

Outdoor Iowa
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WOODCOCKS INCREASING IN NUMBERS

The Woodcock has shown a decided increase in numbers within its eastern breeding range according to Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., of Middleton, Mass. The re-establishment of the splendid game bird in its former nesting regions was attributed to the recent protection given the bird through restricted or closed seasons.

Mr. Pettingill's monographic study of the Woodcock is to be published shortly by the Boston Society of Natural History. This study has disclosed that the former range of this bird extended west rarely to Nebraska, but records from western Iowa are extremely scarce.

Recent Iowa breeding records, as furnished to Mr. Pettingill by Philip A. DuMont, of the Iowa Fish and Game Commission, included ones from Story, Boone, Washington, Black Hawk, Clayton and Allamakee counties. Woodcocks have also been noted during the summer recently in Sac, Buena Vista, Polk and Winnebago counties. It is probable that the Woodcock nests along most of the damp river bottoms in eastern Iowa, principally in the region of the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life Refuge.--Philip A. DuMont, Des Moines, Iowa.