

Lazuli Bunting  
24 May 1980  
Stone Park, Woodbury Co., IA  
\*Jack A. Holloway  
IBL 54:38

Record Number: 83-AA  
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Jack A. Holloway

REFERENCE

Records Committee: IBL 54:38

VOTE: 4-III, 3-IV

III, I talked to Jack quite a bit about this bird.

III, Time and location ideal for this species in Iowa.

Description satisfactory, but could be a "book description" after 3 1/2 years.

III, Probably should be a IV, no notes taken at the time of observation, bill shape and throat color difference not mentioned, but white wingbar should be diagnostic.

IV, Chiefly due to long delay and no notes taken at time.

III, Sufficient details, even in light of age of record. Area of sighting historically has harbored species, though not regularly.

IV, Description, location, habitat O.K. Not unexpected at this time of year. Large time lapse raises questions, as does description of color as "darker than blue of E. Bluebird". I remember the Lazuli Btg being turquoise-colored almost.

IV, I feel that after this many years the record is very doubtful unless there were notes taken at the time. Bill shape should have been noted. Lazuli Bunting is 2/3 size of Bluebird. Questions on what shade of blue wings and so forth are dependent on light. I've always thought of Lazuli Buntings as rather light blue.

REVOTE (by mail): 4-III, 3-IV

III, Borderline because of late reporting and I don't know the observer.

III, I feel we should discuss whether to accept old records if no photo, details, or other substantiating evidence is extant to support the sighting. Are we setting a precedent with the Holloway Lazuli Bunting if we accept it on his memory after nearly four years since the sighting?

IV, My problem is with the color. I can be persuaded, as time may distort impressions of color.

IV, But I want to discuss policy on these old records at the meeting. I don't really doubt it--odd color and size description do argue against it being a book description.

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

83-a

by the Records Committee

of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: LAZULI BUNTING

DATE SEEN: May 24, 1980

SITE OF OBSERVATION: Stone Park, Woodbury County

OBSERVERS: Jack Holloway

DATE OF REVIEW: 1983-84

METHOD OF REVIEW: Circulation to Committee by mail; discussion at meeting.

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: IV

COMMENTS:

The Committee felt that the time lapse between the sighting and the reporting was long enough to raise some doubts as to the accuracy of the description, especially in areas such as the color of the bird. It was suggested that Lazuli Buntings are light blue or turquoise rather than being "darker blue than Eastern Bluebird".

However the Committee encourages reports such as these (if they are not able to be made at the time of observation), as, while they may not be accepted, they are not considered incorrect either, and may add to our knowledge of where and when such rare species as Lazuli Bunting might occur in Iowa.

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.



## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

88-a  
TUWhat species? LAZULI BUNTING How many? ONELocation? STONE STATE PARK SIOUX CITY, IOWAType of habitat? DECIDUOUS FORESTWhen? date(s): MAY 24, 1980 time: ~3:00 to 10-15 minutesWho? your name and address: Jack A. Holloway Friley #4471 Converse Ames, Ia 50012others with you: NONEothers before or after you: NONE

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Size and shape similar to the Eastern Bluebird. The back, wings, and head were blue, but a slightly darker blue than the bluebird. It's blue wasn't uniform; the wings looked darker than the other blue on the bird. There was an orangish-rust on the upper chest with white extending on down through the abdomen. There was not as much orange as in other Eastern Bluebirds that I've seen; the orange seemed more restricted to the upper part of the chest.

On the shoulder of the wing there was a white wing bar. The bird sat at the tip of a tall (75ft) dead tree but did not sing or make any noise that I could hear.

Similar species and how eliminated: Eastern Bluebird  
Lazuli Bunting was darker in the wings and back than the blue bird and there was a white wingbar visible on the "shoulder."

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
Good light 75 feet (estimate) 7x35 Binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have observed Eastern Bluebirds at close and far distances many times.

References and persons consulted before writing description: No people consulted  
Audubon Society Field Guide to N.A. Birds (East + West)How long before field notes made? No Notes this form completed? 3 1/2 years

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