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BIRDS OF WAPELLO COUNTY, IOWA

CHAS. J. SPIKER

Wapello County is located in the southeast part of Iowa with one county between it and the Iowa-Missouri line and three counties east of it between it and the Mississippi river. It is bounded on the north by Mahaska and Keokuk Counties, on the east by Jefferson County, on the south by Davis County, and on the west by Monroe County. Its county seat is Ottumwa. The Des Moines river flows diagonally across the county from northwest to southeast. It is quite heavily timbered for most of its course, affording an excellent route for the migration of birds common to the timbered regions. As its tributaries in the immediate vicinity of Ottumwa it has Sugar Creek on the eastern edge of the city, Harrow's Branch on the western edge and Bear Creek flowing into the river from the South. As the river approaches the city from the northwest, it makes a great bend to the east, returning to its diagonal course at about the centre of the city. The land in the interior of this bend has been platted in part as an addition to Ottumwa and is known as Central Addition. At the time of my observations, Central Addition had not been developed to any great extent, and as the land it included was quite low and marshy, a great thicket of willow saplings and underbrush had grown up making shelter for a great variety of birds in their season, especially for the warblers. This was the best locality close in to the city for bird study, and I spent much time there.

Just before the river makes the above mentioned bend, it divides into two channels, reuniting about a half mile below the point of division, the bit of land set off by this division being known as Turkey Island. A pair of dams has been constructed where the two channels are formed, furnishing power for the city plant, and as there was at this time a great deal of timber in this region, it provided another place near town for bird observation.

About four miles up the river from Ottumwa is a tract of timbered land, quite hilly and rough, known as Rock Bluff. About three miles below Ottumwa is another similar tract, altho much more bluffy, known as the Garrison Rock region. Both localities

are admirable places for bird observation as both stands of large timber and heavy growths of underbrush are found here.

The birds in this list, unless otherwise specified, are the results of my own observations between March 1911 and June 1915. I am indebted for some of my material to Mrs. J. G. Hutchison, a bird observer of many years experience and a long-time resident of Ottumwa, whose interest in the preparation of this paper has been very real and who has supplied me with data prior to the years mentioned above. While the birds included in this list do not by any means make a complete check-list of the birds of Wapello County, they will give one a fair idea of what may be expected in the locality.

1. Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). An occasional visitor along the Des Moines river during migrations.
2. Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). Seen occasionally along the Des Moines river in March or April.
3. Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*). Common migrant from the middle of May to first of June.
4. White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). One record, October 1, 1911, individual wounded by hunters on the Des Moines river.
5. Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*). Fairly common migrant.
6. Canvas-back Duck (*Marila valisneria*). Saw a flock of about 200 on the Des Moines river just above the West Dam, April 11, 1914.
7. American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). An occasional migration record; few sloughs in the region so I have no summer records.
8. Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias herodias*). Seen in late summer along the river.
9. Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*). Seen the same as last above but is not so common.
10. Green Heron (*Butorides virescens virescens*). Common summer resident, especially common along smaller streams, such as Bear Creek, Sugar Creek, etc.
11. Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*). Fairly common in migrations but know of no colonies in the county.
12. Carolina Rail (*Porzana carolina*). One record, September 13, 1914, specimen brought in by school children.
13. Coot (*Fulica americana*). Common migrant along Des Moines river.
14. Pectoral Sandpiper (*Pisobia maculata*). Late summer visitor.
15. Solitary Sandpiper (*Helodromas solitarius solitarius*). Fairly common spring migrant, especially common about little ponds on Central Addition.
16. Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). Common summer resident arriving middle of April.
17. Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*). Common summer resident arriving middle of March to first of April.
18. Quail (*Colinus virginianus virginianus*). Common resident, more abundant in the hill regions in south part of the county.

19. Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*). Common summer resident, arriving the last week in March or first week in April.
20. Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*). Fairly common resident along the river.
21. Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*). Fairly common in spring and fall migrations.
22. Cooper Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*). Fairly common summer resident but most of my records give it as more common in the fall.
23. Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis borealis*). Common resident.
24. Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus lineatus*). Fairly common summer resident.
25. Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). Common summer resident arriving first week in April.
26. Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk (*Archibuteo ferrugineus*). On November 4, 1914, found one that had been killed and hung by the legs from a wire fence.
27. Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius sparverius*). Common summer resident, arriving the middle of March.
28. Barred Owl (*Strix varia varia*). Fairly common resident, and have found at two different times a specimen killed and hung to the fence as described at No. 26.
29. Screech Owl (*Otus asio asio*). Very common resident.
30. Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*). Common resident in the timbered regions of the county.
31. Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus americanus*). Fairly common summer resident, arriving about 10th of May.
32. Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*). Possibly a little less common than No. 31 and arrives from a week to ten days later.
33. Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon alcyon*). Abundant along the small streams such as Bear Creek.
34. Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus villosus*). Common resident. It may be that in winter there is *D. v. leucomelas*, but at that time I had not gone into the study sufficiently to make the distinction.
35. Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens medianus*). Common resident, perhaps more common than the Hairy.
36. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius varius*). Common in migrations but have no summer record. Arrives first week in April.
37. Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). Abundant summer resident, arriving middle of April, but not common before the first of May. I have a Washington County record for April 1.
38. Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*). Fairly common resident.
39. Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*). Abundant summer resident arriving last week in March. Occasional in winter.
40. Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus vociferus*). Abundant in the timber in the Rock Bluff and Garrison Rock regions.
41. Nighthawk (*Chordeiles virginianus virginianus*). Common summer resident and often seen flying over the city in the evenings. Arrives first week in May.
42. Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*). Abundant summer resident arriving about April 20.

43. Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). Common summer resident arriving the middle of May.
44. Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Common summer resident arriving last week in April.
45. Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*). Fairly common summer resident arriving last week in April or first in May.
46. Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*). Common summer resident arriving last week in March or first in April.
47. Wood Pewee (*Myiochanes virens*). Common summer resident arriving first week in May.
48. Least Flycatcher (*Empidona minimus*). Common summer resident arriving first week in May. Especially common in Central Addition.
49. Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris alpestris*). Occasional winter visitor.
50. Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*). Fairly common resident, more abundant in winter.
51. Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*). Abundant resident.
52. Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*). Abundant resident. For a number of years there was an immense crow roost on Central Addition and more than five thousand crows, at an estimate, wintered there. While crossing the Market St. bridge at almost any time of night, one was able to hear quite a disturbance across the river.
53. Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). Fairly common migrant, arriving about May 10th, but I have no summer records.
54. Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*). Common in spring migrations, arriving about the 10th of April, but becoming much less common by June.
55. Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*). Abundant summer resident, arriving the middle of March.
56. Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*). Abundant summer resident, arriving first week in March. An occasional winter record.
57. Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*). Arrives second week in May. I have few records of this bird; it has also been observed by Mrs. Hutchinson.
58. Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). Common summer resident arriving last week of April or first in May.
59. Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). Not common, but have a few April records.
60. Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*). Abundant summer resident, arriving last week in March. Hundreds of the birds every summer in the Ottumwa Cemetery.
61. Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*). Rare, but have one record. On April 24, 1911, Miss Florence A. Gates, biology instructor in the Ottumwa High School, brought to the high school a female that had been injured by a cat. It was one of a flock of five that had spent a couple of days in the vicinity of Maple Ave.
62. Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*). Fairly common migrant, arriving second week in March and remaining about a month.
63. American Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra minor*). One record; on November 8, 1913, found a male specimen in the chicken-yard with some English Sparrows. It did not fly with the sparrows and I captured it by dropping a butterfly net over it.

64. Goldfinch (*Astragalinus tristis tristis*). Common resident, often seen in winter.

65. Pine Finch (*Spinus pinus*). Have two records, April 18, 1913 and March 24, 1914.

66. English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus*). Very abundant and a great pest.

67. Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes, gramineus gramineus*). Common summer resident arriving first week in April.

68. Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*). Fairly common migrant; arrives first week in May.

69. Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum australis*). Common summer resident, arriving middle of April to first of May.

70. Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus grammacus*). Fairly common summer resident arriving last week in April.

71. Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). Not common, but a few seen every spring and fall. Arrives last week in March or first in April.

72. White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*). Fairly common migrant arriving last week in April.

73. White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). Common migrant arriving from the middle to the last of April.

74. Tree Sparrow (*Spizella monticola monticola*). Common winter resident, earliest date of arrival, September 20, latest, October 7.

75. Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina passerina*). Common summer resident, arriving second week in March.

76. Clay-coloured Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). Not common, but a few records. Arrives last week in April.

77. Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). Common summer resident, arriving last week in March. Especially common on brushy hillsides along Harrow's Branch.

78. Slate-coloured Junco (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*). Common winter resident, arriving second week in October.

79. Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia melodia*). Common summer resident, with an occasional winter record. Arrives about middle of March.

80. Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*). Fairly common in migrations arriving first week in April.

81. Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca iliaca*). Common migrant, arriving about the middle of March. Especially common along Bear Creek and Harrow's Branch.

82. Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*). Common summer resident arriving last week in March.

83. Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis cardinalis*). Common resident, especially abundant at Rock Bluff and Garrison Rock.

84. Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*). Common summer resident arriving last week in April.

85. Indigo Bunting (*Passerina eyanca*). Common summer resident arriving first week in May.

86. Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). Abundant along roadsides in summer, arriving first week in May.

87. Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*). Fairly common summer resident in Garrison Rock and Turkey Island regions. Arrives first week in May.

88. Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*). Abundant in the city, arriving in April.

89. Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogastra*). Quite common during spring migrations, arriving first week in May, but few remain for the summer.

90. Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*). A fairly common summer resident arriving last week in April.

91. Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*). Common summer resident arriving last week in April.

92. Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*). Less common than No. 91, but found in company with it along the Des Moines river. Arrives first week in May.

93. Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). An erratic wanderer, seen very often some seasons and entirely absent on others. Have seen them a number of times in Central Addition.

