

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 02/04/94

Common Raven

3 May 1833

mouth of Platte, Mills Co., IA

Prince Maximilian

Anderson 1907

Record Number: 93-FI

Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Anderson 1907 [quotes Reise, i, p. 290]

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, The mouth of the Platte is in Nebraska. No description of
bird. /thk

Anderson 1907
pp 295-296

209. (486). *Corvus corax sinuatus* (Wagl.). American Raven.

The Raven probably does not occur in Iowa at the present time. If it does it can only be accounted as a very rare or accidental straggler. Formerly it ranged over the whole of the United States but now is restricted to wild and restricted localities. "The restriction of its range in the United States is probably reducible to a fortuitous matter, since this bird, like some others, sooner or later finds the advances of civilization unsupportable, and retires to regions more congenial to its wild and wary nature" (Coues, Birds of N. W., p. 205).

Thomas Say notes the raven at Engineers' Cantonment—"the young nearly able to fly May 12, 1820" (Long's Exp., i, pp. 265-269). Prince Maximilian noted the "Kolkrabe" above the Nishnabotna River May 1, 1833, and at the mouth of the Platte, May 3, 1833 (Reise, i, p. 290). Audubon writes May 11, 1843: "A fine large Raven passed at one hundred yards from us, but I did not shoot [below mouth of Little Sioux]" (Journals, i, p. 484).

T. M. Trippe states that "a resident of Decatur county who had become familiar with the Raven in the northwest assures me that he had occasionally seen it in this county" (Pr. Bost. Soc., xv, 1872, p. 240).

Mr. George H. Berry reports that a correspondent observed a specimen near Rockford, Iowa, in 1900, feeding with Crows. It was also observed to be much larger than the Crows, which makes the record appear probable.

Kumlien and Hollister report that while the Northern Raven (*C. c. principalis* Ridgw.) is common at several points along Lake Superior, it has been rarely seen in southern Wisconsin of late years. Nelson found it a rare winter visitant in northern Illinois in 1876 (Birds of Wis., pp. 85-86). Whether any of the Iowa records pertain to this northern and eastern variety can not now be determined.