

Western Bluebird

SP 1903

near Cedar Rapids, Linn Co., IA

George H. Berry

Anderson 1907

Record Number: 81-IH
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Anderson 1907

VOTE (1981): 1-IV, 4-V, 1-VI, 1-no vote

VI, description sounds like Mountain Bluebird.

IV (Ill?), blue breast diagnostic but no other details.

no vote, another Berry.

V, 1 observer - 'had blue breast instead of usual brownish chestnut' This doesn't sound like *S. mexicanus* - viz Birding (1981) XIII:4-11.

V, May have been aberrant Eastern Bluebird or possibly Mountain Bluebird. What about back coloration? Was it male or female?

Western Bluebird

353. (767a). *Sialia mexicana bairdi* Ridgway. Chestnut-backed Bluebird.

Anderson 1907
p 383

This is a bird of the West and only occurs very rarely as a straggler in Iowa. It has been reported from Iowa as the Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), by various authorities. Baird Brewer and Ridgway state that the species has been observed in western Iowa by Mr. Atkinson (Birds of N. A., Land Birds, iii, 1875, p. 501). Dr. Elliott Coues states: "The Western Bluebird apparently inhabits only a limited area in the southwestern part of the Missouri region. Mr. Ridgway informs me of its occurrence in Iowa, but this must be highly exceptional" (Birds of the N. W., 1874, p. 14). "Stragglers have been recorded from Minnesota and Iowa" (Cooke, Bird Migr. in Miss. Val., p. 294). "Occasionally taken in western Iowa" (Keyes and Williams, p. 161). The Chestnut-backed Bluebird is included in the Nebraska list on Aughey's record, about seven miles from the mouth of the Niobrara River in August . . . "accidental east to Iowa and Minnesota . . . occurring regularly as a migrant along the eastern base of the Rockies" (Rev. Bds. Neb., p. 115).

George H. Berry writes: "In the spring of 1903, I saw one bird near Cedar Rapids with a flock of typical *sialis* that had a blue breast instead of the usual brownish chestnut. Had a good long look at it."

DuMont 1933
p 160

Sialia mexicana bairdi Ridgway. Chestnut-backed Bluebird

It was included by Anderson (1907) on the basis of two sight records. There are no specimens.