

Question:- From your personal observations, do you think that our bird population is increasing or decreasing?

Reply:- Some are on the increase while others and especially the more desirable are slowly decreasing and some are entirely extinct. It is a singular fact that in the bird world the same situation prevails that we find in a great many other things. The undesirable things always increase more rapidly than the desirable things; for instance the English Sparrow, the dandelion in your lawn, the Horse Nettle in the farmers field and now finally the European Starling. All undesirable and rapidly increasing.

Question:- Can you mention a few of the birds which you think are decreasing in numbers?

Reply:- Yes. For instance, the large Sandhill Crane which was a familiar sight on the Iowa prairies in pioneer days is now a rare bird. The Whooping Crane formerly here in fairly large numbers has ~~almost~~ almost been exterminated. *I have never seen one in Iowa*
The Trumpeter Swan, a majestic, large white bird which sounded its arrival like the blast of a trumpet was too large a target and has almost been wiped out.
The Golden Plover, called by the pioneers "the Prairie Pigeons" were almost on the verge of extinction but by heroic measures and strict game laws and long closed seasons they have been saved and are now gradually coming back. It is a wonderful thing that these noble birds can be saved for they represent some of the greatest travellers of all. Nesting as they do, within the Arctic Circle, they travel southward in the fall with their families, along the Atlantic coast until they reach the coast of Newfoundland. There after taking a brief rest they launch bravely out over the stormy Atlantic never stopping until they reach the mainland of South America a distance of 2400 miles, the longest non stop flight of any bird. Then they proceed leisurely down through South America until they reach Argentine where they spend the winter. Their return trip in the spring is up through the mainland all the way and they pass right up our great Mississippi Valley with Iowa of course as a convenient stopping and feeding place. That this wonderful bird, which makes a round trip flight each year of 16000 miles can be saved, is a grand thing. It gives me a thrill every time I see them and I really stand at attention and take off my hat as I see again a few of these great world travellers. *Watch for them. They are due here in the next two weeks. Size of pigeon. Golden brown backs*

Question:- That is interesting but you mentioned about those which were extinct. What are they? *black under parts*

Reply:- The Esquimaux Curlew is gone. I have seen the Long Billed Curlew on the Nebraska and Dakota prairies but have never seen an Esquimaux Curlew. None have been seen for a number of years.
Likewise the Laborador Duck. The last one was shot a number of years ago and it is thought that the species has been entirely exterminated.
Most notable of all however is the Passenger Pigeon which was found in such great numbers that they darkened the sun when they passed over by the millions. They were slaughtered in every conceivable way until now not a single bird remains.

State of Iowa

Fish and Game Commission

Des Moines

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Question: Can you mention a few of the birds which you think are decreasing in numbers?

Reply: Yes. For instance, the large Sandhill Crane which was

The last known Passenger Pigeon died in the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens on Sept 1st. 1914 at an age of 29 years.

What a tragic thing that the bird that was most numerous of all on our North American continent should be exterminated.

We have another bird that was formerly plentiful in Iowa and all over the western prairies but which is also doomed to extinction unless steps are taken to protect them and to furnish them with suitable nesting grounds where they can be undisturbed. I refer to the Prairie Chicken.

A couple of years ago I wrote a magazine article about ^{some} the early experiences with this bird in Boone County. For the benefit of the listeners I will read this article.

let me tell this story

Travelers of all times who have traveled in the Arctic Circle, the great northern part of the world, have reached the coast of Newfoundland. There after taking a brief rest they launch bravely out over the stormy Atlantic never stopping until they reach the mainland of South America a distance of 2400 miles, the longest non stop flight of any bird. Then they proceed leisurely down through South America until they reach Argentina where they spend the winter. Their return trip in the spring is up through the mainland all the way and they pass right up our great Mississippi Valley with low of course as a convenient stopping and feeding place. That this wonderful bird, which makes a round trip flight each year of 18000 miles can be saved, is a grand thing. It gives me a thrill every time I see them and I really stand at attention and take off my hat as I see again a few of these great world travelers.

Question: That is interesting but you mentioned about those which were extinct. What are they?

Reply: The Passenger Pigeon is gone. I have seen the long billed Gull on the Nebraska and Dakota prairies but have never seen an Passenger Gull. None have been seen for a number of years. Likewise the Labrador Duck. The last one was shot a number of years and it is thought that the species has been entirely exterminated. Most notable of all however is the Passenger Pigeon which was found in such great numbers that they darkened the sun when they passed over by the millions. They were slaughtered in every conceivable way until now not a single bird remains.