

Common Poorwill
1880

Record Number: 81-BF
Classification: NA

Grinnell, Poweshiek Co., IA
unknown

Kelsey 1891; Cooke 1888, Goss 1891, Bendire 1895

REFERENCES

Kelsey, C. 1891. O & O 16(9):131-134 [cited by Anderson 1907].
Anderson 1907
Cooke 1888
Goss 1891
Bendire 1895

VOTE (1981): 3-V, 4-VI

VI, need to see Kelsey ref. Inclined to believe Lynds Jones.

V, little detail even for an old record.

IV, Kelsey records disputed by Jones. Ancient records by Goss & Bendire & Cooke are not specified.

VI, No description exists of bird supposedly taken at Grinnell. Seems unlikely this far east. Confusion with whip-poor-will possible even in hand by inexperienced persons.

354. (418). *Phalænoptilus nuttalli* (Aud.). Poorwill.

The Poorwill is a species which has been reported from Iowa upon more or less questionable records, but seems to occasionally straggle into the state from the west.

Professor H. W. Cooke says: "The scarcity of the preceding species [Whippoorwill] on the plains has been noted. Its place there is taken by the present species, which is a rather common summer resident in Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, and Dakota, passing eastward, even to Grinnell, Iowa, where an accidental visitant was taken in 1880" (Bird Migr. in Miss. Val., 1884-85, p. 136). Colonel N. S. Goss (Birds of Kansas, 1891, p. 345) gives the range of the species as "western U. S., east into Iowa and Missouri;" and Major Charles Bendire (Life Hist. of N. A. Birds, ii, 1895, p. 153) as "casual east to Iowa and Missouri." Bruner, Wolcott, and Swenk give the status of the species in Nebraska as "western part of state, common; breeding in the canyons of Sioux county and east at least to Long Pine canyon, probably across the state northward." (Rev. Birds of Neb., 1904, p. 61).

Carl Kelsey gives the Poorwill as a "rare accidental visitant" in Poweshiek county (O. & O., xvi, 9, 1891, pp. 131-4), but Professor Lynds Jones of Oberlin, Ohio, in a letter of March 3, 1904, states that this was "Wrongly entered. Records based upon hearing alone . . . closely resembled the cry of the birds which I heard in Algona in 1900. I have suppressed the record."

Dr. Isidor S. Trostler gives the species as a "Very rare summer resident in Pottawattamie county. I took a set of two eggs May 5, 1895; bird shot almost to pieces, but enough saved to make identity certain."

Anderson 1907
p 464

? Iowa State Lib.

Cooke, W. W. 1888. Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley 1884-5.
US Dept Agriculture. Division of Economic Ornithology. Bull 2. p 136

418. *Phalænoptilus nuttalli* (Aud.). [355.] Poor-will.

The scarcity of the preceding species on the Plains has been mentioned. Its place there is taken by the present species, which is a rather common summer resident in Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, and Dakota, passing eastward, even to Grinnell, Iowa, where an accidental visitant was taken in 1880. In southeastern Dakota Dr. Agersborg recorded it as common, but gave no date for its arrival. In the spring of 1884 it was seen at Mason, Texas, April 8, and at Manhattan, Kans., May 6. It proceeds north to about latitude 48°, and winters near our southern border.

In the spring of 1885 the first Poor-will was noted at San Angelo, Tex., March 26. It arrived at Manhattan, Kans., April 15, but the next was not seen there until May 4. In the meantime it had been seen at Emporia, Kans., April 27.

Goss, N. S. 1891. History of the Birds of Kansas. Topeka, Geo. W. Crane Co.
p 345

Phalænoptilus nuttalli (AUD.).

POOR-WILL.

PLATE XXIII.

Summer resident; common. Arrive the last of April to first of May; begin laying the last of May; return in September.

B. 113. R. 355. C. 398. G. 164, 163. U. 418. ?

HABITAT. Western United States; east into Iowa and Missouri; south into Mexico.

Bendire, C. 1895. Life history of North American Birds from the Parrots to the Grackles with special reference to their breeding habits and eggs. in Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge 985. vol 32:153.

POOR-WILL.

Caprimulgus nuttalli AUDUBON, Birds of America. VII, 1843, 350, Pl. 495.

Phalænoptilus nuttalli RIDGWAY. Proceedings U. S. National Museum. III, 1880, 5.

(B 113, C 266, R 355, C 398, U 418.) ?

GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE: Western United States, from the Sierra Nevada and the Cascade mountains eastward to southeastern South Dakota, eastern Nebraska, Kansas, the Indian Territory, and eastern Texas; north to eastern Washington, Idaho, Montana, and southern North Dakota; south in winter through eastern Mexico to Guatemala, Central America. Casual east to Iowa and Missouri.