

Mountain Bluebird

CA 1945

near Lake Park, Osceola Co., IA

J. Musgrove

Musgrove 1948

Record Number: 93-FZ

Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Musgrove, J.W. 1948. The Groove-billed Ani and Mountain Bluebird specimens in Iowa collection. IBL 18:70.

VOTE: 5 NA

NA, Musgrove didn't describe or photograph the bird, and obtained indefinite information about where and when it was caught by the cat. "Taken locally" could be in Minnesota. /thk

Musgrove, J. W. 1948. The Groove-billed Ani and Mountain Bluebird, specimens in Iowa collection. IBL 18:70.

The Groove-billed Ani and Mountain Bluebird, Specimens in Iowa Collection.—Recently I was called upon to identify an odd appearing bird that was taken a few years ago near Iowa Lake, Osceola County, Iowa. The identity of the bird was not known and it was mounted by Floyd Arens, who displayed it with his collection of birds in his hardware store at Lake Park, Iowa. I found the bird to be a specimen of the Groove-billed Ani. Also in his collection was a Mountain Bluebird which, according to Mr. Arens, was taken locally a few years ago when it was recovered from a house cat.

The record of the Groove-billed Ani is so very unusual that I checked all possible angles in the case. The question of what this weak-flying, far-southern species was doing in our range is not easily explained, and there is always the possibility that it was an escaped or liberated captive bird transported north and living for a time by its own resources in a natural state, though there is at least one other record of this species taken farther north than our state (one taken near Red Wing, Minnesota, mentioned in Roberts, "Birds of Minnesota"). I questioned Mr. Arens carefully about the Ani and found that a farm boy shot it near Iowa Lake thinking it was some kind of blackbird. He brought the specimen to Lake Park for identification. No one could identify it, but Mr. Arens mounted it and added it to his collection. There seemed to be no discrepancy in any part of the story, and Mr. Arens was as anxious as anyone else to learn the name of the strange visitor to northern Iowa.—JACK W. MUSGROVE, Museum Director, Dept. of History & Archives, Des Moines, Iowa.