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## Report of Committee on State Fauna

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Report of a Trip to Kansas to Investigate Reported Damages by Grasshoppers. *Insect Life*, Vol. IV, pp. 49-56.

The Clover Seed Caterpillar (in connection with H. Gossard). *Insect Life*, Vol. IV pp. 56-58.

An Experiment with Kerosene Emulsions. *Insect Life*, Vol. IV, pp. 63-64.

Origin and Development of the Parasitic Habit in Mallophaga and Pediculidae. *Insect Life*, Vol. IV, pp. 187-191.

Notes on Grass Insects in Washington, D. C. *Insect Life*, Vol. IV, pp. 197-198.

The True Bugs, or Heteroptera of Tennessee. *Insect Life*, Vol. IV, p. 224. (Review.)

Notes on the Life History of *Agallia sanguinolenta*, Prov. (Osborn and Gossard.) *Canadian Entomologist*, Vol. XXIV, p. 35. (Abstract of same paper in *Proc. Acad.*)

On the Orthopterous Fauna of Iowa. *Can. Ent.*, Vol. XXIV, p. 36. (Abstract from *Proc. Acad.*)

Note on the Species of *Acanthia*. *Can. Ent.*, Vol. XXIV, pp. 262-265.

Honey Bee, or House Fly. *Can. Ent.*, Vol. XXIV, pp. 270-271.

Also newspaper articles on economic subjects.

*Prof. F. M. Witter* has been at work on the fauna of the region around Muscatine.

*Prof. B. Shimek*, of the State University, has published a paper on "*Pyrgulopsis scalariformis*,"<sup>1</sup> in which the author concludes that *P. scalariformis* and *P. mississippiensis* are identical and calls them by the former name.

A list of 38 species of shells found associated with *Pyrgulopsis* is added.

When it is remembered that every one of the men whose work has been referred to in the preceding account is forced to respond to the innumerable calls made upon the college professor or teacher for time and energy, and that all of the work was done in addition to regular work, and papers read before this Academy, the showing which I have been able to make has certainly been most creditable. It amounts to a demonstration that a majority of the real scientific workers of Iowa are included in our number, that this Academy is a thoroughly representative body of men.

In looking over the list of persons in attendance on the last meeting of the *American Association for the Advancement of Science*, at Rochester, N. Y., I find the names of ten Iowans; seven of the ten are members of the *Iowa Academy of Sciences*, and one of the remaining three is the wife of one of our most honored members, leaving only two of the ten *not* connected with this body. Such facts are surely significant and show that our legislators were right in officially acknowledging our Academy as *the* representative body of Iowa scientific workers.

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## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATE FAUNA.

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BY C. C. NUTTING, CHAIRMAN.

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About two months ago the chairman of this committee sent a circular letter to all the members of the Academy asking for notes that could be used in this report. Up to the time of writing, December 19th, only one member has responded to this request, giving an interesting note concerning one species of animal new to the State, and a note concerning the disappearance of the beaver from Big creek, Tama county.

Under these circumstances it is impossible to give as full a report as could

<sup>1</sup>Bulletin from Laboratories of Nat. Hist. State University of Iowa.

be desired, as an individual cannot be expected to cover the whole field of Zoology. We will attempt, therefore, a report on the Vertebrates alone.

During the past year Prof. Osborn has published a "Partial Catalogue of the Animals of Iowa<sup>1</sup>," which furnishes a convenient basis upon which to build in completing the list. In this report all species not mentioned in Osborn's catalogue will be regarded as new to the State.

MAMMALS.

*Putorius longicauda*, Bonaparte.—New to the State. Two specimens collected in Johnson county and now in the University museum.

*Mephitis putorius* (L.).—New to the State. Reported from North Tama county, and specimen deposited in Agricultural College museum. It has also been reported from Johnson county, but specimens have not been submitted.

*Canis lupus*, L.—Reported as appreciably increasing in numbers in the northern part of the State, especially in Fayette county.

*Caracus virginianus*, (Bodd.)—A specimen of this deer was killed last winter in Johnson county. There is a strong probability, but not a certainty, that the animal had escaped from confinement in another part of the State.

*Castor fiber*, L. Beaver.—A family of beavers is reported by Sistine as having worked on Big Creek, North Tama county, for eight years past, but not a trace of them could be found last fall.

*Lepus campestris*, Bachman. Prairie Hare.—This species is slowly working its way south. Last year it was reported by Prof. Witter from Muscatine county, and during the past fall a specimen was killed in Johnson county, and is now in the State University museum.

BIRDS.

The following species are for the first time reported from Iowa:

*Sterna hirundo*, Linn. Common Tern. Johnson county, Iowa. Specimen in University museum.

*Sterna stehgrava*, Lepech. Caspian Tern. Johnson county, Iowa. Reported by John Williams. Specimen in University museum.

*Phalacrocorax dilophus floridanus*, Aud. Florida Cormorant. Johnson county. Specimen in University museum.

*Glaucionetta islandica*, (Gmelin). Barrow's Golden-eye. Secured by Robt. E. Leach, Independence, Iowa, October 11, 1892. Specimens in University museum.

*Chen caerulescens*, (Linn.).<sup>2</sup> Blue Goose. Whiting, Iowa. D. H. Talbot. Specimens in University museum.

*Philacte canagica*, (Sevast.). Emperor Goose. Johnson county, Iowa. Fall of 1887. J. T. Paintin.

*Plegadis guaraua* (Linn.) White-faced Glossy Ibis. Rippey, Iowa, 1891. B. F. Osborn. Specimen in University museum. Mr. Osborn reports there was a flock of thirteen near Rippey, but only one was secured.

