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Refer to
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A Proposed Revision of the List of Iowa Birds

R. M. Anderson published the "Birds of Iowa" in 1907, twenty-five years ago. There has been a growing feeling that this publication is out of date and that a new state book on birds is needed.

Within a few days the new two-volume set of "Birds of Minnesota" will be issued. These books with colored plates of over five hundred birds, have been printed at an estimated cost of 60,000 dollars. You will agree with me, I believe; that we are not ready in Iowa to duplicate such a project. These books, containing as they do, practically all of the birds occurring in Iowa will satisfy our need to a certain extent.

Yet there is a real need for an up-to-date list of birds known to occur in the state together with the status, abundance, and distribution, of these various species.

I am preparing such a paper based upon a study of the specimens in all Iowa collections of birds, by a review of published records, and from the field notes of the leading ornithologists in the state.

I am proposing that this paper be published as a booklet, 6 x 9 inches, and be of about 40 pages. It could be either wire stitched or sewn, being of that size. There should be a heavy paper cover.

The title "A Revision of the Birds of Iowa" should be on the cover.

Page 1, and 2 : Preface. Under this would be discussed the fact that the last state list was 25 years ago and therefore the status (or ranges) of many species have changed; many of the scientific names have been changed; new forms of birds have been recognized that need inclusion; and some several stragglers have been found within the state, not before recorded.

Page 3 : A brief historical sketch of the ornithological work done in the state, calling particular attention to the more extended account in Anderson's work. This will cover the work up-to-date.

Page 4: Iowa's location, geographically, climatically, and in regard to Faunal Areas. In this connection it would be advisable to include a line map showing counties, rivers, and faunal areas (similar to Fig. 13, Iowa Geological Survey, Bulletin No. 6, p. 39).

Page 5 : Distribution of birds in the state. Actually an analysis of the faunal areas, and showing the 'plains' influence in the northwest, the Transition effect in the northeast, and the Carolinian tendency towards the south.

Pages 6 to 8 : Treatment. The body of the paper will be of two parts. First the enumeration of species as to

Permanent Residents
Summer Residents
Transients

Winter Visitors
Rare or Accidental
Introduced Species
Extinct

These groupings will be by common names and only qualified when some particular section of the state is needed, such as 'south' etc.

The second part of the paper will be the complete state list of birds based upon specimens or reliable and acceptable (to the other ornithologists of the state) sight records. This list will be arranged in the order of the new Check-list of the American Ornithologists' Union, issued in Nov. 1931. This list for Iowa will contain about 360 birds with an additional 30 or more in the Hypothetical list. Each bird will be listed with the scientific name and if a common species then only a line will be necessary for stating it's status, i.e.

Pied-billed Grebe. Podilymbus podiceps podiceps (Linnaeus).
Common summer resident.

For the species rarely found here a brief statement of the known specimens or other records will be necessary.

Besides outlining the manner of treatment, there will also be included in these three pages a statement of collections to be found in the state; the basis for including the records in the list; acknowledgements; and stating the order followed in arranging the list.

Pages 9 to 16 : For the listing of the species as to Permanent Residents, Summer Residents, etc, as stated above.

Pages 17 to 40 : For the complete list of Iowa Birds, briefly annotated.

This is a minimum estimate of the necessary pages, and more could be used (say 48) if the cost were the same.

I think 500 copies could be distributed of which at least one hundred should be mailed to ornithologists, museums, and libraries outside of the state. After an equal number, at least, were distributed in Iowa the bulk might be sold at a very low cost, the money to go to the Fish and Game Commission.

When this paper is published it should be accepted as the authority for the status of birds in Iowa and therefore will be widely quoted. I believe it to be a piece of work well worth-while for the Iowa Fish and Game Commission to publish.

Copy could be ready by the first of August.

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