrickson, professor of ornithology at Iowa State College, Ames, and others with him.

Lillian Serbousek of Cedar Rapids saw a Kentucky Warbler, a song bird seldom seen in Iowa.

About 25 Hudsonian Godwits were seen by observers at Brenton Slough. Many of them saw the species for the first time. The bird has a body about the size of a duck, a long neck, long legs and long slender bill that turns up slightly.

Many of the bird watchers saw yellow-headed blackbirds. The species was once common here, Berkowitz said, but is now rare because the type of marsh they nest in is no longer available.

Five Groups.

Ninety persons divided into five groups for the field trips. They observed birds at Brenton

slough, waterworks impounding reservoir, Walnut Woods state park; Pine Hill Cemetery, Parker's Woods, Fisher's Lake, Morningstar, Dove Woods, Waterworks Park and Grays Lake.

Clouds in the early morning sky made spotting difficult and the ornithologists feared it would rain as it had during field trips at the last two annual meetings.

Reports on birds sighted during the field trips are published in the Iowa Ornithologists' Union magazine, Iowa Birdlife.

A luncheon and business meeting was held after the field trips.

Officers Re-elected.

All of the union's officers were re-elected. They are Dr. Edward L. Kozicky of Ames, president; Woodward H. Brown of Des Moines, vice-president; Mrs. George Crossley, of Farley, secretary-treasurer; Dr. J. Harold Ennis of Mount Vernon, librarian; and Fred J. Pierce of Winthrop, editor.

Executive council members are Walter W. Barret of Sioux City, Albert C. Berkowitz of Des Moines, C. Esther Copp of Wheatland, and Mrs. R. S. Ruegnitz of Dubuque.

Auction Group Names Jacobs

Steve Jacobs of Sigourney was elected president of the Auction Sale Pavilion Operators of Iowa at the group's convention Sunday at the Hotel Fort Des Moines.

Jacobs succeeds Earl Shields of Newton as president. Wendell Burgher of Centerville was named vice-president and Virgil Jones of Grinnell, secretary-treasurer.

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Crossley, Mrs. G. 1954. The Des Moines Convention. Iowa Bird Life 24:38-42

Sprague's Pipit listed for field trip of
May 16, 1954

Brown, W. 1962. Sprague's Pipit in Iowa. IBL 32:20.

Sprague's Pipit in Iowa. Jim Keenan of Ogden raises an interesting question regarding the abundance in Iowa of the Sprague's Pipit. Jack Musgrove's check-list published in 1949 as a supplement to the Iowa Conservationist lists the species as "Rare" and the Iowa Distributional Check-list in 1954 calls it an "Accidental or Straggler." Dr. F. L. Roberts reported it from Spirit Lake in 1949, Dr. Laude has a 1950 record at Amana, it was found at Brenton's Slough near Des Moines on an I.O.U. Spring Meeting field trip in 1954, and one was seen at the same place in 1958 by Albert Berkowitz and the writer.

The A.O.U. Check-list, 5th Ed., shows its breeding range as generally northwest of Iowa, but says it sometimes winters to the southeast so that some individuals should go through the state in migration. The four records referred to are all spring dates, but Mr. Keenan's records in 1949, 1950, 1959, and 1961 are all fall dates. He says he sees almost as many Sprague's as Water Pipits, and would like to know what other records the members of the I.O.U. may have. The species has been recorded regularly in recent winters by Richard Graber in southern Illinois. WOODWARD BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines.

Brown 1971
p 538

Sprague's Pipit Anthus spragueii (Audubon)

Rare migrant

Anderson (1907) cited a 1895 record, and DuMont (1934), with no record other than Anderson's, said "The present status is undetermined."

There are these recent records: 23 April, 1949, "northwest Iowa" (Roberts, 1949); 16 April, 1950, Amana, Johnson Co. (PPL); 16 May, 1954, Polk Co. (GOH); 4 May, 1958, Polk Co. (Brown, 1958); 27 May, 1962, near LaPorte City, Black Hawk Co. (Burk, 1962); 4 April, 1968, Shenandoah, Page Co. (FMB). Fall dates are all from Ogden, Boone Co.: 11 October, 1949, 29 September, 30 October, and 1 November, 1959, 13 and 22 September, 1961 (JK). There is no Iowa specimen extant.