<sup>1</sup> Published by the authority of the Board of Trustees of the State Agricultural College.

<sup>2</sup> regarded as a distinct species by Ridgway. See "Manual," p. 115.

*Porzana jamaicensis* (Gmelin), Black Rail. Burlington, Iowa, 1889.—Specimens in the flesh examined by me.

*Tringa bairdii*, Coues. Baird's Sandpiper. Two specimens killed near Iowa City last spring. Now in University museum.

*Numenius borealis* (Forst.). Eskimo Curlew. Johnson county, Iowa. Frank Bond. Specimens in University museum.

*Ægialalitis semipalmata*, Bonap. Semipalmated Plover. Secured near Iowa City last spring. Specimen in University museum.

[*Ictinia mississippiensis* (Wilson). Mississippi Kite. (Ridgway.')] ]

*Falco mexicanus*, Schlegel. Prairie Falcon. Storm Lake, Iowa. Frank Bond. Specimens in University museum.

*Falco richardsonii*, Ridgw.—Richardson's Merlin. Storm Lake, Iowa. Frank Bond. Specimens in University museum.

*Bubo virginianus* (Gmel.). Great Horned Owl. Common at Iowa City. Several specimens in University museum.

*Chordeiles virginianus henryi* (Cass.).—Western Nighthawk. Johnson county, Iowa. Specimens in University museum.

*Calcarius ornatus*, (Townsend).—Chestnut-collared Longspur. Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (Bailey.)

*Dendroica vigorsii*, (Aud.). Pine Warbler. Johnson county, Iowa. Spring, 1892. Specimen in University museum.

Notes on changes in geographical distribution, or unusual occurrences of Iowa birds.

*Anser albifrons*, Gmelin.—White-fronted Goose. Johnson county, October 7th, 1888. J. T. Paintin.

*Porzana noveboracensis*, (Gmelin).—Yellow Rail. One specimen secured near Iowa City, 1892.

*Strix pratensis*, Bonap.—American Barn Owl. Several seen near Iowa City, December, 1876, by John Williams.

*Nyctala acadica* (Gmel.) Reported as occurring near Davenport by E. G. Decker.

*Otocoris alpestris praticola* (Hensh.). Prairie Horned Lark. Formerly unknown near Iowa City, but now abundant (John Williams).

*Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (Linn.). Bobolink. Increasing near Iowa City.

*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (Bonap.). Yellow-headed Blackbird. The first specimen was secured in Johnson county in 1892, by J. T. Paintin.

*Sturnella magna neglecta* (Aud.). Western Meadowlark. This species is spreading eastward over the State. Dr. Calvin and Mr. Houser report it as becoming abundant in Cerro Gordo county.

*Dendroica cerulea* (Wilson). Cerulean Warbler. Rather common near Iowa City last spring.

*Coccothraustes vespertinus* (Coop.). Evening Grosbeak. Of very irregular occurrence near Iowa City. None seen last year. Two secured in December, 1892, by J. T. Paintin.

*Loxia leucoptera* (Gmel.). White-winged Crossbill. A flock summered near Iowa City in 1885 (J. T. Paintin).

*Plectrophenax nivalis* (Linn.). Snowflake. Two specimens in the flesh brought to the University museum by J. T. Paintin last winter.

In concluding the notes on birds, it may be said that there is a well marked

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\*Originally entered in this report by mistake. Of doubtful occurrence in Iowa.

movement of the northern and western species toward the south and east. Almost without exception the novelties included in the above list come from the north and west.

Among mammals the same is true, although the evidence is not so extensive. The Prairie Hare is the most marked case in point.

REPTILES.

The following species are not found in Prof. Osborn's catalogue. Specimens of each are in the University museum.

OPHIDIA.

- Eutamia saurita* (L.). Johnson county, Iowa.  
*Coluber guttatus*, L. Rippey, Iowa. B. F. Osborn.  
*Diadophis punctatus* (L.). Rippey, Iowa. B. F. Osborn.  
*Crotalus horridus*, L. Iowa City, Iowa.

LACERTILIA.

- Eumeces septentrionalis* (Baird).

BATRACHIA.

*Amblystoma jeffersonianum* (Green), Baird. Specimens from Iowa in University museum.

FISHES.

The following species should be added to the list on the basis of specimens from Iowa in the University museum.

- Ammocetes niger* (Raf.), Jordan. Iowa City.  
 [*Moxostoma microlepidota*<sup>1</sup> (LeS.), Jordan. Iowa City.]  
*Cliola forbesii*, Jordan.<sup>2</sup> Iowa City.  
*Acantharchus pomotis* (Baird), Gill. Iowa City.

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SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONCEALED CRESTS OF FLY-CATCHERS.

BY C. C. NUTTING.

In all the works on animal coloration that have come under my observation, there is a marked absence of any attempt to account for the concealed crests of bright colors on the crown of many birds, notably the *Tyrannidæ* or "Fly-Catchers."

The writer, although the first, so far as he knows, to offer an explanation for this class of facts, was for a long time compelled by press of other duties, to defer for a number of years any considerable investigation in this direction. Last summer, however, he took the time to examine the collection of *Tyrannidæ* at the Smithsonian Institution, probably the largest series of this exclusively new world group in the world.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>This is doubtless the same species that is entered by Meek in Osborn's list as *M. duquesnii*, and is therefore *not* a species new to the State.

<sup>2</sup>Synopsis of Fishes of North America. Jordan and Gilbert, 1882, p. 174.

<sup>3</sup>The writer wishes to take this opportunity to acknowledge the never failing courtesy and patience of Mr. Robert Ridgway in facilitating the examination of the splendid collection under his charge.