

Carolina Parakeet

8 May 1843

to Harrison County, Fremont Co., IA

John J. Audubon

to 10 May; Audubon and Coues 1897, Anderson 1907

Record Number: 81-MX

Classification: A-D

REFERENCES

Audubon and Coues 1897 [quoted correctly in Anderson/thk]
Anderson 1907

VOTE (1981): 6-III, 1-IV

III, He knew the species well and mentioned it in his journal
while in Iowa.

III, easy bird to id.

III, record acceptable as extirpated species.

III, ditto -- observer reputation and period in time.

Note: Newlon's vote was changed from IV to III, because in
talking to him, he voted IV based on chance that bird might have
been in Nebraska, not on any doubt about identification. I
recently visited the area and discussed the location with
Silcock. There are no Bluffs on the Nebraska side! TK 1/5/82

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).

Anderson 1907
pp 269-271

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 "Weeping-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.

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not included
Iowa record
TK

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Order PSITTACIFORMES

Family Psittacidae

Conuropsis carolinensis ludovicianus (Gmelin). Louisiana Paroquet

Extinct. Anderson (1907) has summarized the observations on this bird as contained in the reports of the early explorers up the Missouri River. Thomas Say stated that it was seen several times during the winter of 1819-20 at Engineer Cantonment, near the present site of Ft. Calhoun, Washington County, Nebraska. Prince Maximilian recorded an Iowa observation on May 14, 1834 a little below "Weeping-water River." Audubon and Bell had several observations during May, 1843. The last authentic record is given by T. Martin Trippe (1872): "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." There are no Iowa specimens.

DuMont 1933
p 81

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Note: I have full copy of Audubons Journal in Iowa. The two quotes in Anderson 1907 are accurate. Audubon mentions Parakeets all the way from St. Louis (apparently common). Two probable Iowa sites are just after leaving Missouri and on a trip to the base of the Bluffs at Council Bluffs. Although he didn't say what side of the river he was on nor the direction traveled, he did go on horseback to see the commander at Council Bluffs. Am I correct in thinking that there are no Bluffs on the Nebraska side?

T. Kent 10/6/1981

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DuMont 1933
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DuMont, P. A. 1935. Additional Iowa species of birds substantiated by specimens. *Wilson Bull* 47:205-208

LOUISIANA PAROQUET. *Conuropsis carolinensis ludovicianus*. On January 24, 1934, Prof. Myron H. Swenk wrote as follows: "In the United States National Museum collection are specimens of the Louisiana Paroquet (*Conuropsis carolinensis ludovicianus*) that were taken on 'Bald Island' by Dr. F. V. Hayden in the spring of 1856, I believe it was. I have identified 'Bald Island' through Lieutenant G. K. Warren's map with McKissock Island at the Otoe-Nemaha County line, which now has been cut off from Nebraska and lies entirely east of the Missouri River though technically still a part of Nebraska."

In answer to my letter of June 18 to the U. S. National Museum endeavoring to determine the present existence of a substantiating specimen from this point of intersection for Nebraska-Iowa-Missouri, Mr. J. H. Riley, Assistant Curator of Birds, sent the following reply on June 21: "There were originally eleven specimens of paroquets received through Lt. Warren, all presumably from Bald Island. The locality of three of these is in doubt, however, as it was not so specified in the catalogue. Baird, *Pacific Railroad Reports*, Vol. 9, 1858, p. 68, gives twelve specimens, but one of this number is duplicated and the specimen marked 'fresh', and it may not have been saved. Three of his numbers are also not definite as to locality, one simply marked 'Nebraska' and other two blank. Of the eleven specimens only one skin remains in the study series of the National Museum, though a few may have been used in an old mounted group of which the individual data have been lost. Seven were exchanged or given away. Four were sent to Verreaux, Paris, two to the University of Michigan, and one to Dr. Henry Bryant, later becoming the property of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and the type of *Conuropsis carolinensis interior* Bangs, *Proc. New England Zool. Club*, Vol. 4, 1913, p. 94. The skin remaining in the study series is a typical *Conuropsis carolinensis ludovicianus*." (See also the full account of the occurrence of this bird along the Missouri River Valley, as contained in the *Nebraska Bird Review* II, pp. 55-59).