94. Migrant Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*). Common summer resident arriving last week in March or first in April.

95. Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireosylva olivacea*). Common summer resident in the Rock Bluff and Garrison Rock regions, arriving first week in May.

96. Warbling Vireo (*Vireosylva gilva gilva*). A common summer resident of city lawns, arriving first week in May.

97. Blue-headed Vireo (*Lanivireo solitarius solitarius*). Rare migrant. One record, May 10, 1913, in Central Addition.

98. Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). Common migrant arriving first week in May, although I have one record for April 30.

99. Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). One record, May 8, 1915, Central Addition.

100. Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*). One record, May 25, 1913, in Central Addition.

101. Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla*). One record, May 15, 1914, a specimen found dead on the premises of Mrs. J. G. Hutchison. Mrs. Hutchison, also gives me a record of the bird for May 9, 1902, at Sugar Creek.

102. Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata celata*). One record, April 30, 1911, in Brown's Woods, near the Ottumwa Cemetery.

103. Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*). Fairly common migrant, arriving first week in May, and in autumn passing thru the last week in August.

104. Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva aestiva*). Abundant summer resident arriving last week in April.

105. Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). Common migrant arriving the middle to the last of April.

106. Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*). Fairly common migrant arriving second week in May.

107. Black-poll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*). Common migrant, arriving first two weeks in May.

108. Sycamore Warbler (*Dendroica dominica albiflora*). One record, August 28, 1913 at Rock Bluff.

109. Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*). One record, May 14, 1914, along Harrow's Branch.

110. Pine Warbler (*Dendroica vigorsi*). Fairly common migrant, arriving last of April, usually seen in the Ottumwa Cemetery.

111. Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum palmarum*). Fairly common migrant, arriving first week in May.

112. Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*). Common summer resident arriving first week in May, and most common in the Bear Creek and Central Addition areas.

113. Grinnell's Water-thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis*). Common first week in May, and most common in the underbrush close to the water's edge along the river.

114. Louisiana Water-thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*). One record, May 14, 1914, along the Des Moines river near the two dams. Mrs. Hutchison gives me a record for May 10, 1902 at Sugar Creek.

115. Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*). One record, July 31, 1914 at Rock Bluff.

116. Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*). Common migrant arriving second week in May.

117. Maryland Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas trichas*). A common summer resident, arriving last week in April.

118. Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens virens*). Mrs. Hutchison gives me a record for the spring of 1905, altho she had not the exact date. Although I myself have no records, it has been reported by other observers and there is every reason to believe that the bird may be found in certain localities, especially in the Harrow's Branch and Sugar Creek regions where the hillsides are covered with brush.

119. Wilson Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*). A not uncommon migrant arriving the first two weeks in May. Most common in Central Addition.

120. Canadian Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*). One record, May 25, 1913, in Central Addition.

121. Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*). Common summer resident, arriving last week in April or first in May.

122. Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*). One reported in the vicinity of Plum Street, Ottumwa, late in the spring of 1911, identification having been made by Mrs. A. Van Gent who had lived for a number of years in the South and was familiar with the bird there. An individual was also seen and heard in the neighborhood of Wildwood Park by S. M. Ditch for about a week in June 1923.

123. Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*). Common summer resident arriving last week in April or first in May.

124. Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). Common summer resident arriving middle to the last of April.

125. Bewick Wren (*Thryomanes bewicki bewicki*). One record, May 6, 1913 along Des Moines river across from Milwaukee yards.

126. House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon aedon*). Abundant summer resident in both city and wood, arriving last ten days of April.

127. Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*). Fairly common migrant arriving first week in April.

128. Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris palustris*). I have two records, May 17, 1913 and May 14, 1914, and Mrs. Hutchison gives

me a record for May 8, 1902, all being along the Des Moines river above Ottumwa.

129. Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris americana*). Fairly common winter visitor arriving the first week of October and remaining till the middle of April.

130. White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*). Common winter resident and a few birds are seen during the summer months.

131. Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*). One record, November 4, 1914, along Des Moines river.

132. Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*). A common resident wherever there is timber, and is often seen in town with the chickadees.

133. Chickadee (*Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*). Abundant resident, although much more common in winter.

134. Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa satrapa*). Fairly common migrant arriving last week in March or first in April.

135. Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula calendula*). Common migrant arriving middle of April.

136. Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*). Common summer resident in Bear Creek and Rock Bluff regions, also found some in Central Addition and Wildwood Park, but is less common near town. Arrives last week in April or first in May.

137. Wilson Thrush (*Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens*). Rather rare, although a few seen each spring, arriving about the middle of May.

138. Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Hylocichla alicae alicae*). Fairly common in such places as Bear Creek and Wildwood Park. Arrives first week in May.

139. Olive-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*). Less common than the preceding, arriving first week in May.

140. Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata pallasi*). An early thrush but rarely seen. Arrives last week in March and again the second week in October.

141. Robin (*Planesticus migratorius migratorius*). Abundant summer resident arriving last week in February or first in March.

142. Bluebird (*Sialia sialis sialis*). Common summer resident arriving middle of February to first of March.

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