

found it to be a female Green-winged Teal. It had been caught by the bill in a steel trap that was set for muskrats. This same man brought me a Green-winged Teal that he had shot October 8, 1914. The Green-winged Teal is rather rare in this locality.

Pinicola enuncleator leucura. PINE GROSBEEK.—December 9, 1913, I saw a single female Pine Grosbeak in a locust tree in the streets of Branchport.

Hesperiphona v. vespertina. EVENING GROSBEEK.—I saw eight Evening Grosbeaks in a pear tree in the streets of Branchport the morning of March 28, 1916. They soon took flight and could not be again located.

Progne s. subis. PURPLE MARTIN.—A single Purple Martin stopped for a little while on the telephone wire in the street at Branchport, April 23, 1916.

Asio flammens. SHORT-EARED OWL.—November 2, 1916, a dead Short-eared Owl was picked up in the swamp at Branchport. Evidently it had been shot and left where it fell.

Aluco pratincola. BARN OWL.—May 27, 1917, a Barn Owl was brought to me by a young man who had shot it. He said that it was after his chickens. This is the first record of the Barn Owl for Branchport.—VERDI BURTCH, *Branchport, N. Y.*

Unusual Winter Bird Records for Iowa City, Iowa.—Although the early winter season has been unusually severe in this locality and cold weather has continued almost without intermission since late November, 1919, a number of species of birds which ordinarily winter farther south have remained with us. The minimum temperature to date has been—25° Fahr. and the ground has been practically covered with snow since early December. Among eighteen species of birds seen on December 26, 1919, between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 2:30 P. M., the three following seem worthy of special mention.

Falco sparverius sparverius. SPARROW HAWK.—One example of this species was seen in a small wooded plot about one-half mile west of town. The bird was studied with the glasses at a distance of twenty yards. It was being tormented by a pair of blue jays which appeared to have no hesitancy in attacking the hawk, thus causing it to change its perch frequently in the tops of the trees. This is my first and only winter record for this bird.

Anderson (Birds of Iowa, Proc. Davenport Acad. Sci., XI, 1907, 257) says concerning the status of this hawk in Iowa: "A common migrant in all parts of the state and somewhat less common as a summer resident. * * * A male specimen was shot at Iowa City, November 28, 1905." Bailey (The Raptorial Birds of Iowa, Iowa Geol. Surv. Bull., No. 6, 1918, 170) adds: "Although rarely found with us during the winter, Mr. G. H. Berry, of Cedar Rapids, brought the writer one that was killed in the month of January while pursuing English Sparrows."

Colaptes auratus luteus. NORTHERN FLICKER.—A single individual was seen in a low, wooded area along the Iowa river one mile south of Iowa City. It was very wary and a close-up observation of the bird was impossible. This form has been reported in winter a few times locally but I have seen no published record of such occurrence.

Anderson (*l. c.* 278) remarks as follows concerning this bird: "Occasionally individuals are observed in winter. In Winnebago County, I have seen specimens in November, December and February, but very rarely during these months." Spurrell (*Wilson Bull.*, XXI, No. 4, 1919, 120) gives the Northern Flicker as a rare winter resident in Sac County, western Iowa.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus. TOWHEE.—One individual, a male, was found in a sparsely wooded and somewhat sheltered hollow three-fourths of a mile west of town. Several houses are in the immediate vicinity of the brush pile where the bird was first seen and which probably served as his shelter. Attention was first called to the bird by the familiar "*chewink*" which was uttered several times; however, the calls were neither so loud nor so frequently given as is characteristic of the species in spring and summer. In an attempt to photograph this unusual winter resident, the writer approached to within fifteen feet of the bird when it flew to a nearby blackberry patch. It seemed to have a dislike for standing in the snow and immediately hopped upon a low bush; when pressed too closely it flew away a considerable distance before alighting.

Anderson (*l. c.* 326) gives this bird as a common summer resident. His winter records are as follows: A few in Van Buren County, a female near the Rock Island Arsenal and another individual at Webster City.—DAYTON STONER, *University of Iowa, Iowa City, Ia.*

Notes on Winter Birds of the Missouri Ozarks.—On February 2, 1920, after about five days of very warm weather for this time of year, I observed three Killdeers feeding together in a horse lot beside a slough. The previous earliest date in the spring, for Missouri, is February 17. Though I took no specimens, I was too close for any possibility of error in my identification.

On January 2, 1920, I saw and listened to a Bewick's Wren singing his full song for almost an hour. The day on which I heard him singing was very warm for January. Although I have observed the Bewick's Wren several times this winter, this is the first time that I had heard one singing since late in November. Up to date, February 7, I have not heard another.

On February 4, a friend brought me a fine female specimen of the Great Horned Owl. He had found it sitting on two eggs in a slight depression in the hay in a barn loft. There had been no apparent effort to arrange the hay in any way, and there were no sticks nor any sort of building material from the outside. I can find no record of a similar nesting of this species.—PREWITT ROBERTS, *Conway, Missouri.*



Stoner, Dayton. 1920. "Unusual Winter Bird Records for Iowa City, Iowa." *The Auk* 37, 308–309. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4072745>.

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