

Carolina Chickadee
7 Oct 1929
Buchanan Co., IA
Fred Pierce, Charles Spiker
DuMont 1933

Record Number: 81-GF
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

DuMont 1933

LETTER

Fred J. Pierce to Thoams Kent, 29 Oct 1981

VOTE (1981): 2-III, 4-IV, 1-V

IV, second hand info.

IV, Fred kept good records of his field trips.

V, no details.

IV, Report of 2 observers who observed and heard a bird in Oct. No plumage details nor details of song presented.

III, If song is diagnostic, this record should be accepted. However the song is not described.

Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis (Audubon). Carolina Chickadee

Accidental. Anderson (1907) recorded that he had examined a specimen taken by George H. Berry, at Keokuk, Lee County, May 4, 1888. This specimen is now in the Museum at Coe College. It measures: wing, 58.9; tail, 49.3; tarsus, 16.0. The identification was recently confirmed by H. C. Oberholser.

Fred J. Pierce reported that a bird of this species was observed by Charles J. Spiker and himself, in Buchanan County, October 7, 1929. The peculiarities of its song were carefully noted. In the experience of the writer the song of this bird is the best clue for its identification.] 2

DuMont 1933
pp 102-103

81-6F

Winthrop, Iowa 50682
Oct. 29, 1981

Dr. Thomas Kent

Dear Tom:

I was very glad to have your letter. The record of the Carolina Chickadee in DuMont's Birds of Iowa (1933) says it all. Charley Spiker found the bird in some bushes back of our home Oct. 7, 1929, called my attention to it and especially to its very different song, which all bird authorities say distinguishes this bird from the Black-capped. There were no bird-song recorders in those days, and after 52 years I can't remember much about the bird or its song, understandably.

The record will have to stand (or fall) on the reputation of Spiker, a recognized authority on birds who had a long string of publications to his credit. I believe that he and Bill Youngworth were the best field observers I was ever out with. Spiker was an accomplished musician and had an exceptionally keen, trained ear for bird notes. He had had experience with the Carolina in other parts of the country and I trusted his identification completely.

Spiker was one of the three "Founders" of the Iowa Ornith. Union. For more information on him, read the biography I wrote in Iowa Bird Life, 1963, pp. 62-68. You will understand my admiration and respect for him.

I'll certainly be glad to have you come to see me. Try to have at least several hours here, as I have a lot of things to show you, including my library of 2,000 bound books, mostly on birds. I wish you'd bring your dad. I think a lot of him and have not seen him for quite some time. After he got started with Iowa Bird Life, he was a generous and constant source of notes and fine photos, which raised our little ordinary sheet to the the status of a fine, pictorial bird magazine!

Be sure ^{to} call before you come, as I am often away for a few hours. My phone: (319) 935-3361. Pierce house at 314 North 3rd St.

Sincerely,



Fred J. Pierce